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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 210

1920 October 13

Crawfordsville, IN - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Oct. 13, 1920

There are two kinds of revolts in an army: one which becomes an open mutiny - refusal to obey orders; the other is a revolt from within, a revolt of silence which does not make itself immediately apparent, which may indeed be hidden for weeks and months before it actually comes to the surface. Such is happening to the Republican Party at the present moment.

A few prominent men have come out open and said that though Republicans they would not support Senator Harding. Their number is small compared with the hundreds of thousands who are saying nothing, but who will quietly and unostentatiously vote for Governor Cox on Election Day.

These are the men and women who like to call themselves Republicans and do not want any other name attached openly to their politics. Some will tell no one of their intention to vote the Democratic Ticket - others have told perhaps an intimate friend.

A few have come to me on this trip and have told me in confidence of their intention not to vote for Senator Harding. In almost every case they give as a reason his vacillating stand on almost every public question. They are disgusted by his attempt to hold in line people of diametrically opposite views. They believe in real leadership and in a man having a mind of his own. The number of these voters is increasing by leaps and bounds. It will mean not merely an accession to the Democratic nominee of votes from the Republican Party ranks - it will mean ~~an actual~~ defection from the ranks of actual Republicans.

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