
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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[Speech?]

STATEMENT BY HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
New York City, 10-28-20

[Brooklyn?]

The campaign of win-at-any-cost conducted by Republican managers is well borne out by the disgusting episode of the cartoon published in the current issue of Harvey's Weekly. The public of the United States understands the sacrilegious character of this disgusting picture. It is an insult to the whole Christian World.

This cartoon would not become a factor in this election were it merely the work of an individual who happened to edit an individually conducted paper. Its whole significance lies in the fact that it was published by Mr. George Harvey. This gentleman's connection with Senator ~~Harvey~~^{Harding} ought to be known to all. His partisan bitterness has been shown for months. In June 1920, he was one of the select few who directed the nomination of Senator Harding of Ohio at the midnight conference in Chicago during the Republican National Convention. Since that time he has been more active than any other individual in the conduct of Senator Harding's campaign. I wish to call attention to the fact that Mr. Harvey for a long period of time this autumn not only lived in Marion, Ohio, but in the intimacy of Senator Harding's own home.

Persons familiar with methods of English style have, of course, recognized in many of Senator Harding's carefully prepared addresses ^a the close resemblance to the writings of Mr. George Harvey.

I am filled with amazement at the thought that from the same source should have come appeals to the motherhood of America and immediately thereafter the sneering and sacrilegious lampoon on subjects which concern the deepest religious convictions of millions of Americans.

That the connection between Senator Harding, Mr. George Harvey and the Republican Campaign managers may be made still more definite, it is right to call attention to the fact that the cartoon in the current issue of Harvey's Weekly was drawn by a man named Reid, the same person who has been employed by the Republican National Committee to draw other cartoons.

The picture in question, in addition to a high sacrilege and a disgusting attack on a man who, whatever his party affiliations have been, is still the President of all Americans, men, women and children of every political and religious faith - President Wilson.

Tomorrow is Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. To me his memory will always stand for one characteristic more than any other - Fair Fighting. He hit hard, but he taught young America to hit above the belt.

I wish he were alive today. He had definite convictions. He was not afraid to take a position and maintain it. He never wobbled. He never sought to evade even when members of his own party disagreed with him.

During his lifetime he was first to make objection to unfair political methods of misrepresentation. At all times he acknowledged the respect due to the Presidency of the United States. He understood the distinction between fair criticism and disrespectful villification.

It is easy to attempt to capitalize America's great ^{claim} dead. It is easy to ~~take~~ an exclusive patent on the American Flag for political purposes. It is easy to insist on what Washington, Jefferson, Cleveland and Roosevelt would have said were they alive today. I hope that good Americans will agree with me that the lives of America's statesmen speak for themselves and that it is wholly unworthy to use their names for thoroughly political objects.

Citizens of the United States, regardless of party, join in respectful tributes to the memory of Theodore Roosevelt. Men and ^{women} ~~men~~ of all parties understand his accomplishments and his definition of the policy of the square deal.