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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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**1930 October 9**

**Albany, NY - Radio Speech**

Radio Address, Albany, October 9, 1930

*Businesslike Administration under Democratic Rule.*

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If this were a campaign period of 50 or even 25 years ago, all of the candidates would now be swinging round the circle, using the old-fashioned local trains and huggies to get them to as many places as possible in the State within 30 days. Today, however, the automobile and radio make it much easier to reach a vastly larger number of people. However, changes in State Government itself make it impossible for a candidate, who also happens to be the Governor of the State, to get away from Albany until the last two weeks before Election and that is why I am here at the Executive Offices. The reason for this is that the State's business is so vast that it is now on a budget basis, like any other big corporation, and it is the constitutional duty of the Governor to make up this budget as far as possible during the month of October. All of this week and all of next, I am spending mornings, afternoons and evenings in hearing the various department heads who come before me with their estimates of expenditures for the next fiscal year. These hearings involve all items affecting the personnel and the pay of the large number of State employees, not only here in Albany but in every one of the State institutions, and all the programs for the year's construction of roads, bridges, hospitals, and buildings of all kind as well.

At these budget hearings Senator Hewitt and Assemblyman Hutchinson representing the Republican majority in the Legislature are present every day. These gentlemen control appropriations by the Legislature, because of their position as chairmen of the money committees. I ask them for any suggestions which they may care to make regarding the items either for personnel or for public works.

Let us remember that this is the open season for speeches. During the next few weeks you will hear the same old Republican orations about extravagance which have been trotted out of the pigeon-holes and dusted off this year the same as in every campaign since I was a small boy. And let me note that when the Republicans have been in control of the Governorship the expenditures have kept right up just the same.

I repeat that these gentlemen are sitting alongside of me this week and next, as they did last year, and I am asking them for suggestions as to any possible changes which will save money for the State. Furthermore, I ask them whether they think items can be cut out altogether. When I finish this budget it will have the tacit approval of my friends, the Chairmen of the Appropriation Committees. Last year I had the same tacit approval. During the Budget hearings they did not make a single suggestion for any kind of a cut in the Budget. Much more important is the fact that later on, when the Legislature met, these same leaders not only left in the Budget practically the whole of the \$310,000,000 which I had recommended, but they added another \$5,000,000 on their own account.

If any member of the Legislature gets up on the stump this fall in your district and makes slurring allusions to the size of the State's appropriations under my administration rise in your place and ask the gentleman whether he voted for the appropriation bill or not. He would have to answer that he did. In other words, never forget that it is not the Governor but the Legislature, and the Legislature alone, which appropriates the money which the State spends each year, and the Legislature has been under Republican leadership and control in both branches for many years.

Let me make it very clear that I am proud of the budgets of 1929 and 1930 under my Administration. I am proud of the purposes and results of the expenditure of every dollar of new money, for this money has gone for objectives which the overwhelming sentiment and human sympathy of this State support. The increases cover a vastly enlarged program for the unfortunate wards of the State, for the men and women and children in the State Hospitals, for a big increase in the mileage and quality of the State and County roads and more aid from the State for the town roads in the rural counties, for the reduction of rural taxes, for increased appropriations for education, especially assistance to the smaller and poor school districts, for the extension of the park programs all over the State, for new cell blocks to take the place of the antiquated and overcrowded dungeons, for office buildings in New York, Albany, and Buffalo which save the State thousands of dollars in rent, for more bridges, more normal school buildings, more housing and equipment for the agricultural schools and more money for farm and home bureau extension work.

I am proud too that these two years have seen the actual completion of a greater number of buildings and roads and other public works than in any other previous period in the State's history. I am glad that even the Republican leaders admit in private conversation that they will not admit on the stump, that the efficiency of the State Architect's Office, of the State Engineer's Office, of the Superintendent of Public Works, and of the contractors themselves who are doing the work, is greater today than ever before. I feel a little pride in telling you that when the Legislature adjourned in April, it had authorized the State to build about \$39,000,000 of public structures of various kinds, and \$38,000,000 will be actually out at contract before the end of this year, and today over \$30,000,000 of the total has been let. Incidentally, the building program is doing its share towards the relief of unemployment, especially since I persuaded the Legislature to pass a bill giving preference to the citizens of the State of New York on all of this work.

Here is a fact worth remembering: With all these increased activities not one single State tax has been increased. On the contrary the income tax has been reduced and the one-half mill tax on real estate has been abolished altogether. Only one new tax has been added since I became Governor,—the 2c tax on gasoline, and you are well aware of the greatly increased road building program that this has made possible.

Through these excellent set-ups of the State's finances remember please that over \$24,000,000 in local expenditures have been saved to the rural sections throughout the State.

It is only a little over a year ago that these same legislative leaders tried to tear down this structure of efficiency based on the Executive Budget. They tried to undo all that the long fight for the Executive Budget had accomplished and which the people themselves had voted for and written into our Constitution. In this partisan attempt the legislators were aided and abetted by the Attorney-General of the State. I had to go out and hire private counsel and carry the case to the highest court in the State. I do not think that it will be readily forgotten that that highest court handed down a unanimous rebuke to those legislative leaders and to the Attorney-General, and sustained me in my fight to maintain this protection to taxpayers' money which is embodied in the Executive Budget.

In view of this I had to laugh right out loud when I read in the Republican platform the following:

"The office (meaning the Attorney-General's) has dealt with difficult constitutional questions \* \* \* and generally guarded the public welfare in all legal matters."

This is almost as humorous as this other remark in the Republican platform:

"Under the direction of a Republican Attorney-General, the department has been reorganized and a degree of efficiency has been injected into the work of that office that constitutes a striking contrast to other departments \* \* \*"

If this is true it is a somewhat careless admission on their part that the Attorney-General's office during the four previous years when it was under the Republican Attorney-General Ottinger had been grossly inefficient and incompetent. Yet the Republicans took that same gentleman and made him their candidate for Governor.

Remember always that I have tried to give a thoroughly businesslike administration to the State. In this I have had the definite and constant assistance of one of the best business men in the State, a man trained in industry and banking and social welfare. Every Lieutenant-Governor I have ever heard of in the past has merely fulfilled his constitutional function of presiding over the Senate. Now, however, the State has a Lieutenant-Governor who does far more than that. He works at my side in the constant effort to improve business efficiency in all of the departments. This makes for teamwork and executive efficiency which saved the State many millions of dollars, or put it another way, has enabled the State to get vastly more for every dollar expended than ever before. Lieutenant-Governor Lehman is, from my point of view, an absolute necessity in Albany during the next two years. I have asked him to share this half hour with me tonight and he will talk to you when I have finished.

One word more: Here is an open challenge to any person in this State of New York who thinks the State is spending too much money. Tell me where you think the State should cut down? Should it be education? Should it be roads? Should it be hospitals? Should it be in agricultural aid? Should it be in the salaries of that vast army of faithful civil service employees who carry on day by day and night by night the work of the State? Shall the State of New York drop from its proud leadership, a leadership in progressive government, recognizing at all times the importance of providing for its citizens humanity in government, efficiency in administration, supremacy in material accomplishment and, above all, a singleness of purpose to serve the average citizen in his daily needs.