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

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 administration of Governor Alfred E. Smith.
 October 23, 1928.

Well, I'm glad to come back to Canandaigua.

The last time I was here I spoke in competition with a
 freight train and I have an idea that the freight train
 won. (Laughter.) So I am back again and am glad to
 be here.

I wish we had more time to spend here and to
 talk more about the issues of the campaign. As Colonel
 Lehman has said, and also Mr. Conway -- I think they are
 comparatively simple. It is a simple question of whether
 we approve the kind of government that we have had in
 Albany during the past few years; of whether we want to
 continue progress, or whether we want to go back to the
 days of reaction. I have been around this country a
 good deal in the last couple of months. I have been down
 South and out in the middle west and in New England, and
 to me as a New Yorker it is a great source of pride that
 all the other states in the Union are reading and finding

out all they can about the State of New York, because we have made such tremendous strides in this State under the administration and success of Governor Alfred E. Smith. (Applause.)

If we really understood in this State how much interest Smith has aroused in the other States -- if we realized how they are copying in the other States what we have accomplished, I believe there wouldn't be any question at all that this Governor of ours, just as a matter of pride on our part, should be sent down to Washington out of this State by a million majority. (Applause.)

I want again, after a lapse of many years, to see a New York man back in the White House (Applause); and the question of about who is going to Albany is a little bit along the same lines. (Applause.)

There is a lot of that fine program of the Governor's which still remains to be carried out, and we have got a great many new problems. The question is whether we are going to carry them out along the lines of progress or reaction, and I am appealing quite frankly and openly not just to Democrats but to Republicans in this State who approve of progressive measures.

As we go along we find one interesting fact, and that is a new kind of voter; voters who come up to us and say, "Yes, I am a Republican. I call myself a Republican and I am going to call myself a Republican, but this year I am going to vote the Democratic ticket." (Applause.) I guess that is true in Ontario County just as much as it has been true on our trip through the Southern Tier all the way around along the Pennsylvania line, the same way as it is true in Buffalo, and Rochester. It is a new thought that has come to the people in this State, and that is why I am confident that in November we are going to continue a Democratic Administration in Albany. (Applause.)

I hope, therefore, that next Spring I will be able to come back through this part of the State -- that when I do that I will be accompanied by Lieutenant-Governor Lehman, Comptroller Tremaine, Attorney General Conway, and that I myself will also come to you in an official capacity. (Applause.)

But our appeal this year, as most of you know who have been reading -- our appeal is not just to Democrats, but it is to Republicans as well, because it