
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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Sullivan, IN - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON.F.D.ROOSEVELT,
SULLIVAN, IND., OCT. 14, 1920

Yesterday before one of the speeches I was introduced to a man and a woman. They said - "We appreciate that the League of Nations is the paramount issue in this campaign and that it is clear that a vote for Governor Cox is a vote in favor of going in. We are believers in the League and we want to go in, but we are Republicans and therefore cannot vote for Governor Cox". I asked them whether they consider party regularity above the good of the Country. They said quite frankly - "We have never thought of it in that light before". At the end of the meeting they both came up and said - "Now we understand we are not only going to vote for Governor Cox, but we intend to work actively for him and the League of Nations between now and Election day."

This true story is the best illustration I know of what is happening all through this middle western country. Any number of voters have thought of voting merely as a party matter. They have belonged to a party just as they would belong to a club or a society. They are beginning to discover that it is perfectly possible to maintain a general affiliation with say the Republican Party, but to vote for a Democratic nominee for the Presidency in a national emergency of this kind, ~~there~~ where their own convictions tell them that the future of the country is at stake

Here is a straw in the wind. A successful businessman from Southern Indiana come to me a few days ago on the train and said this: "I am a Hebrew, and have always been a Republican. I didn't even vote for Mr. Wilson in 1912 nor in 1916, but during the last year I have been in favor of the League of Nations. I have watched this campaign develop. I have seen clear-cut purposes on the one side, and vacillation and party politics on the other. I was in doubt at first, but now I have made up my mind to vote for Governor Cox because a vote for him is a vote for the League of Nations. I consider that issue far greater than any party question could ever be. I recognize in the League a practical carrying out of the doctrine of the Ten Commandants which were received by Moses, and more than that, I consider it a practical fulfilment of the great purposes of the teaching of Christ. I am with you this year because a failure of the League of Nations would be a real crime and would put back the cause of true religim and moral standards a thousand years. To defeat the League at this time means a lowering of national and individual standards in every nation for generations to come."

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