
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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1928 October 17

Port Jervis, NY - Campaign Speech

ADDRESS OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AT PORT JERVIS, N.Y. 11:35 A.M.

October 17, 1928.

file

MR. ROOSEVELT: How do you do, neighbors. I am glad to be back again -- glad to see you. The last time was eight years ago, when I spoke to you over on the steps here, as I remember it. I had competition from one of the locomotives during the speech.

I haven't got time to more than say: "How do you do?" to you. You know, you and I live in the same Congressional District of Orange, Putnam and Dutchess counties.

I would like very much to just introduce to you the other people on the State Ticket, Col. Lehman, who is right here. He is running for Lieutenant Governor. (Applause). Also Comptroller Tremaine, one of the men who helped Gov. Smith so splendidly in Albany. (Applause).

MR. TREMAINE: Good luck to you! (Applause).

MR. ROOSEVELT: And Mr. Albert Conway, who is going to be the next attorney general, only this time we want a Democrat.

A VOICE: If his name is Al, he must be O.K.

A VOICE: You have a lot of brilliant men with you. (Applause).

MR. ROOSEVELT: Of course, one of the things we are doing on this trip up-state is not only talking about the State Ticket, about continuing progressive government up in Albany, but also just as much to make sure of the election of Alfred E. Smith to the Presidency. (Applause).

And I have got a sort of a hunch, knowing the people in this county and Dutchess, that there is going to be a big surprise coming to them in November. This state, I believe, is going overwhelmingly for Smith for President. (Applause).

I understand that Senator Copeland, who is the fifth member of the team, is going to be here tonight, so you will have a chance to see an old friend of yours and mine. I don't think there is much question about the fact that we need him down in Washington for another six years, considering all that he has done

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in this state all his life.

Here comes my friend the engine. (Laughter)

(A banner with the following inscription: "FOR GOVERNOR, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT" was displayed) (Applause)

A VOICE: Mr. Roosevelt, here is one of the oldest Democrats in the county, Martin V. Heller, retired ticket agent, Erie Railroad, Port Jervis, who is 94. (Mr. Roosevelt shakes hands)

MR. ROOSEVELT: Well, we are going to cover all of up-state in the next two weeks.

I think I look pretty healthy for a sick man, dont you? (Laughter and applause). You know, our Republic friends, if they dont look out, they will really get me the sympathy vote in this State.

A VOICE: You have got a lot of Republican friends.

A VOICE: Do you care to take that banner with you?

MR. ROOSEVELT: I think it would do more good right here in Port Jervis. I am not worried about the railroad vote anyhow.

A VOICE: Good luck to the next Governor.

A VOICE: We are still with you.

(Applause).

MR. ROOSEVELT: Good-bye and thanks very much.