
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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1928 October 20

Dunkirk, NY - Campaign Speech

You and I have DUNKIRK - OPEN AIR idea of what it is going
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 this State. October 20, 1928 passed registration.

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My friends, I am glad to come back to Dunkirk
 after eight years' absence. We have been going now --
 this is our fourth day, starting at the Hudson River and
 coming clear through the Southern Tier of counties. One
 of the newspaper boys who has been with us has been
 amused because yesterday late in the afternoon I got in
 a town down in Catteraugas County and I had to admit that
 I had never been there before. (Laughter.) It was the
 first town and I think the last that we will strike on
 this campaign trip that I hadn't been in before, because
 you know I am an up-State New Yorker, and I am proud to
 get up-State and get this chance to come back and see
 it. (Applause.) Well, this looks like Democracy. It
 looks like the kind of thing that we have been finding
 in every city in the State of New York that so far we have
 visited. There is something abroad in the air this year.

You and I have got a pretty good idea of what it is going to mean. We find that in every city and every town of this State there is a greatly increased registration. That is a mighty good thing. I hope that every man and woman that has the right to vote will go out and exercise that privilege on election day. I hope that for two reasons: The first is that it makes for good citizenship. The other is that it makes for the certain election of Alfred E. Smith. (Applause.)

And I have been pretty well over these United States since Houston. I have been through the South and I have been through the middle west, and I have been in New England, and everywhere you find exactly the same conditions -- a growing interest in this election, a growing understanding of the issues presented to the people of the United States. You know, we are a pretty warm-hearted people when you come right down to it, and I believe that we are going to vote for a warm-hearted candidate this time. (Applause.) Somebody has aptly remarked that the people of the United States are not going willingly to substitute an adding machine for an ice box. (Applause.)

We in this State know our Governor. We know what he has accomplished for the average citizen in this State. We know the sympathy of his humane heart, and we are going to do two things, I am very confident. We are going to send him to a higher field of action, and at the same time I am very confident that we are going to vote to continue that magnificent Democratic policy which we have had for so long in Albany. (Applause.) I wish I might stay here and talk to you about the details of some of the issues, but I don't believe that that is necessary. We are going to win this year, not just with Democratic votes; we are going to win with the help of thousands and thousands of Republicans who are big enough and American enough to feel that the vote for Smith and the vote for the Democratic nominees on the State ticket means progress, and they are going to support us right down the line. (Applause.) And so I hope that when I come back here to Dunkirk the next time you people will make it possible for me to come back in an official capacity as the Governor of this State. (Prolonged Applause.)

of this country, and from a somewhat long experience I am certain that the more interested the