
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Salt Lake City - Press Conference aboard train

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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
SEPTEMBER 17, 1932, 10.30 A.M.

PRESS CONFERENCE
ABOARD GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT'S SPECIAL TRAIN
Salt Lake City, Utah
September 17, 1932, 10.30 A.M.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Well, Clint (Mosher of the Brooklyn Eagle), I loved your story (referring to the Eagle story of Mr. Mosher's side-lights gained from interviews on the streets of Topeka, Kansas, and what the people thought of Vice-President Curtis). I thought it was a perfect wow. (Laughter)

Q Are you going to make any kind of a talk at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Yes; but nothing dangerous.

Q Is it going to be on silver?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Yes.

Q Will there be any speech made at the banquet?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: No.

Q You ought to throw in a few interpolations in your speeches. They sometimes add zest.

Q What are you trying to do, organize some hecklers?

Q What do you hear about political conditions in Utah?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Ask the Governor, and the Senator. They are my source of information. You know they can tell you better than I.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Press Conference
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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.

Eagle), I loved your story (referring to the Eagle story of Mr. Mocher's side-lights gained from interviews on the streets of Topeka, Kansas, and what the people thought of Vice-President Gurnea). I thought it was a perfect wow. (Laughter)

Q Are you going to make any kind of a talk at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Yes; but nothing dangerous.

Q Is it going to be an all-day?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Yes.

Q Will there be any speech made at the banquet?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: No.

Q You ought to throw in a few interjections in your speeches. They sometimes add interest.

Q What are you trying to do, organize some headstrong?

Q What do you hear about political conditions in Utah?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Ask the Governor, and the Senator.

They are my source of information. You know they

can tell you better than I.

Q Suppose you tell us then, Governor (Dern).

GOVERNOR DERN: I think he is going to carry the State.

SENATOR: How much, Governor?

GOVERNOR DERN: I am not prepared to say exactly. I say
that as a result of learning the general sentiment
around the State.

Q To what do you ascribe it?

GOVERNOR DERN: General distress and a desire for a change.
People are all broke. About a third or more of the
people are clamoring for a change.

Q What percentage are broke?

GOVERNOR DERN: Pretty nearly one-third of them.

Q Has the State received any money from the R.F.C.?

GOVERNOR DERN: Yes.

Q How much?

GOVERNOR DERN: \$390,000 commitments so far.

Q You asked for several million, didn't you?

GOVERNOR DERN: No; we asked for \$600,000, so far, for two
counties. Applications for two counties have gone in
to date. There will be more when the surveys are fin-
ished.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Are they State projects?

GOVERNOR DERN: Self-liquidating projects. We have one for
Ogden.

Q How are those being supported?

GOVERNOR DERN: By private subscriptions, and the counties have the obligation in this State to take care of the poor, the injured and most of the work is being done by the counties and private organizations.

Q The State itself has it done by legislation?

GOVERNOR DERN: They have no authority to afford direct relief. That is the duty of the counties.

Q Have the cities done anything?

GOVERNOR DERN: No; it is entirely done through voluntary organizations.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: How do you raise the money? Through bonds, or special taxes?

GOVERNOR DERN: Through regular taxes. No bonds have been issued for relief purposes. The cities are bonded up to about their limit, and have exhausted their ability in that respect. They are up to their maximum tax levy, and they are unable to carry on, and they had to have some of this federal money in order to carry the load.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: What is the population of Utah?

GOVERNOR DERN: Half a million -- a little over 500,000.

We have 30,000 people out of work in Utah. Figuring

five to the family, that is nearly a third.

SENATOR: You must remember that this is a mining state.

Many of the mines and smelters have either closed down entirely, or are partly closed, and that accounts for such a large part of the population being out of employment.

GOVERNOR DERN: Utah is predominantly an industrial state.

Its function is principally mining. Agriculture is comparatively small.

Q Mining of silver?

GOVERNOR DERN: No; all metals. It is, of course, the leading producer of silver in the United States. At least, it is second in the lead. Second in copper, and third in zinc, I think. It is probably the greatest mining state in the Union. At least, it is one of the greatest.

Our people are dependent -- about half of them -- are directly dependent upon mining; and all the metals are down to at least half of their production. Consequently, we are hard hit.

Q Haven't you developed a rather unusual men's movement here -- of the type that Governor Roosevelt spoke about the other night, in connection with Dr. Thomas' campaign? Isn't that due to graduates, very largely?

GOVERNOR DERN: Yes; he is Professor at the University of Utah.

Q Didn't some young college student bring about his nomination at the Convention?

