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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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Remarks about his health

not used 1928?

I am deeply touched at the tender solicitude displayed by my Republican adversaries, first as to my anguish of mind, and now as to my feebleness of body. I trust I have convinced them that the martyr's crown was not being pressed upon my head and I would like at this early date in order to clear the way for the discussion of good government and vital state issues, to reassure them as to my physical condition. Let me soothe their fears by explaining that the impossibility of indulging in excessive physical exercise has enabled me to take far better care of my health than is the case of most men as actively engaged in business as I have been for the last four years.

My family physician has found me a very poor customer. Let me assure them again that my only physical disability which is a certain clumsiness in locomotion and which I trust will eventually disappear, has interfered in no way with my power to think. Possibly because I find it more convenient to sit at my desk than to move around, I pride myself that during the past four years, I have done rather more than the average man's daily stint.

I am one who hates to feel himself a cause of worry to others and if it would really ease their minds, I will gladly furnish any of the Republican campaign managers with proper weekly bulletins containing respiration, temperature and general physical condition. There is one disability I have which I imagine particularly impresses the Republican leaders of the Legislature as being very serious. I must admit that no man, compelled to move somewhat slowly, is a very good dodger. For the last four years these gentlemen have spent most of their time dodging issues, dodging responsibility, dodging, rather poorly, the verbal missiles of Governor Smith and I have been grieved to note, quite frequently dodging brickbats thrown in brotherly strife at each other.

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