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

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Final Pre-election Statement

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FINAL PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT BY HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
October 31st, 1920

Four months of a long uphill fight have come to a close. Seldom before in American political history have candidates on one national ticket had to face such a carefully organized opposition. It has been an opposition appealing to all that is negative and most that is sordid in human nature. We started out against fearful odds. The nation was in a state of unrest - a let-down following the tension of war. This state of mind was capitalized by Republican campaign managers. In addition to this, ^{they} we have sought to inflame the prejudices of foreign born citizens. Finally, it is well known that the whole support of the present Republican machinery comes from the group of interests and politicians in the United States which, after twenty years, can still best be described as the executors and legatees of the political will of Mark Hanna.

Starting with the Chicago Convention, the Republican managers have shown a cynical and contemptuous disregard of everything that progressives have stood for in both parties.

It has been difficult to bring both sides of the campaign before the voters because of the simple fact that a large majority of the newspapers have passed into Republican control.

Governor Cox and I have made a very sincere effort to point out the basic rather than the superficial issues of the campaign. If the voters realize that this is a deep-seated struggle between two different conceptions of government - that is, it is the old fight between the progressively minded and the reactionists, the results on Election Day will furnish an overwhelming surprise to the old-

fashioned political prognosticator.

Lastly, the whole conduct of the campaign in regard to the single paramount issue of the League of Nations is in line with the foregoing: On the one side a clear-cut programme for the future for the carrying out of the highest purpose of our participation in the war, for the progressive accomplishment of a new purpose - On the other side a backward going policy which would result in a return to the international relationships of 1914, or a policy of American national isolation with its corresponding burden of huge armaments.

These are the fundamentals. A realization of them by the men and women of the United States on Election Day will bring only one possible result - the repudiation of Senator Harding as the representative of reaction at home and abroad.

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