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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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**1929 ?**

**Electric Power Rates**

The New York Evening Telegram recently prepared some figures which showed graphically the importance of this whole question of power generation and state regulation to the people of New York State. Generally speaking the people of New York State are paying higher rates for electricity than do cities of corresponding size in other sections of this country and Canada. Taking as a basis of comparison, the monthly use of 250 kilowatt hours of electricity, an amount which would permit the use of all sorts of electrical household appliances and an electric range, we find that the people of Ithaca are required to pay \$23.70, as compared with a monthly charge of \$2.52 in Kitchener, Ontario. You will remember that Ontario has public development and distribution of electricity and that a large part of the power is generated on the Niagara River. We find that the people of Bronx County pay \$23 for the same amount of current, and that the people of Toronto pay \$2.79. Yonkers pays \$20.50 and Troy \$20, as compared with \$2.79 in Ottawa, \$2.79 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, \$2.78 in Barrie, Ontario, and \$3.09 in Hamilton, Ontario.

There is also a wide range in the prices charged for this amount of current within New York State. For instance Manhattan pays \$17.50 as compared with \$7.80 in Buffalo. While Manhattan is paying \$17.50, Brooklyn just across the East River pays only \$13.40, and Staten Island just down the bay, pays \$11.55. It is interesting to note that the people in Albany pay \$19.50, while Schenectady consumers are charged \$9.30. Niagara Falls, N. Y. has a rate of \$5.53. You will remember that I said that Niagara Falls, Ontario, which is just across the river, pays \$2.79. The municipal plant at Dunkirk has a rate of \$6.93, while the privately owned plant at Oswego charges \$11.20.

This standard of 250 kilowatt hours a month is figured to be adequate for all purposes for an average four room apartment with one thousand square feet of floor space, and twenty electric outlets. It will permit of the use of 25 kilowatt hours for lighting, and the use of the following electrical equipment. An electric flatiron, toaster, vacuum cleaner, electric fan, washing machine, ironing machine, coffee percolater, radio, sewing machine, refrigerator, as well as an electric range.