Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Des Moines, IA - Campaign Speech
The die is cast. The issue is joined. Three months
have past in the attempt to establish out of Senator Harding's own
mouth his determination that the United States shall not under no
circumstances, in negotiations, or conferences join hands with
forty-one nations to end future wars. From now on the existing
association of nations becomes the overshadowing issue of the
campaign.

In November the American people will vote not on the
more question of who is to be President for the next four years,
but on a proposition affecting the future of the United States for
generations to come.

The policy to which the Republican candidate has committed
his party means that the United States casts in its lot with Russia,
Turkey and Mexico, outside of the pale of all the other nations. If
Senator Harding is elected we play either a lone hand or form an
association of our own with Bolshevists, Revolutionists and Turks.
With the exception of Mexico, we have cut ourselves off from every
other American Republic. Senator Harding has "scapegoat" the
Monroe Doctrine along with the League of Nations. Nineteen of
our associate Republics in the Pan-American Union have joined or
are about to enter the League in company with the Governments of
Europe, Asia and Africa.

It is a momentous decision which Senator Harding has
been finally driven to. From now on his leadership is that of
"Little Americanism", of Chinese Wall exclusion, of growing selfish-
ness, - of America against the world. I trust that he has well
considered the logical development of such a course.
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The League is not merely function at the present
moment as shown by the settlement of international disputes during
the past month, but it will continue to meet and to undertake the
solving of many other problems in the immediate future. In all
of this the United States will have no part. Matters of inter-
national finance, questions of imports and exports, of trade be-
tween nations, of shipping, of the development of new markets, of
the prevention of the spread of epidemics, of better conditions for
labor throughout the world, of the development of science — these
and a hundred other matters which will in a thousand ways affect
our citizens, will be discussed by the more than forty other nations
of the world around the table of common council. Except for Russia,
Turkey and Mexico, only the United States will be absent.

If we stay out of the League, one of two results must
inevitably come. If without us the League becomes the success which
the Nations of the World are honestly seeking to make it, the United
States will lose untold advantages not participating. More than
that, the United States will be gravely handicapped commercially,
economically and industrially because it would be natural for the
member nations of the League to pay scant heed to the United States
if we remain talking in our tents. Secondly, if the League should
fail to accomplish the great good which is today expected of it, the
blame for any failure will rest squarely on the shoulders of the
United States.

This association of nations was the conception not of any
one man but of the leaders of thought in the United States, man of
In our old age, we see people in the great expectation—shall

grandchildren who look up from their school positions like

deduction which will control our entire history forever. Can

education be taught to any generation with the world will be a

deduction. We pay every pride in the conventional condition. The

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Let me assure you that this is the top priority in our efforts to understand and address the implications of the recent events. We must not lose sight of the goal to protect our nation and its interests, and to ensure that we are prepared for any future challenges.

In view of the current situation, it is important that we move forward with care and caution. The better prepared we are, the better we can respond to the evolving threats. We must work together to ensure that we are ready to face any potential challenges that may arise.

Towards this end, I have authorized the formation of a special task force to coordinate and coordinate our efforts. This task force will be charged with evaluating the ongoing situation and developing strategies to mitigate any potential risks.

I urge all members of the government and the military to remain vigilant and to be ready to respond at a moment's notice. We cannot afford to be caught off guard.

We have to anticipate to bear.
of the political fence until Election Day is passed.

This morning a man at a small station in Kansas said to me - "At the beginning of the campaign I intended to vote for Senator Harding. Now I cannot do so, because I have read everything he has said since he was nominated, and the weakest Presidents of our history are strong men in comparison with the present Republican nominee."

A man in Colorado also said - "I have switched from Harding to Cox because I don't want to see a messenger-boy in the White House."
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If we stay out of the League, one of two results must inevitably come. If without us the League becomes the success which the Nations of the World are honestly seeking to make it, the United States will lose untold advantages not participating. More than that, the United States will be gravely handicapped commercially, economically and industrially because it would be natural for the member nations of the League to pay scant heed to the United States if we remain sulking in our tents. Secondly, if the League should fail to accomplish the great good which is today expected of it, the blame for any failure will rest squarely on the shoulders of the United States.

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all parties, who even before our entrance into the war held this ideal before our eyes. It was the American people all through the war who insisted, without regard to party, that the war must accomplish the great purpose of preventing future war. Every other nation knows that our membership in the League would be a tremendous factor in giving it complete success. The United States has been regarded internationally as an unselfish nation. Our voice at the council table would do much to carry out the accomplishment of the high purpose we set out to obtain.

During the remaining three weeks of the campaign Mr. Harding will stress the dangers. He will appeal to the fears of the type of citizen who cannot see beyond his own nose. He appeals primarily to the kind of mind which has never yet been able to understand what business we had getting into the World War in 1917 - the kind of man or woman who cannot understand why events which occur outside of the United States have any bearing on the life or prosperity of people within the United States. Mr. Harding's appeal is that of nationalism for cloistered minds. If that had been the American policy all through history, where would we be today?

Let us especially make it clear that this grave issue transcends every other. Domestic issues may be determined in policy every two years in the Congressional Elections. The decision in regard to our relations with the world will be a decision which will control our future history forever. Our grandchildren will look up from their school histories and ask us in our old age how we voted in the great referendum - Shall
who have the power to accomplish it to the utmost. At the same time, any guidance or instruction would be of great importance. For the sake of those who are about to enter upon the path of service, we are all bound to do our utmost to aid them in every way possible. We are all bound to do our utmost to aid them in every way possible.

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I want to make it clear that the issue is a

bigger one than between individual— it is bigger than the

personalities of Harding or Cox, and of Coolidge and Roosevelt.

It is bigger too than any possible kind of partisanship.

Above all, the conception and purpose of the

League of Nations is a deliberate and clear carrying out of

the highest teachings of Christianity. In this the churches

and the teachers of the land are united.

America, retaining all of our national rights,

must in good faith keep faith.