Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
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1928 October 19

Wellsville, NY - Campaign Speech
I want to mention probably the greatest tax expert in the United States, Bob Gray. It seems to me that you people here have the same interest in this coming campaign in the coming election that I found everywhere, not only in this State but all over the United States. It is a mighty good sign and I am glad that in every state that I have been in -- and I have been in the South, in the Middle West and New England -- there is a new kind of voter who is appearing in this election, the men and women who are perfectly willing to call themselves "Smith Republicans." (Applause.)

You all know the issues of the campaign, and I am not going to enlarge on them, except to say this, that I believe the fundamental question that you are going to vote on two weeks from next Tuesday is whether we want to have progressive government down in Washington, and whether we want to have progressive government continue.
WELLSVILLE – OPEN AIR

2:45 P. M.

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in Albany. (Applause.) I have with me nearly all the rest of the State Ticket and I am going to call on them just to stand up and let you see that they are perfectly good fellows. I am anxious, of course, if I am going to be elected, to have all of them elected with me, because it is mighty important that the head of the State Government should have friends at the head of the departments of the State. First of all, I am going to call on Colonel Herbert H. Lehman, the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor to stand up.

(Col. Lehman stands and is applauded.)

And then right behind me is the man who has helped to make the administration of Governor Smith such a splendid business administration that we all know about, the present Comptroller, and, I hope, the next Comptroller of the State, Mr. Morris Tremaine of Buffalo.

(Mr. Tremaine stands and is applauded.)

And then the man who is going to be my lawyer and your lawyer, doing all the legal work for the State during the next two years, the candidate for Attorney General, Mr. Albert Conway of the County of Kings.

(Mr. Conway stands and is applauded.)
You know, some of my Republican friends around New York are talking about the kind of sympathy that the people of the State ought to have for this unfortunate invalid who is running for Governor. (Applause.) I don't think that any of us need worry about that, and I am mighty glad that the Convention in Rochester was good enough and kind enough to draft me for the job. Thanks very much. (Prolonged Applause.)