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**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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**File No. 540**

**1932 September 29**

**Omaha, NE - Campaign Address at Sumack Farm**

ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

At the Farm of Mr. and Mrs. Sumack near

Omaha, Nebraska

September 29, 1932

(The Governor was greeted by Mr. Sumack)

That is fine, Mr. and Mrs. Sumack, and all the little Sumacks. We are glad to be here.

(The Governor then went around and saw the farm activities in operation, after which he returned to one of the fields, where he was served with luncheon.)

My friends, it is a great pleasure to be out here as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Sumack. As some of you people know, I have lived on a farm for fifty years, although perhaps I don't look it, if I do say so myself. More than that, I am an honest farmer because I can say perfectly truly that I have never made one penny at farming. (Laughter) Also, my experience is not confined to only our Hudson River farm but also for the last eight years I have been trying to do some

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.

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experience is not confined to only our Hudson River farm but

also for the last eight years I have been trying to do some

farming down in the State of Georgia, and I have failed equally successfully with peaches and cotton. So you see I know something about the troubles of a farmer myself.

Of course, what we are all after -- and this is not a political speech -- what we have all been after on this particular trip is to try and find out the conditions and needs in every part of the country. There is no doubt but that your problems here are the same as those which confront us in the State of New York and are the same as my farm problems in the State of Georgia. In every farm community in this country -- and now that I have been clear out to the coast I know what it is at first hand -- in every farm community we find the very simple fundamental fact that the purchasing power of the farm dollar has gone down about fifty per cent since before the war. In other words, what you could buy for one truck load of farm produce in those days, the same amount of goods as produced in the factories today takes two truck loads to buy. That is the simplest way of putting it.

Our efforts in the next four years are going to be devoted to restoring the purchasing power of the farm dollar and I am glad to say that the people in the industrial sections of the country -- the people in the cities -- are beginning to understand the problem from our point of view. They are beginning to understand the fact that very nearly fifty million people in this country are either directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture, and when those fifty million people lose

their purchasing power it means that the products of the factories cannot be sold, and that throws millions of people out of work in the cities.

In other words, the two things tie right in together. That is what we are going to try to correct.

When I started off on this trip around the country, I used to say, "If I go to Washington on the fourth of March next," but now, at very nearly the end of this swing, I am not saying, "If." I am saying, "When." (Applause)

It is good to see all of you. I am always proud when I come into this section of Nebraska, because the state of cultivation of land here is in many ways higher than that in any other section of the United States. One of the things we are going to prove is that the soil, after all, is the important source of prosperity in any nation in the world.

It has been a great privilege to come out here to meet Mr. and Mrs. Sumack and the eleven children who are going to vote for me. It is a real Roosevelt family, and I congratulate them. I wish I could stay here with you all day but we have to get back to the city. (Applause)

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