
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Freeport, IL - Extemporaneous remarks

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INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Back Platform of his Special Train
Freeport, Illinois, September 30, 1932

Good morning, my friends. It is good to get here.

I have not been in Freeport for a great many years, and I wish I had time to stop off and greet all of you personally.

We have had a very wonderful trip, as you know. We have been clear out to the Coast, and down the Coast, and back through the Southwest.

I was disappointed in only one thing, and that is that I did hope that the further West I got from the Hudson River the less the depression would affect the country. I am sorry to say that I did not find it that way. We are all in the same boat, whether we live on the Hudson River or down in Georgia, or in Illinois, or on the Pacific Coast.

One of the things I have been trying to do is to find out the conditions that affect every part of the country. The fact is that when we do get prosperity back, we want it to be national prosperity -- we want it to affect farming and mining and industry, not one of them alone.

I will say this, that I have been campaigning in this country for a good many years. A long time ago I went on a campaign for the Vice-Presidency, and I covered forty-two

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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.

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I will say this, that I have been campaigning in

this country for a good many years. A long time ago I went

on a campaign for the Vice-Presidency, and I covered forty-two

states at that time. I feel that today there is more deep understanding of and interest in our national problems than ever before.

I have talked about "The Forgotten Man", and I am still talking about him; also the forgotten woman and the forgotten child, but of course we have got to work for the general good of the average citizen in the United States.

That is one reason why, to a very great extent, all through our country present party ties are breaking down. In other words, my campaign is not against the Republican Party as such -- it is not against the millions of fine men and women that have belonged in the past to the Republican Party. Our campaign is distinctly against a Republican leadership which, during these past few years, has gone off on a tangent -- has gotten away from the real purposes for which the Republican Party was organized. We have been perfectly frank about this and as a result we have taken in, not just the Democrats, but the Republicans and Independents everywhere.

When I started off over two weeks ago -- nearly three weeks ago -- I talked about what I would do IF I went into the White House on the fourth of March next year, but having been through twenty states of the Union, I am not saying "IF I go" -- I am saying "WHEN I go". (Applause)

I wish all the rest of my family were here. The best I can do for you is to produce Mrs. Roosevelt. (Applause)

(The Governor then told the incident of being awakened at three o'clock in the morning and somebody saying that if he did not come out they would vote for Hoover.)

It has been fine to see you, but now I have got to go inside, because I have a long-distance call from the Democratic National Headquarters in New York. In the meantime, may I introduce a very old friend of mine who comes from Missouri, not so far away -- a man who, during the Wilson Administration, was part of the Government down in Washington. He was Assistant Secretary of State at that time, but he bears an honored name, recognized both in Kentucky and Missouri -- Mr. Breckinridge Long, formerly Assistant Secretary of State. (Applause)