
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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I am very glad to come here again after an absence of, I think, eight years, because it was in 1920 that I was here the last time.

I am not going to make a long speech today, because tonight I am speaking in Jamestown and I have to save my voice. I know very well that this year there is such a tremendous interest in this campaign, not only in our own state but all over the country, that it is a mighty hopeful sign, a mighty good thing for our American Republic, whichever way the election goes, and I have got a pretty definite idea of which way it is going. (Laughter and applause.) It will be a good thing, too -- the largest vote in history. Registration in every state shows a bigger increase than ever before. People are interested. They are reading the issues. They are reading what the candidates say and they are trying to separate the wheat from the chaff. They are beginning

to understand that whether the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is successful in the national campaign this country is not going to go to the dogs. (Applause.)

In the same way, in this State, they are sizing up the issue. We who are running on the Democratic Ticket believe that we stand more for progress, more for the carrying out of the splendid improvements in our State Government which have taken place under Governor Alfred E. Smith. (Applause.) And we are asking the electorate of this State quite frankly and very simply to carry on the splendid progressive policies of Governor Smith, to carry out his program and to take hold of the new problems in the same spirit.

And now I am glad that you are going to have the opportunity of hearing from the other candidates on this same ticket. It is very beneficial, I think, that the voters should carry out the principle of responsible government. In other words, if I am to go to Albany -- and I think I am (Applause) -- I want to have a friendly, sympathetic and very able set of assistants up there, a Lieutenant-Governor who talks my language, an Attorney General who talks my language, a State Comptroller who

talks my language. In that way the State will get better government than if you divide the authority at the top.

And so, my friends, I want to thank you and to tell you that I hope the next time I come here it will be in an official capacity. (Applause.)

I am also to come back to Marshall. I haven't been here for a good many years. Last time I think I was in Marshall when I was a member of the State Senate, before a good many of you people even got up. That was back at the time of a very famous session of the Legislature -- 1911 -- and the session of 1912. I will it a famous session because those were the years that started a certain kind of progressive legislation for the State of New York which, with a few interruptions, have been carried on ever since. It is hard for time makes people take a different attitude towards things.

I remember in 1911 that I was called a Socialist -- a radical or even what's invented the term -- that in those days (laughter) -- because I introduced and tried to get through a law limiting the hours of labor in industry to fifty-four hours a week. (Applause) What you think of it, fifty-four hours a week, and only seventeen years ago -- that was called radical!