

---

**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**

**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

---

**File No. 254**

**1926 - 1927 February 26**

**Warm Springs, Georgia -  
Dinner in Honor of F.D.R.**

[1927]

Atlanta, Ga. February 26---A call to Democrats to place principles above persons and the welfare of the party above the welfare of candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination was sounded here tonight by Hollins N Randolph, prominent Southern Democrat who was a McAdoo leader in 1924, and Franklin D Roosevelt, prominent Eastern Democrat who was an Al Smith leader in 1924.

The occasion was a dinner given by Mr Randolph in honor of Mr Roosevelt to welcome him to Georgia, attended by outstanding Georgians from all parts of the state, including Governor Walker, Mayor Ragdale of Atlanta, Hoke Smith and Hugh Dorsey, former governors, Chairman G Ed Maddox of the Democratic state executive committee, Major John S Cohen and Mrs Edgar Alexander, Democratic national committeeman and committeewoman from Georgia, prominent editors, bankers, business men and others.

Mr Roosevelt has recently purchased Warm Springs, a famous old summer resort in middle Georgia, where he received great benefit in recovering from his illness, and is planning an ambitious development of the property with several thousand surrounding acres. He and Mrs Roosevelt are now at the springs for several months and plan to live there a large part of each year.

"This is not a political dinner in any sense, but a welcome dinner," said Mr Randolph. "If it were a political dinner I might with propriety refer to the record of our distinguished guest in the Democratic party. I might refer to the stalwart support he gave Woodrow Wilson in the Baltimore convention; to the circumstance that by chance and accident I happened to play some part in his nomination for Vice President at San Francisco; to his splendid administration as Assistant Secretary of Navy during almost the whole of the late President Wilson's administration.

"If this were a political dinner I might also with propriety call attention to the crisis confronting the Democratic party at the moment, and declare that the time has arrived when more thought should be given to the party itself than to personalities, more to the principles the Democratic party typifies than to the personnel of candidates. I might with propriety declare that the party should be made progressive and more abreast of the times, that old and archaic rules of nomination should be abolished and new rules adopted to prevent the possibility of another deadlocked convention, such as we had at Baltimore, San Francisco and New York. And were the evening a political occasion I might declare that a pledge should be required of all candidates at the next convention to support the nominee without reservation, whoever the nominee may be."

These declarations on the part of Mr Randolph were heartily endorsed by Mr Roosevelt in his response at the close of the evening, after numerous and notable addresses.

"It is not only an honor and a pleasure to be the guest of these distinguished Georgians," he said, "but it affords me the opportunity of saying how happy I am that I am now spending a large part of each year in this State.

"As Mr Randolph has said, this is in no sense a political dinner, but it is a pleasure to hear his plea for the placing of principles before candidates in the councils of the Democratic party. When you come down to basic principles, there is very little difference between Democrats in Georgia and Democrats in New York. Surely thinking people everywhere realize the great fundamental differences between the two national par-

ties, and unite in the hope that the Democratic party will present a militant and united front in 1928. I am very certain that all candidates in the next convention will whole-heartedly support the platform and the nominees, and I am sure also that when the time comes cool leadership will prevent a long drawn out deadlock and bitter disputes over issues which, while they may be in a sense national, are not properly party issues.

"After all, Democratic success in 1928 depends first and last and all the time in winning over enough people who voted for Mr Coolidge in 1924 to make possible a Democratic successor to him in 1928. I find the desire for unity of effort throughout this State, even as I find it throughout New York State.

"And may I add, the more we Americans get to know each other in the different sections of the country, the more we shall be united. Down at Warm Springs I am trying to carry out this thought in a practical way. Hitherto this garden spot with its glorious pool has been known only to Georgians. Now I hope that its beauties and health giving qualities will bring to Georgia many people from the West and North and East. And if they are constituted like me they will fall in love with Georgia and claim it as another home and claim its men and women as their kinfolks."

Mr Roosevelt read a telegram from George Foster Peabody, of Saratoga Springs, N Y, president of the Grover Cleveland Association, inviting all guests at the dinner to attend the dinner to be held the evening of March 18, at the Hotel Astor in New York, in celebration of the ninetieth birth anniversary of Mr Cleveland.

Among other speakers were Governor Walker, Chief Justice Richard B Russell of the supreme court of Georgia, Mayor Ragsdale, Major John S Cohen, F A Wilson-Lawrenson, publisher of the Atlanta Georgian, James A Holloman, associate editor of the Atlanta Constitution, Ernest Camp, president of the Georgia Press Association, Miss Emily Woodward, vice president of the Georgia Press Association, W T Anderson, editor of the Macon Telegraph, Robert L McKenney, editor of the Macon News, Hoke Smith, former governor, former United States senator and former Secretary of the Interior.

A list of the invited guests is as follows:

(Pick up list previously furnished)

It is not only an honor and a pleasure to be the guest of these distinguished Georgians, but it affords me the opportunity of saying how happy I am that I am now spending a large part of each year in this State.

As Mr. Randolph has said, this is in no sense a political dinner, but it is a pleasure to hear his plea for the placing of principles before candidates in the present councils of the Democratic party. When you come down to basic principles, there is very little difference between Democrats in the State of Georgia and Democrats in the State of New York. Surely thinking people everywhere realize the great fundamental differences between the two national parties, and unite in the hope that the Democratic party will present a militant and united front in 1928.

I am very certain that all candidates in the next convention will wholeheartedly support the platform and the nominees, and I am sure also that when the time comes cool leadership will prevent a long-drawn-out deadlock and bitter disputes over issues which, while they may be in a sense national, are not properly party issues.

After all, Democratic success in 1928 depends first and last and all the time in winning over enough people who voted for Mr. Coolidge in 1924 to make possible a Democratic successor to him in 1928. I find the desire for unity of effort throughout this State, even as I find it throughout New York State.

And may I add, that the more we Americans get to know each other in the different sections of the country, the more we shall be united. Down at Warm Springs I am trying to carry out this thought in a practical way. Hitherto this garden spot with its glorious pool has been known only to Georgians. Now I hope that its beauties and health giving qualities will bring to Georgia many people from the West and North and East. And if they are constituted like me, they will fall in love with Georgia and claim it as another home and claim its men and women as their kinfolks.