GOVERNOR DERN: There is the young man who made the speech. He had considerable influence, although I think, from my knowledge of the Convention, being the presiding officer, Dr. Thomas would have been nominated, aside from that eloquent speech of that young man there.

SENATOR: There is a formidable Young Men's Movement here, and much organized support for Thomas for Senator. May I say that Dr. Thomas is more than a Professor. He is a historian of note. He spent five years in China, and Japan, and has written one of the greatest works on Oriental philosophy and government that has ever been published, and it is translated in six or seven different languages and text books.

Q What does he want to do in the Senate?

SENATOR: (Laughing) Well, he wants to add a little to the "dry bones" in the Senate, you know. (Laughter) Moreover, you gentlemen know that the Orient is going to be a matter of considerable importance in the future. The Manchurian situation, Chinese and Japanese

situation will present problems of transcendent importance, and he knows more about the Orient than Senator Bingham.

Q That wouldn't take a lot. (Laughter)

SENATOR: Moreover, he belongs to the Executive Committee of the international organization for International Law, of which Charles Evans Hughes and Elihu Root are President and Vice-President, respectively. He is a student of International Law, and indeed has a knowledge of International Law and political questions generally. I think he is one of the best equipped men, intellectually, that we will have in the Senate. He is sure to be there.

Q Governor, are you running for re-election?

GOVERNOR DERN: No.

Q Is the gubernatorial race on?

GOVERNOR DERN: Yes; Mr. Henry H. Blood is the Democratic nominee, and he is absolutely certain of the election.

Q Who is the Republican nominee?

GOVERNOR DERN: Senator William S. Miller.

Q I see, Governor Roosevelt, that Mr. Garner cut his campaign short.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: His mother was taken ill. She is a very old lady.

Q Governor, do you plan on changing the itinerary, or stopping off at Colorado Springs?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: No; I don't think so. As a matter of fact, we are actually speeding up the campaign. We intend to visit George Lawrence.

Q What is the particular object in stopping in Denver five hours?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: We are trying to kill time on the original schedule, and then picking up that five hours later.

Q How long will you stay in McCook?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: It hasn't been definitely arranged. Perhaps two or three hours in McCook, Nebraska.

Q Governor, is there any particular reason why you are spending as long a time as that in a state so small?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: No; except that I am a very old friend of the Governor, and the Senator also, and it is the central point of a good many of the Rocky Mountain states.

Q Senator Smoot has nothing to do with it?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: No.

Q How long are you spending in McCook?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: The plans are not definite. We will be there two or three hours.

Q The date is all set?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Yes.

Q Governor Dern, you will be the host at this banquet to-night. Can you tell us whether there will be any speeches?

GOVERNOR DERN: No speech-making.

Q We won't have to cover it, then. Can we rely on that then?

GOVERNOR DERN: Nobody will be there, except the State Committee, the Campaign Committee, and the nominee.

Q It is going to be a private dinner?

GOVERNOR DERN: It will be at the hotel.

Q I am in favor of excluding all the newspaper reporters, and letting us have a good time.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I don't think there are going to be any speeches anyway.

SENATOR: The boys want to go out and take a swim in the lake.

Q You are wrong.

SENATOR: Tomorrow is Sunday, you know. You must go to worship. We have some eloquent visitors: Catholics, Unitarians, Presbyterians, Church of Christ, Rabbis.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Rabbis?

SENATOR: Yes.

Q Has Farley arrived yet?

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: I haven't seen him as yet.

Q Has Prohibition been made an issue in this campaign here?

GOVERNOR DERN: The Senator has been campaigning. Maybe he can tell you about it.

Q What about Prohibition in this State? (Laughter)

SENATOR: Is it an issue anywhere?

Q Is it?

SENATOR: Well, I think many of the people of Utah, like many of the people throughout the United States, don't know where the Republican Party stands. In the news comments, one paper will say Hoover is wet; and another will say he is dry. Others read the Republican platform, and they don't know what it means. Then you read the speech of Hoover, and find that he said there is going to be a change. But you don't know whether he will repeal the 18th Amendment, or repeal the Volstead Act. So the Republicans are uncertain. The Democrats are standing on the National Platform.

Q Are you making any mention of it in your campaign?

SENATOR: Yes; I mention it in every speech.

Q You are a Dry, aren't you?

SENATOR: No; I voted against the 18th Amendment; I voted against the Volstead Act, but they still became law. So I supported Prohibition.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT: Come on in, Frank. Hello, Jim. (At this point, both Frank Walker and Jim Farley came in the room.) I knew that you were safe, at least as far as Omaha, Jim.

MR. FARLEY: Yes. (James Roosevelt also came in the room and shook hands with everybody.)