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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. 357**

**1930 January 8**

**Troy, NY -**  
**Rensselaer County Democratic Committee**

Before Rensselaer County Democratic Committee, Troy  
January 8, 1930  
Future and Development of Upper Hudson Region

One lesson we are beginning to learn from past experience. We see today not only in cities and towns but in suburban and country districts as well the wastefulness which has resulted from lack of forethought; in other words, some kind of planning. It is safe to say that every year in our State many millions of dollars are being spent to correct mistakes made in former years. Nearly all of these sums could have been saved by adequate planning for the future.

Let me take a concrete example which I have come to think about during my year's residence in this part of the State. I am certain that the time has come for the people of the upper Hudson region to think in terms of the region and not so much in terms of their own particular locality.

This upper Hudson region has enormous future possibilities. Here are located a number of municipalities and of suburban communities which in hundreds of different ways face the same general problems of development. Is it not time for the people of these communities to get together and plan jointly for the future? Is it not time for them to consider how every development of this year will affect every development that is made ten or twenty years from now?

Nature has singularly favored this region. It is the natural northern port of the arm of the sea known as the Hudson River. It has splendid rail connections with New England and, through the Mohawk Valley, the only practical water-level route to the whole of the West. It lies at the foot of the long down-grade from the coal mines of Pennsylvania; as well as on the shortest route to the most populous part of Canada.

These enormous natural advantages are reinforced by a progressive population and by fine existing industries.

In population and in wealth and resources the region is bound to grow. That is why I hope that the time has come for regional planning for the future so that in the succeeding generation we shall not regret the structures which we now build.

Perhaps it is not out of place to cast our thoughts even further into the future when it is entirely possible that the people of this region will find it advisable to combine some of the governmental agencies which are now wholly distinct and separate. Perhaps we shall have a great city of which the present cities shall be very necessary and component parts; but in some form by which the present cities would retain

their individuality and identity. This, as we know, has been successfully worked out in the past generation in New York City. Various separate municipalities became a part of the larger city, but retained in the form of boroughs their own individuality and identity. I am certain that the people of Brooklyn, for instance, still retain their local pride in Brooklyn and do not regret that they are a part of Greater New York.

There is no question that some form of unification of these communities would result in great practical administrative savings. While this dream is a dream distinctly of the future, it is worth while thinking about even at this time.

## XII ADDRESSES

Before Rensselaer County Democratic Committee, Troy,  
January 8, 1930

### *Future and Development of Upper Hudson Region*

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