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**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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**File No. 236**

**1920 November ?**

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

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 ~~the~~ Democratic and Republican hosts ~~for the election of President and Vice-President~~ ~~will have determined through the splendid~~ 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. ~~xxxx~~

It is a solemn responsibility for the millions of men and woman throughout this broad land of ours. For it is they ~~who~~ upon whom the ~~election~~ <sup>rests</sup> duty/ of ~~making this selection~~ <sup>a</sup> President and Vice-President. The issues involved have been ~~set~~ set forth. ~~They~~ 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 ~~American~~ graves, containing as many bodies of America's soldier heroes, tell the supreme sacrifice of that war, the toll exacted of this nation for its part in the saving of civilization to its citizenship, ~~and~~ the generations to come <sup>to it and to the world at large.</sup>

Billions of dollars spent for ~~destructive~~ weapons of destruction needed to win that great struggle ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ 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, ~~and~~ <sup>yet</sup> require solution and certain departments of our government need reorganization.

<sup>letter question</sup> These <sup>any foreign consideration</sup> have not been neglected. They have not been subordinated <sup>to</sup> America is today our first thought and love. America shall be first, ~~first for all time and always~~ always first.



History will not treat them kindly. Those who have been deceived and ~~will~~ vote for the man who has been named to ~~win~~ <sup>in case he is elected,</sup> the fight 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 "~~no~~ any thing ~~which~~ the people are not up on they are generally down on." Those who are up on the League of Nations ~~have~~ 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~~ <sup>in</sup> the war in France ~~gave~~ gave ~~us~~ 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 ~~who~~ who are not "up" on the League, <sup>who</sup> who have not read it, ~~who~~ who ~~do~~ do not comprehend it in an intelligent sense, <sup>including</sup> ~~some~~ those who have been influenced by misstatements of fact knowingly made by republican anti-league propagandists, <sup>will cast</sup> ~~constitute~~ the majority <sup>of the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>in</sup> votes <sup>in</sup> favor <sup>of</sup> the Republican nominees for President and Vice President. Lined-up with them are ~~the~~ <sup>of the</sup> most ~~of the~~ <sup>influential</sup> financiers and moneyed interests; also about eighty per cent of the newspapers of the United States.

It was <sup>chiefly</sup> 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 League~~ and who <sup>did</sup> ~~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 <sup>in response</sup> to anxious ~~inquiries~~ appeals, ~~in response~~. The demand was far greater than it was physically possible to print and distribute in the ~~time~~ that interval of time between the beginning of the campaign and election day.