
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 27

Colorado Springs, CO - Extemporaneous remarks

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This is a transcript made by the Bill
House Reporter from his shorthand
notes taken at the time the speech was
made. Inaccuracies in the original
speech are indicated by brackets and
are not shown in this transcript.
When the original speaker has
spoken the words in brackets are
shown in this transcript.
The original speaker's words are
shown in this transcript.

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Balcony of the Broadmoor Hotel
Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 27, 1932, 9.00 P.M.

My friends of Colorado: I think that the best way in which I can express my appreciation of the wonderful reception that I have had in this State is to tell you that it is the only State in the Union that I am going into twice, in this campaign. (Applause)

As some of the older residents here may remember, I came here on several occasions before; but the last time was twelve long years ago, and I spent a very happy twenty-four hours in Colorado Springs, and visited all the wonderful sights around here, and many of your wonderful people.

Although we came in after dark tonight, I can readily appreciate the very great steps that have been taken in these past twelve years since I have been here. Just coming up from the railroad station, I saw four new buildings. I congratulate you, not only on your progress, but also on the fine spirit that you people in Colorado have always had in the past, and which you retain to the present.

Now, this campaign trip of mine differs a good deal from any campaign which has ever been made in the past, by anybody, so far as I know. I am making very few what

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My friends of Colorado: I think that the best way in which I can express my appreciation of the wonderful reception that I have had in this State is to tell you that I am the only State in the Union that I am going into twice.

(Applause)

As some of the older residents here may remember,

I came here on several occasions before; but the last time was twelve long years ago, and I spent a very happy twenty-four hours in Colorado Springs, and visited all the wonderful sights around here, and met many of your wonderful people.

Although we came in after dark tonight, I can readily appreciate the very great steps that have been taken in these past twelve years since I have been here. Just coming up from the railroad station, I saw four new buildings. I congratulate you, not only on your progress, but also on the fine spirit that you people in Colorado have always had in the past, and which you retain to the present.

Now, this occasion trip of mine affords a good deal of opportunity which has never been made in the past, by anybody, so far as I know. I am making very few stops

might be called political speeches. I am not going around like most candidates, appealing just to the members of my own party.

I made it very clear, nearly three months ago, that our efforts this year -- the efforts of the party which I represent and which my candidacy represents -- is not an effort merely to "call the other fellow names". Our fight is not against the rank and file of the Republican Party; for there are millions and millions of fine, American men and women who belong to that Party. Our quarrel rather is with the "leadership" of that Party, which we believe has not measured up to the demands, or the needs, of our country in these difficult times.

By the same token, in our trip around the country, instead of having the primary purpose of making speeches at all, it is rather, so far as I am concerned, to listen, and to ask questions, to find out what the conditions and the needs are of the different sections of the Nation.

I have done a good deal of travelling around the United States in bygone years -- long before this campaign ever started. I have visited in all of the forty-eight states of the Union, and I have, during the past month or so, tried to familiarize myself once more, not only with

the people and the country as a whole, but especially with the conditions that exist at the present time.

I believe that it is very essential, in formulating any policy, or any plans for the United States as a whole, to take into consideration, not just one class; not just one section; but to try to do good -- to restore prosperity, to bring benefit equally to all parts of the Nation, equally to all kinds of people -- people engaged in agriculture, mining and cattle raising, as well as people engaged in industry and business. That is the only way in which our Nation can really make definite steps in this country and advance toward not only a greater prosperity, but a better citizenship.

So, there hasn't been very much of the partisan in this campaign, and there won't be, because I believe that the people of this country are looking today for something more than mere partisanship -- something more than mere efforts at self-advancement on the part of an individual, or on the part of a candidate. We need, in these serious times, the working of men and women in all parties together for common good. We need a great deal of discussion of the issues as they are presenting themselves. We need a great deal of thinking -- more than we have ever had in the past.

I am very confident, from what I have seen on this trip -- from the serious faces that I have seen, and met in every state -- that there is more thinking being done -- good, big, deep and solid thinking -- the application of more of the old-fashioned common sense methods in working out these problems than we have had for a great many years past -- more so than I can perhaps remember in my life time.

That is why I am very confident that when November 8th comes around, the people will at least have an entirely intelligent vote -- no matter which way it goes. (Applause)

I wish that I could stay longer than 9:30 in the morning. But even in the few hours of daylight that I shall have before the train departs, I shall have a chance to see some more of Colorado Springs and this wonderful section of the country.

Many thanks! I am in hopes that I will be back here long before another twelve years rolls by. (Prolonged applause)