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**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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**File No. 308**

**1929 February ?**

**Speech to the Press - Better Coordination**

F.D.R. Longhand

(1929 Feb 7)

Speech to the Press about "better cooperation in the transaction of the State's business."

Sept. 19, 1944

(1929) F.D.P. Press about "BUTLER" cooperation  
Feb) 5 pp. of the Correspondent's list.  
1 ~~3~~ in the transaction of the State's bus.  
3 pp. On the back of p. 3 is an outline  
of the speech in F.D.P.'s hand; 15 lines

F.D.P. Longland.

Feb 1939

# 308

I want to talk to you tonight about better cooperation in the transaction of the State's business. It is a fundamental necessity that the business of the State go forward under some definite, clearly defined plan. This State as, of course, everybody knows, is run by three branches of the government - the legislators, the Governor and the newspaper men. I understand from the papers that the majority in the Legislature, following the precedents of several years past, has declined to have anything to do with any constructive state program and will only exercise its functions by constant application of veto by legislative committees.

I would like to do a few constructive things myself and have even made a suggestion or two along these lines but, apparently, my Republican friends learned in their early youth that good old song "Have courage, my boy, to say no", and have not progressed beyond that point in their political education. This being the case, it would seem to me to be clearly up to the press to run things. With George Morris always ready to tell Senator Knight and Speaker McGinnies what the Legislature should do next, the cooperation I am pleading for should not be difficult to arrange if you only appoint someone to guide my footsteps.

Now, I have a perfectly splendid idea of how to handle this: It is a new way to meet such a situation and has never been tried before. I am going to ask you to appoint a commission. It ought to be a small commission and I think two would be splendid

and, of course, they ought to be men who always agree between themselves on every subject. For that reason I want to nominate George Franklin and Charley Armitage as in that way I feel sure they will be in perfect harmony on everything that comes up, as I have always noticed their splendid team-work in my daily interviews with the press.

But there is one trouble about this plan. If I am to make my policy square with what is announced as my policy in the papers, what papers am I to follow? Here I find myself considerably confused and as this is a talk within the family I am going to lay my difficulties frankly before you. Let me give you, by illustration, my perplexity as to what really is my course in the matter of appointments. Apparently one must have a definite policy of appointments. At least no paper has ventured to suggest that I might just appoint the best man for the job as each case comes up before me. I have got apparently to decide as to whether I shall appoint all Republicans, or all Democrats, or all members of Tammany Hall, or all people picked out by Bill Bray. I looked into the matter of following the policy so carefully supplied me by the press as to this, and here is what I find: I have in my hand clippings from several newspapers. They are, of course, all of them absolutely reliable and represent facts, but I am a little bewildered as to how to follow out their announcements as to what I am going to do. They do not seem to entirely coordinate and the need of the commission I suggest will, I trust, become apparent to you when I read to you these two written

on the same day, shortly after I assumed office:

(Here read clippings 1 and 2)

Now, here are two others, also published on the same date last month:

(Read clippings 3 and 4)

I hope you will get this commission working at the earliest possible moment because you can see just what a poor Governor is up against, and if the press is going to direct our state's future, there should be a clearly defined program, because if no two of them can agree on anything, the first thing you correspondents know the voters in your districts will be electing you to the Legislature as ideal representatives of the Republican party.

1929  
Feb

F.D.R. Campaign

Better co-ordination State Business

3 Branches,

Majority want co-ordinates with ins - Vets

Only hope L.C.A.

Repub. friends "Her courage, my boy" <sup>to</sup> <sub>NO</sub>

up to press. Bro. Morris ready to tell Knight

I need guide my footsteps

New plan - Commissioner - 2 - agree

Nominate Bro. Franklin - Charles Armstrong

Make my policy square with papers

Perplexity - Illustration - appointments

Need commission

You Must agree

First thing the voters in your District will  
and you to negotiate.