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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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1920 October 30

Kingston, NY - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
KINGSTON, N. Y., OCT. 30, 1920

The eleventh hour of the campaign has been reached. It is interesting to note that the Democratic nominees are hammering on exactly the same big principal issues which we have discussed from the very beginning.

In the camp of the Republican managers conditions akin to panic have appeared. The Republican nominee has been getting the worst of the argument at every point. This morning Senator Harding has tried to change the subject. That is a very common practice on the part of people who are embarrassed by the turn events have taken and who have such a weak case that they cannot hold up their own end of it.

Everybody knows that the League of Nations is the chief question which the voters are to pass on. The Republicans on a number of other occasions during the campaign have tried to get away from that issue and each time they have failed. ~~Examine~~

In the very beginning of the campaign the Republican managers tried to take all the credit for the American Flag to themselves. Later some of them tried to take the credit of winning the war. At other times they have turned vituperation and general charges against every Democrat who ever did anything.

Today Senator Harding talks about the peril of Democratic waste. It is another example of their campaign methods. Republican Party managers have often waited until the last moment to bring out glaring headlines which they hoped could not be answered in the few remaining hours before election.

Of course, the Country appreciates that the present Republican Congress has spent nine-tenths of its time in trying to

prove all kinds of incapacity on the part of Democrats who had something to do with the conduct of the war. For the past year numerous Congressional Committees, packed with Republican majorities, have been delving into the public records. Where are their damaging reports? Who have they indicted or convicted? The books of the government have been open, and in all this time all the investigators have been able to do is to shriek from the house-tops. People are sick of that sort of thing. Today they are remembering the big basic fact that we entered the war as a united people - that the war was run and won by men and women of all parties, and that it was notable among all our wars for being the biggest, ^{most} cleanest and/honest in all our history.

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