
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 474

1932 April 22

Press Interview on Return from St. Paul

INTERVIEW ON RETURN FROM ST. PAUL: PRESIDENCY;
TARIFF; BONUS.

"From the time I was in school I have had a tremendous interest in the problems of govt. and a funny old-fashioned idea that if any individual found himself in circumstances that enabled him to help in the administration of govt. or in solving govt. problems he ought to do it. I have no illusions about the presidency or being president."

If we believe in the American two-party system which has carried us to success through many crises we will do well to follow the successful rule and turn out the party in power if it fails to meet the crisis.

The country is lop-sided. The govt. takes into account only one or a few elements.

The Pres. and Congress should apply the same rule to the Fed. Govt. as we have in N. Y.: that the deficit of one year must be made up the next.

We as a nation are responsible not only for our own high tariff walls but for the tariff walls other nations have raised against us. We must make reciprocal agreements with other nations. Old barter principle of swapping cows.

Bonus. I do not see how as a matter of common sense a govt. running behind \$2,000,000,000 can consider the anticipation of bonus payments until it has a balanced budget...in cash in the treasury.

The farmers' purchasing power must be raised by cutting farm costs of operation, by roads and tax cuts, and by reductions in cost of local govt. and by bringing prices up to levels of other products.

I am a wet.