
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Alban file. Miss Sulley Dale

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

SPEECH OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT AT A. & M. COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT - CARROLLTON, GEORGIA - 1 P. M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1929, FOR RELEASE AFTER DELIVERED

The State of Georgia, like the State of New York and practically every ~~other~~ one of the other 46 states, has a definite problem in improving the conditions surrounding rural life.

Improvement lies along three lines. In order that the agricultural population may keep pace with the tremendous strides of present day civilization, ^{something must be done.} The first is the problem of bettering home living conditions and this is being met on its educational side by the splendid growth of the study of home economics. Georgia may well be proud of her work along these lines; but this work needs expansion, ^{not} merely thru agricultural colleges, but thru the high schools and grade schools in every section of the state.

The second problem is that of improving the methods of agriculture itself. Here in rural Georgia, as in rural New York, it is safe to say that at least 75% of farming is unscientific. If the same conditions of lack of modern business methods were applied to American industries and manufactures, we would be a bankrupt nation today. It is a simple fact that three families out of four engaged in agriculture have failed to keep level with the times. I recognize, and they recognize, that this is in large part due to the lack of capital available for scientific farming.

This condition will not be corrected by Federal Farm Relief Laws or by any one panacea. Relief must come ~~thru~~ thru education along the right lines, and ~~thru~~ thru co-operation between

individuals and communities.

The third great problem is that of local government inefficiency. Local taxes are unnecessarily high and are wastefully used in almost every rural county in America. We talk about the extravaganzas of Federal and State Governments, but we overlook ^{the fact} that by far the greater part of the taxes we pay are local taxes, and are locally expended.

The business ^{management} ~~purpose~~ of a county ought to be along business lines, not as it is today, along political lines. ^{The} Highway map of Georgia is the best example of this statement.

In this same connection, we need in our agricultural communities, first, a greater interest on the part of the average man and woman citizen in the conduct of our local government. Secondly, we need a state-wide point of view. In other words, co-operation with all other counties of the State, in the place of local selfishness and in the long run this will help our local needs to a great extent. Third, we need to study what other states have done and are doing. This is just as true in New York as in Georgia. If we are to stop the present unamerican tendency to concentrate all power in Washington, if we are to remain a Democracy instead of becoming an oligarchy, we must start at the bottom and not at the top. That bottom is first the township, the small city, or ^{the} county. The new race of young men and young women begins to take hold of the reins. This younger generation has educational advantages undreamed of by their fathers and mothers. The responsibility will soon rest in their hands. There is a wider point of view than the older generation possessed. They understand the term state-minded and nation-minded and in that lies the hope of the future.