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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 494

1932 September 12

Bellefontaine, OH - Whistlestop Remarks

BACK-PLATFORM GREETINGS BY GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
Bellefontaine, Ohio
September 12, 1932, 11.30 A.M.

(There were about 500 people in the audience.)

GOVERNOR: Fine! I am glad to see you, my friends. We are off for a good start! (Applause)
Here (turning to his son, James Roosevelt) is my "little boy, Jimmie". (Laughter, applause)

A VOICE: How do you like the result in Maine, Governor?

GOVERNOR: Wasn't that grand!

A VOICE: Governor, I voted for you twice in New York, and I am going to take another chance to vote for you as President. (Applause)

GOVERNOR: Well, we are working hard on the Agriculture speech for Topeka, Kansas. (interrupted by)--

A VOICE: We are glad you are going to be elected instead of Hoover. I keep your picture in my room, Governor. I believe I have done more work to elect you than perhaps any man.

GOVERNOR: Isn't that grand!

A VOICE: What about Prohibition, Governor?

GOVERNOR: I think we are going to repeal it.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

GOVERNOR: I am glad to see you my friends. We are off for a good start! Here I'm turning to his son, James Roosevelt, is my "little boy, Jimmie". (laughter, applause)

A VOICE: How do you like the result in Maine, Governor?

GOVERNOR: What's that grand!

A VOICE: Governor, I voted for you twice in New York, and I am going to take another chance to vote for you as President. (applause)

GOVERNOR: Well, we are working hard on the Agriculture speech for Toledo, Kansas. (interrupted by)

A VOICE: We are glad you are going to be elected instead of Hoover. I keep your picture in my room, Governor. I believe I have done some work for you.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

This is my daughter (turning to Anna Dall); and my daughter-in-law over here (turning to Betsy Roosevelt) --- (At this point there was handed to Betsy Roosevelt a beautiful bouquet of flowers) ...

BETSY ROOSEVELT: O, this is lovely! How awfully nice!

GOVERNOR: That is fine! Betsy and Anna and I will share them together. (Applause - loud cheering)

...(As the train pulled away, a voice was heard in the distance: "You are not going to make them all lie down on park benches like Hoover.")

...(Although the train was moving away, the demands of the crowd were such that Mr. Rasp, in charge of train operation, on his own initiative, signaled the engineer to stop...)

GOVERNOR: Well, I will say just a word further. I really think we are going to carry Ohio this time. (Interrupted by) --

A VOICE: The Democrats have carried it here, so far, but the main thing, Franklin, is to be sure and not lay 'em down on park benches, and deliver our heavily mortgaged houses to the Republican Party.

GOVERNOR: There is a lot in what you say. --
(Interrupted by) --

A VOICE: Where is Mrs. Roosevelt?

GOVERNOR: She will join us later in Arizona. She is waiting at home to take the two small boys to school. -- (Interrupted by) --

A VOICE: This is supposed to be a "local op-tion" town; but there is more bootlegging in it than any other town.

...(At this point Aeller pushed his way through the crowd, representing Governor White, and handed a note to Governor Roosevelt)...

A VOICE: Give us a little encouragement, Governor. Speak about four or five more words to us. We love to hear you.

GOVERNOR: (smiling) Listen in tomorrow afternoon. I am going to talk about farming out in Topeka, Kansas.

A VOICE: I know; but I would rather hear you today.

A VOICE: Brother Roosevelt, you are a little distant relation to old Teddy R. Have you got one joint of his back-bone? (Laughter)

GOVERNOR: Well, you know it works both ways. I am not only a distant cousin, but I married his niece, just to complicate things. (Laughter)

A VOICE: That is good! We all know what old "Teddy" was! -- an American through and through.

A VOICE: Aroostook County gave 15,000 for Hoover. That is where they are raised on bushels of potatoes. They have learned that the tariff don't amount to anything for them, and so they woke up and carried our State for Governor.

GOVERNOR: That is right. (The train then moved away.)