

---

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

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

---

**File No. 513**

**1932 September 19**

**Butte, MT - Extemporaneous remarks**

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT  
Butte, Montana, September 19, 1932, 12.00 M.

Senator Walsh, Governor Erickson, my friends of

Butte and Montana:

I am very grateful to you for this wonderful reception. Never before have I been so cordially greeted. You have made me very happy and I was particularly impressed with the fact that this is a Roosevelt town. (Applause) The number of boys and girls proves that. (Applause, laughter, cheers)

And I am happy also to be here as the guest of a very old friend of mine, your beloved Governor, and may I tell you that it is not only the people of Montana that love him, but also all of us other Governors who, through many years, have met him from time to time. We all bear tribute to Governor Erickson and to Mrs. Erickson as well. (Applause)

And once more, for the first time since a famous second day of July, I find myself standing side by side with an even older friend of mine, your senior Senator. (Cheers) No American, my friends, in any state of the Union, can stand in the presence of Senator Walsh without

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.

Butte and Montana:

I am very grateful to you for this wonderful re-

ception. Never before have I been so cordially greeted.

You have made me very happy and I was particularly im-

pressed with the fact that this is a Roosevelt town. (Ap-

plause) The number of days and girls proves that. (Ap-

plause. Laughter, cheers)

And I am happy also to be here as the guest of a

very old friend of mine, your beloved Governor, and may I

tell you that it is not only the people of Montana that

love him, but also all of us other Governors who, through

many years, have met him from time to time. We all bear

tribute to Governor Erickson and to Mrs. Erickson as well.

(Applause)

And once more, for the first time since a famous

second day of July, I find myself standing side by side

with an even older friend of mine, your senior Senator.

(Cheers) No American, my friends, in any state of the

Union, can stand in the presence of Senator Walsh without

feeling very deeply, not only a sense of gratitude for the unselfish service of this great citizen throughout his whole life, his service to his state and to his country, but also a deep sense of the innate greatness of the man himself.

For nearly twenty years now you of Montana have honored yourselves by honoring him. You have not only honored yourselves and your state, but you have honored every one of the other forty-seven states in the Union. (Cheers) In that long period, in every national question and problem, he has stood foursquare in the front of every fight in behalf of human rights.

He has given freely and unselfishly of his great talents in behalf of the citizens, men and women, whom I have repeatedly characterized as the "Forgotten Men". (Applause)

Never has he spoken more sincerely than he has today. He voices the aspirations and hopes of many people, and it is the same hope that is recognized by the platform of the Democratic Party. As you know, I have accepted that platform without equivocation and without reserve. (Applause)

When you come right down to fundamentals, you and I know that all prosperity springs from the soil. It springs

from Dame Nature, and that is why I have stressed, and shall continue to stress, the problems of agriculture and of mining. After all, what is good for the prosperity of those engaged in agriculture or in mining in these great states west of the Mississippi -- all of that has a direct relationship to and a bearing on the prosperity of the industrial life of this country as well, and, as I have suggested before, this country cannot endure if it is to be half boom and half broke.

I am glad that Senator Walsh has read to you a platform of the two parties in regard to the problem of silver. The difference between the Republican plan and the money **question** from the Democratic platform is not a difference of alleged parties, but it is a difference of attitude and of method.

Remember well that this kind of attitude and method -- in other words, the way we do things is nearly always the measure of our sincerity.

It is so in this case.

The Republican leaders -- and may I say here, as I have in every other state, that our battle this year is not against the thousands and the millions of honest men and women who call themselves Republicans --

our fight is against the Republican leadership, which we regard as moribund -- the Republican leaders say that when an international conference is called by somebody else they will then participate. We promise, of our own initiative, to call that conference, and that, my friends, unless something is done by Washington in the meantime, is what I propose to do when I go to Washington next March.

(Applause)

I believe in American initiative in this and in all other important matters of worldwide concern. You and I know the importance of interdependence -- interdependence of the different sections of the United States. And you and I are coming more and more to recognize the interdependence of the welfare of all the nations of the world.

The improvement of conditions in the mining industry, like the improvement of the conditions in agriculture, cannot be attained by a single panacea. There is no cure-all which can be put to work and be effective over night. I want to be fair and honest with you, as I was with the farmers of Kansas the other day, and say what you and I know to be the truth, that with problems of such many-sided importance the way out is difficult, and particularly is this true of the problem of improving

the condition of silver. But again I say, the question is one of attitude, of method, and of sincerity.

