
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Owego, NY - Campaign Speech

ELKS HALL, OWEGO.

The present Luncheon Administration through the then
October 18, 1928. exposed these cor-

rupt practices. They exposed the bootlegging of milk
and cream from distant states, unapproved and sub-standard

Of course, a lot of us people upstate refer
quite erroneously to the government of the City of New
York as Tammany Hall. Tammany Hall is merely a name for
the Democratic organization in one of five boroughs.

But it will interest, I think, the people of
the southern tier if I take this occasion to make a some-
what formal statement in regard to the history -- the
facts -- regarding the Democratic City Government in the
City of New York in its relation to the city's milk sup-
ply.

The following facts are, I think, absolutely
uncontrovertible: Back in 1926 -- two years ago -- west-
ern milk and cream from distant states was admitted to
New York City. It was sold at low rates to New York City
and metropolitan district dealers. This was bootlegged
into the city through bribery of corrupt officials, and
was a grave potential source of danger to the public and
a serious blow to the honest farmers who could not com-
pete with cheap western milk.

The present city administration through the then Commissioner of Health, Dr. Harris, exposed these corrupt practices. They stopped the bootlegging of milk and cream from uninspected, unapproved and sub-standard farms of the west. Three guilty officials are now in jail. The farmers of this state have as a result of that action been freed from dangerous and unfair competition and the public has been protected from possible diseases.

I want to call attention once more to the fact that it was a Democratic City administration in New York which reformed a perilous situation and stopped corruption. Dr. Harris two years ago called together the representatives of the farmers in New York and vicinity, and wholesale distributors - the big buyers agreed to measures by which every large company agreed to give an increase of approximately twenty percent. to every farmer for six months of the year above the standard price for each hundred pounds of milk. Increased production by New York State farmers was stimulated by measures proposed and carried through by the Health Department. This was again adopted - readopted this year, and the annual increase in income of the farmers through increased produc-

tion and higher prices has been a boon to them, and has served to stop milk bootlegging, because the milk and cream shortage of previous years has been overcome. The farmers, through their representatives, had constant contact with the Health Department to discuss proposed health ordinances and prevented the adoption of laws by any State department that would work a hardship upon them. The confidence of the public in milk and cream produced by New York and vicinity by the farmers of our own State was restored and even greatly increased by these reforms, and by the public education which was conducted at the same time.

I hope that those facts may become known through this section of New York. They ought to be known, because they are facts that ought to be known, because it is time that we should have a greater cooperation between every section of the State.

As all of you know, I am an upstate man, but I believe that the day has passed when there should be war and disputes of any kind between the great Metropolitan District and us farmers of upstate. I can assure you that if a Democratic administration comes into power in

Albany, there will be a constant effort to protect the rights of the farming community. All of this is a ^{wish} serious problem - a very great problem, and we are going through changing times. Economics and everybody else have changed so in the past eight years, that the time has come for us in the State of New York to re-survey the whole situation - the relationship between city and country. It is more than a mere question of party lines, for party lines are being broken down very much this year, and although I only started out yesterday morning from New York, there has not been a village or a town in which I have come that I haven't run across countless examples of a new kind of voter - people who are willing to come out publicly and say, "I am a Smith Republican." (applause)

It is not only through New York where we know him, but it is so in every other part of the country. I wish much that the people in every country in this State had had the opportunity of getting to know the Governor of this State and his family as I know them. I wish much that they could see for themselves his own personal charm. We know about the great measures that he has put into

effect in the reorganization of our State Government, but many people don't know the man himself, and I wish that they could have the opportunity that I have had to see him off the stage as well as on, for there is not a cleaner or finer American family in all of the United States than that of Alfred E. Smith (applause).

People are beginning to realize that towards the close of a campaign that has been marked by whisperings and by all manner of false statements, and I am very confident that during these next three weeks -- less than three weeks -- there is going to be a warming of the heart, an understanding in our own State and all over the United States that will eliminate all of these falsities and bring about an honest heart vote on Election Day.

It is a privilege to come here, and I hope that the next time I come into Tioga County it will be in an official capacity (applause), but if I do come in that capacity, I can assure you that it will be a perfectly plain, simple, upstate farmer then just as much as he is now. I thank you. (Applause)