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

their American BOONVILLE - OPEN AIR party politics.
 Thursday Afternoon reflectly well that we
 in the year of October 25, 1928 used more towards the
 cause of good government, good businesslike, efficient
 State Government, than ever before in our history. And

I am glad to have a chance to come to Boonville. I wish that I might stay longer, but, as you know, it is a mighty big State and we have to cover a great many miles. There is no question as to where

It has been a mighty interesting campaign because, although I have been through this State a great many times before -- you know, I am an up-State farmer myself -- I have never yet seen as much interest in a political campaign as we have this year. It is interest on the part of men and women, and even children, and it is a mighty good sign. One of the things that has impressed me is that in every place that we have come to I have been surprised by the number of people who come up and have taken me by the hand and said, "I am a Republican but I am going to vote for you." And the reason that a great many Republicans are going to vote the Democratic Ticket this year is because they are putting

their American citizenship ahead of party politics.

In this State they know perfectly well that we in the past few years have accomplished more towards the cause of good government, good, businesslike, efficient State Government, than ever before in our history. And it is an interesting fact that people all over the United States are looking at the record made in the State of New York under the leadership of Governor Smith. (Applause.) There is no question as to where the credit for what we have accomplished ought to go.

Our fight is not against the rank and file of the Republican Party. Our fight is against the kind of leadership that the Republican Party has been having of late in this State. (Applause.) And so I hope that the people this year are going to vote for a continuation of good government. Our slogan in this campaign is three words - "Keep good Government." We don't want to stop the progress that has been made. We still want to round out the fine program. It has not all been accomplished yet, and we want to take up a great many new problems in the spirit of progress. at this whole problem of the election. We hear a great deal about prosperity, and

while the country has in many ways been prosperous during these past few years, I am sorry to say that I can't find a great deal of prosperity in the farming, agricultural districts in this country. It doesn't make any difference whether it be in the West or in the South or in our own State. In county after county that we have gone to, we have been handed lists longer than ever before of farms that are up for tax sale. That means that our prosperity is not well rounded. We have had prosperity in the industrial centers, but we haven't had it on the farms. I hope that in the years to come we will, by careful study and by the protection of the Government, round out that prosperity. I want to see the condition in the course of the next few years where the man on the farm will be able at the end of a year to say, "I have made as much as if I had been a skilled worker living in a city under the best possible working and living conditions." That does not exist today.

And so, we have a great many things to accomplish, and I hope this year that you Republicans and Democrats alike will look at this whole problem of the election, both national and state, with fairness; that

you will look at it from what you consider to be the best interests of the United States and the State of New York.

I would like very much to be able to stay here and talk to you about a great many other issues, because there are many in the campaign, but we have got to be getting on to Rome, and I hope that next year I will be able to come back to Boonville, and when I do come back, that I will come in an official capacity. (Prolonged Applause.)

It is a pretty chilly year for Republican candidates. (Applause.) And the perfectly remarkable and extraordinary ground that we have seen on this trip throughout the State proved the point.

In the Republican communities that we have come to, people are turning out and listening. They come to see the candidates. They are reading the issues, and I don't think there is any question about how the State of New York is going a week from next Tuesday.

You know, we are all a pretty warm-hearted people, we Americans, and I think this year we have decided to do two things, and that is, to get rid of