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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 499

1932 September 14

**Topeka, KS - Remarks at home of
Governor Woodring**

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the President made his address to the people at the University of Kansas Press Conference.
September 14, 1932

PRESS CONFERENCE
(At the Home of Governor Woodring)
Topeka, Kansas
September 14, 1932

(There were present: Governor Roosevelt,
Governor Woodring, Hon. John Nance Garner,
newspaper reporters, and others.)

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I have had a very good talk with Governor Woodring. You know he is a very old friend of mine, and I had a talk with him also in Albany about my agricultural speech today. He has been of very great assistance to me, because I have felt -- I think very rightly -- that he understands the whole agricultural problems of the country, about as well as anybody in the United States. I have leaned on him very heavily.

Q Whom have you seen today, Governor, in the train? And what have they told you on the political situation here, if anything?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I will have to ask the Governor of Kansas that question. Whom else have I seen?

GOVERNOR WOODRING: Well, there have been quite a number of them.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: We have met a large number of the Democratic candidates for Congress and also for State

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election and quite a lot of people from -- of course, Missouri; quite a number from Iowa; quite a number from Oklahoma; and I have seen four or five other people from Texas, haven't I?

MR. GARNER: Yes.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: And other states.

GOVERNOR WOODRING: And a few from Nebraska.

Q Would it be fair to ask what the outlook is in Kansas, Governor Woodring?

GOVERNOR WOODRING: I think 90% of the farmers of Kansas will vote for Governor Roosevelt, which will mean that the Governor will carry the State of Kansas between sixty and seventy thousand.

Q What is the normal Republican majority here? Or, is there such a thing?

GOVERNOR WOODRING: Well, my predecessor was elected by 376,000. Hoover carried Kansas by over 350,000, didn't he?

Q Hoover carried the State by over 300,000.

GOVERNOR WOODRING: Governor Reed carried Kansas by 386,000. I carried it by 251 votes. Quite a change! (Laughter) I just knocked off the three aughts. But what is three aughts between Kansans? (Laughter)

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I have a lot of telegrams here, and Mr. McIntyre has more. Perhaps the best thing to do is to wait until we get back to the train, and they will be released there. Here is one from New York, and one from Oklahoma City. These were all sent since the speech. Here is one from Poughkeepsie; Gainesville, Georgia; Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Asheville, N. C.

Q Referring to the talks you had with these Democratic candidates. You spoke of seeing the Democratic candidates for Congress, etc. What reaction did you get from them on your speech?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I saw most of them on the train before I delivered the speech. I saw very few of them since. Two or three of them said it was going to help them in their own campaigns.

Q Will you make another farmer's speech on this trip?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Things aren't as cut and dried as that. In other words, I will refer to the farm problems probably several times after this, but not necessarily a complete farm speech. I may bring it in, in connection with other things.

Q You have rather definitely decided that Sioux City will be the fourth speech, and that will most likely be on agriculture and the farmer?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Well, a part of it, anyway.

Q Have you gone into the Domestic Allotment Plan of Farm Relief?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I have been going into the Domestic Allotment Plan and the Debenture Plan, as well as the Equalization Fee Plan for the last several years.

Q I understood from your speech that you just proposed to give a consideration to all those plans, and work them out in a conference later.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: There are six principles laid down.

Q You don't care to comment on that?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: You will have to read the three plans and dovetail them into those six principles yourself. I can't do that work for you.

Q Speaker Garner, have you anything to say? How are things down in Texas?

MR. GARNER: They are pretty good.

Q One of your friends, I understood, came back after a couple of weeks down there, and said he thought Texas was doubtful. Mr. Speaker, just how doubtful would you say Texas is?

MR. GARNER: Oh, Texas is not doubtful. What are you talking about? It doesn't look like many of the states

are doubtful. They will shortly understand the issues a little better. Nobody has been trying to make any issues for the last two or three years.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: That is why I went into Vermont.

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