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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

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**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**File No. 204**

**1920 October 9**

**Sedalia, MO - Campaign Speech**





EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F.D. ROOSEVELT  
SELDALIA, MO., OCT. 9, 1920

The result of Senator Harding's Des Moines speech, in which he came out flat-footed against our going into the League of Nations in any way, either with reservations or amendments, has made itself quickly felt.

I hope the people of the West will appreciate the significance of the announcement by Mr. Herbert Parsons, of New York, that because he is for the League and because Cox is for it, and Harding is against it, he will vote for Cox. Mr. Parsons has been a prominent Republican leader in the State of New York for many years. He was ~~Miss~~ Republican National Committeeman from that State for the past four years, and in addition had a fine war record. It means that Mr. Parsons believes with former President Taft that the participation of the United States in the League is of such paramount importance in this campaign that it is superior to mere party affiliations. But he is big enough to put patriotism ahead of party. He will be followed by thousands of other Republicans in the State of New York. Every report that I receive from my own State indicates a tremendous change of sentiment on the part of Republicans and Independents during the past ten days. New York is not alone in this. I have found the same thing in Kansas, Colorado and Iowa this week.

Mr. Will Hays recently claimed that every State West of the Mississippi would go Republican except Arkansas and Louisiana, and that even in Texas the Republicans had bright prospects. If Mr. Will Hays had visited as many Western States as I have and had seen conditions at first hand as I have, he would not be certain of a single Western State, and would join me in putting even the hitherto Republican Iowa in the doubtful column. Now that Senator Harding has come out definitely against the League in any form, I feel that I am conservative in my belief that the majority of the Western States will support Governor Cox on Election Day.

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