
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 236

1920 November ?

**Undated Draft of Statement or Speech
at end of Campaign**

11

A political campaign unparalleled in the history of the World's greatest Republic draws to a close. Within a space of time now measured by hours, the contest between the ~~two~~ Democratic and Republican hosts ~~xxxxxx~~ will have determined through the splendid ~~system~~ system of the ballot box, devised by our fore-fathers and assured to us by the Constitution, who shall be the next President and Vice-President of the United States. ~~xxxxxx~~

It is a solemn responsibility for the millions of men and ~~woman~~ throughout this broad land of ours. For it is ~~rests~~ they ~~are~~ upon whom the ~~selection~~ duty of ~~making this selection~~ ~~of~~ President and Vice-President. The issues involved have been ~~xxx~~ set forth. ~~xxxxx~~ They define the positions and records of the two men, one of whom will be next President.

Since the election of President Wilson in 1916, the world's war has been fought and won. Civilization has been rescued from destruction and saved to the people of the world. ~~The~~ Eighty-one thousand ~~xxxxx~~ graves, containing as many bodies of America's soldier heroes, tell the supreme sacrifice of that war, the toll extacted of this nation for its part in the saving of civilization to its citizenship, ~~and~~ the generations to come to it and to the world at large.

Billions of dollars spent for ~~xxxxxxxx~~ weapons of destruction needed to win that great struggle ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and to finance our Allies caused a natural over turn of national life and business between the two shores of our land. Problems of reconstruction ~~yet~~ require solution and certain departments of our government need reorganization.

^{latter question}
These ~~have~~ ^{not been} neglected. They have not been subordinated to ^{any foreign consideration} America is today our first thought and love. America shall be first, ~~xxxxxx~~ always first.

It is a crying shame [redacted] that America was not first to lead the nations of the world, large and small, in [redacted] making the League of Nations [redacted] going concern it is today. Republican opposition prevented. Republican opposition [redacted] can not, however, take from [redacted] the credit of having given to a war-torn world the greatest instrument for the preservation of peace and the prevention [redacted] of [redacted] ever devised. [redacted] which, today, is supported by 41 nations. That offering to civilization [redacted] came from America first, though America is among the last to accept or give it support.

Our position as a nation can be charged to one account. It will be written in history under the title of "The Republican Rejection of the League of Nations" caused by unprincipled leaders placing party above patriotism! Such an accounting will tell the plain unvarnished truth certainly insofar as the leaders are concerned. It [redacted] would be false and [redacted] underserved, however, if applied to the rank and file of the Republican party. That part of our citizenship affiliated with [redacted] with the party [redacted], without selfishness, greed, or lack of Americanism in its broadest sense; also without pledging allegiance to its Old Guard leadership, is deserving of real praise. It is at least honest with itself and [redacted] what it believes [redacted] conscientiously to be for the good of the nation. I give full credit to [redacted] those who [redacted] make up its numbers.

But to those leaders [redacted] whose hands manipulated the campaign of misrepresentation and deception [redacted] in order to defeat the League of Nations [redacted] and to place their party above [redacted] what they knew to be a greater and higher principle of America, [redacted] benefiting the people as a whole far more than a political victory at the polls ever could, I have the utmost contempt.

History will not treat them kindly. Those whom have been deceived and ~~will~~ vote for the man who has been named to ~~instruct~~, ^{in case he is elected,} ~~the right~~ bear the colors of the Republican party will be the first to demand his support for the League of Nations and the rejection forever of that type of political leadership so well personified by Boss Penrose & Co.

It has been truly said that "if any thing ~~is~~ the people are not up on they are generally down on." Those who are up on the League of Nations ~~communicated~~ have given it their endorsement. This fact is illustrated by the recent actions of college, university, high-school, graded@school teachers and professors; by the leaders of practically every religious faith including every known denomination and church; by the War Mothers of America; the Gold Star Mothers; the American Bar Association comprising in its membership the best legal thought in the country; by the great masses ~~of~~ of well informed citizens in every walk of life and by the great majority of the soldiers whose participation during ⁱⁿ the war in France ~~gave~~ gave ~~them~~ them the privilege of knowing first hand what horrors of war actually are and what it will mean to the generations to come to be saved from war. Those ~~are~~ who are not "up" on the League, ^{and} who have not read it, ^{including} ~~and~~ who ~~do~~ do not comprehend it in an intelligent sense, those who have been influenced by misstatements of fact knowingly made by republican anti-league propagandists, ^{will cast} constitute ~~the~~ majority, ~~the~~ votes ^{for} favor the Republican nominees for President and Vice President. Lined-up with them are ~~most~~ most of the ^{chiefly} ~~and~~ financiers and moneyed interests; also about eighty per cent of the newspapers of the United States.

It was the realization of these odds against us that led Governor Cox and myself to carry personally the issues of this campaign to the voters throughout the United States. Since we first began the travels across the country, into every city,

village and community it was humanly possible to reach in the time allowed, there has been a tremendous awakening to the real importance of the League of Nations as a campaign issue. People who never had taken interest in the Senate debates ~~on the~~
~~I~~ and who ~~had~~ not understand what the League meant to them personally rose up in masses seeking information. Millions of copies of the League were printed and distributed ^{in response} to anxious ~~inquiries~~ appeals, ~~for~~. The demand was far greater than it was physically possible to print and distribute in the ~~time~~,
~~on~~ that interval of time between the beginning of the campaign and election day.