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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 517

1932 September 21

Portland, OR - Extemporaneous remarks

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the Billings
Grange Association from the original
notes taken at the time of the
speech. It is not a verbatim
report and may contain errors.
The original notes are on file
with the Billings Grange
Association.

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
Portland, Oregon
September 21, 1932, 9.30 A.M.

(Immediately on his arrival in Portland, Governor Roosevelt and his party started for Gresham to attend a meeting of the Multnomah County Pomona Grange at the Multnomah County Fair Grounds. About 6,000 members of the Grange gathered to hear him at the Fair Grounds.

(The Governor spoke from his flower decorated automobile, and was introduced by Rall Gill, Master of the State Grange.

(He said he was a member of the Grange, and in a short time would be entitled to wear the silver button of 25 years membership. He added that he had lived for 50 years on a farm in the Hudson Valley in New York; owned a farm in Georgia, and knew something of the farmers' troubles.)

"Down in Georgia, I have grown peaches and cotton without profit. The same is true of my farm in New York. I know what the farmer is facing. Before the war, one wagon-load of farm products would buy so much, but it now takes two wagon-loads to have the same buying power. That is the measure of the farm dollar, and I propose to restore it."

"As your Master says, I believe it is time to change doctors, or the course of treatment."

(The Governor declared that the farm population which is 22 per cent of the population of the U. S., had before the War 22% of the Nation's

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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.

September 21, 1938
Portland, Oregon
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Multnomah County Farmers Grange at the
Multnomah County Fair Grounds. About
8,000 members of the Grange gathered to
hear him at the Fair Grounds.

(The Governor spoke from his flower decorated automobile, and was introduced by Bill Gill, Master of the State Grange.

He said he was a member of the Grange, and in a short time would be entitled to wear the silver button of 25 years membership. He added that he had lived for 30 years on a farm in the Hudson Valley in New York; owned a farm in Georgia, and knew something of the farmers' troubles.)

"Down in Georgia, I have grown peaches and cotton without profit. The same is true of my farm in New York. I know that the farmer is facing. Before the war, one wagon-load of farm products would buy so much, but it now takes two wagon-loads to have the same buying power. That is the measure of the farm dollar, and I propose to restore

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"As your Master says, I believe it is time to change doctors, or the course of treatment."

(The Governor declared that the farm population which is 25 per cent of the population of the U. S., had before the war 25% of the Nation's

income, and that this income had now been reduced to 7%.)

"One of the things we must work for to correct this condition, is to re-establish our foreign markets. This loss of foreign markets is due largely to the Smoot-Hawley Tariff bill, sometimes known as the Grundy Tariff bill, which raised a tariff wall around this country. Foreign nations as we, I am sure, would have done in their place, retaliated, and raised their own tariff barriers. One of the principal things we must do is to negotiate with other nations to lower these tariff barriers. It all comes back to the old system of exchange of goods between neighbors. We must change the law, so that they can trade with us, and we can trade with them. There is no sense in having such a barrier between us when we can get together."