We must do it with the pledge of the platform in mind that sound currency be maintained. That must and shall be done. I pledge myself to you, as I pledged myself to the farmers, willing hands and a sincere purpose. This, my friends, is one of the great issues of the campaign; on the one side a cynical and unsympathetic acceptance of things as they are -- on the other side the determination of the leaders of the democracy, the faith that we have -- the determination and faith in the possibility of change -- reasonable, common sense change -- leading to definite progress, the progress of a new deal, and in your hands rests the answer to that question.

I have no doubt how you people in Montana are going to answer. We started off a week ago, just before receiving the news of the election from Maine, and the farther we go the more confident I am that the Nation as a whole is going to go Maine one better. (Applause)

Speech. Butte, Mont.

"No American can stand in the presence of Senator Walsh without feeling very deeply not only a sense of gratitude for the unselfish service of this man throughout his whole life to his state and to his country, but also a deep sense of the innate greatness of the man himself. For nearly twenty years now you have honored yourselves by honoring him. In that long period he has stood foursquare in the front of every fight in behalf of human rights. He has given freely and unselfishly of his great talents in behalf of the citizen whom I have repeatedly characterized as the "forgotten man." Never has he spoken more sincerely than he has today. He voices the aspirations and hopes of many people and it is this same hope that is recognized by the Democratic platform without equivocation and without reservation.

All prosperity springs from the soil. Agriculture and mining--these are fundamental. I am glad Sen. Walsh read to you the platform of the two parties on silver. The difference between the Republican and Democratic platforms on the money question is not a difference of alleged principles but it is a difference of attitude and of method. But remember well that attitude and method--the way we do things is nearly always the measure of our sincerity. It is so in this case. The Republican leaders say that when an international conference is called by someone else they will then participate. We promise on our own initiative to call such a conference. This I promise to do without delay or evasion when I go to Washington next March.

I believe in American initiative in this and in all other important matters of world wide concern. You and I know that manner in which different parts of the U.S. are interdependent and you and I are coming to recognize the interdependence of all nations in the world, in such matters.

The improvement in conditions in the mining industry will be attained by no single panacea. I want to be fair and honest with you as I was with the farmers at Topeka the other day, and say that with many problems of such many sided importance the way out is difficult. Particularly is this true of the problem of improving the condition of silver and the restoration of trade on the Pacific. It must be done with the pledge of the platform in mind that sound currency be maintained at all regards. This must and shall be done.

I pledge to you and I pledge myself to the farmers willing hands and a sincere purpose. This is, my friends, the issue of the campaign, on the one side cynical and unsympathetic acceptance of the things as they are--on the other determination and faith in the possibility of change of program and of a new deal.



FOR RELEASE WHEN DELIVERED

M. H. McINTYRE, PRESS REPRESENTATIVE.

-----

SPEECH OF GOVERNOR FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
IN BUTTE, MONTANA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1932

*John*  
No American can stand in the presence of Senator Walsh without feeling very deeply, not only a sense of gratitude for the unselfish service of this man throughout his whole life, to his state and to his country, but also a deep sense of the innate greatness of the man himself.

For nearly twenty years now you have honored yourselves by honoring him. In that long period he has stood foursquare in the front of every fight in behalf of human rights.

*He has given freely and unselfishly of his great talents, in behalf of the citizen whom I have repeatedly characterized as "the forgotten man".*

Never has he spoken more sincerely than he has today. He voices the aspirations and hopes of many people, and it is this same hope that is recognized by the platform of the Democratic Party and as you know I have accepted that platform without equivocation and without reservation.

All prosperity springs from the soil.

*a* Agriculture - Mining - These are fundamental.

The difference between the Republican and Democratic platforms on the money question is not a difference of alleged

purpose, but it is a difference of attitude and of method.

But remember well, that attitude and method - the way we do things, is nearly always the measure of our sincerity.

It is so in this case.

The Republican leaders say that when an international conference is called by some one else, they will participate. We promise to call such a conference. This I promise to do without delay or evasion.

I believe in American initiative in this and in all other important matters in world-wide concern. America first.

Interdependence of nations on world matters.

The improvement of conditions in the mining industry will be attained by no single panacea. I want to be fair and honest with you as I was with the farmers at Topeka the other day and say that with problems of such many-sided importance, the way out is difficult. Particularly is this true of the problem of improving the condition of silver and the restoration of trade on the Pacific.

It must be done with the pledge of the platform in mind that sound currency be maintained at all regards. This must and shall be done.

I pledge to you as I pledged myself to the farmers, willing hands and a sincere purpose. This is, my friends, the issue of the campaign, on the one side cynical and unsympathetic acceptance of things as they are -- on the other determination and faith in the possibility of change -- of progress -- of a new deal.