
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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1932 September 13

1st Press Conference on Campaign Train

PRESS CONFERENCE
ABOARD GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT'S SPECIAL TRAIN
September 13, 1932, 10.35 A.M.

(This was the first newspaper interview
held on the train.)

Q What about Maine, Governor? Have you any formal comment to make?

GOVERNOR: All to the good!

Q Have you received any telegrams or letters? What is your last word? Have you had any news, outside of what is in the morning papers?

GOVERNOR: Jimmie had a telegram from Mayor John J. Murphy, of Summerville, who is with Louis Brann. They report 47 election districts missing. Brann was ahead about 1500.

Q It looks good.

GOVERNOR: It looks as if we are safe. Because, with 47 districts missing, even if they ran 20 to the district against him, he would still be in.

Q It looks like you have two Democratic Congressmen.

GOVERNOR: Yes; there is one certain, and the other pretty sure.

Q Are there any back-platform appearances scheduled for today?

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.

Q What about Maine, Governor? Have you any formal comments?

A None.

GOVERNOR: All to the good!

Q Have you received any telegrams or letters? What is your last word? Have you had any news, outside of what is in the morning papers?

GOVERNOR: I have had a telegram from Mayor John J. Murphy, of Sumnerville, who is with Louis Brandeis. They report that election district is missing. Brandeis was ahead about

1900.

Q It looks good.

GOVERNOR: It looks as if we are safe. Because, with the election district missing, even if they ran 50 to the district against him, he would still be in.

Q It looks like you have two Democratic Congressmen.

GOVERNOR: Yes; there is one certain, and the other pretty sure.

Q Are there any back-splatters appearances scheduled for today?

GOVERNOR: Not that I know of. Perhaps we may have one at Bellefontaine, or Indianapolis.

Q Have you any reports or information about Ohio conditions?

GOVERNOR: I saw Congressman Sweeney. That was all. He said, "Everything is all right in Cleveland."

Q Is he on board the train?

GOVERNOR: I don't think so. He just came on board for a minute.

Q Is White running for re-election?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

Q Against whom?

GOVERNOR: Young Ingalls.

Q Dave Ingalls?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

Q Is Buckley up for re-election?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

Q Al had quite a piece in the Saturday Evening Post today about the Soldiers' Bonus, and also the Bonus Army down in Washington.

GOVERNOR: You say it is in the Saturday Evening Post?

Q Yes. He called on all the candidates -- or rather, President Hoover and yourself -- though not mentioning you by name -- to state your position on an

immediate cash payment of the bonus, and wanted to know what the candidates thought of the Veterans Relief in general. Have you anything to say at this time?

GOVERNOR: I haven't read it.

Q Will you have anything to say on the Bonus later?

GOVERNOR: I cannot answer questions of that kind, because if I answer one, I have got to answer every question on any subject requested, or tell you what I am going to do on every question.

Q Off the record, will it be the subject of being cleared up later?

GOVERNOR: I cannot discuss matters off the record.

(At this point, Mr. Arthur Mullen, Sr., of Nebraska, entered the car.)

GOVERNOR: Good morning, Arthur! How are you?

MR. MULLEN: Fine! What about Maine?

GOVERNOR: I said, "It was all to the good!"

MR. MULLEN: You had better look out for Vermont now.

GOVERNOR: Yes.

MR. MULLEN: How is your speech? Is that all ready yet?

GOVERNOR: Mr. Glendon has just brought it to me, and I understand it has been mimeographed. I haven't gone over it yet. I may make some changes.

Here is the telegram which was sent by Judge Murphy. "585 out of 632 precincts." That is 47 missing -- "gave Judge Brann 118,343, and E. Carl Moran (Martin ?) 116,302." I was giving the boys the figures before you came in. I think I was wrong, however. He is 2,041 ahead. "All large cities and towns are in. Moran and John Utterback Democrats both probably elected to Congress. Moran assured. Big sweep for minor offices. Means Democratic landslide in the country. Good luck, and God bless you."

Q What is Mayor Murphy's full name?

GOVERNOR: John J. Murphy. He is the Mayor of Summerville, Massachusetts, but he has been up in Maine campaigning for Brann, and he was in Lewiston, Brann's home, when the returns came in.

MR. MULLEN: Where did that telegram come from?

GOVERNOR: From Lewiston, Maine. It came in this morning at 6:40 A.M. They probably stayed up all night. That is pretty good. That is the latest news I have.

Q (Clinton Mosher of the Eagle) Are you keeping down on your diet -- eating light?

GOVERNOR: There he goes again! He has got started already!

(Laughter) I foresee, Clint, that you are going to be Peck's Bad Boy.

MR. MOSHER: Only as far as Salt Lake City, Governor. I haven't shown you an Eagle Editorial yet, have I?

GOVERNOR: What have you been saying?

MR. MOSHER: I have been saying that Maine went Democratic.

GOVERNOR: Mac, do we have any other stops besides Indianapolis?

MR. McINTYRE: Only a moment in Mattoon. Jimmie said they had quite a crowd back there at Galion. You got a big hand at the last town.

GOVERNOR: Yes; at Delaware, where there isn't a Democratic vote in town. Do you remember? 1500 turned out.

Q Have you been out at all this morning -- out on the platform?

GOVERNOR: No.

Q Who are Mr. and Mrs. Shields, whom we are picking up?

GOVERNOR: A classmate of mine in college. Leighton is the name.

Q They are going on into St. Louis?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

Q Where are they being picked up?

GOVERNOR: In Mattoon, about two hours short of St. Louis?

Q A classmate at Harvard?

GOVERNOR: Yes -- 1904.

Q Well, we haven't many more of those classmates, have we?

GOVERNOR: I think they will turn up all along the line.

Q You weren't referring to the Class of 1895? (The Governor laughed.)