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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. 561**

**1932 October 20**

**Mattoon, IL - Informal Extemporaneous remarks**

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT  
From the Back Platform of His Special Train  
Mattoon, Illinois, October 20, 1932

GOVERNOR: Well, we are back again. It's good to be back again. As you know, we have been out to the West Coast, and back to Albany, and I have been trying to run the affairs of Government back there for a couple of weeks. It has been a wonderful trip, as you have probably read. I have been trying to learn about the conditions throughout the country at first hand.

One thing is very clear to me, and that is that on November 8th, we are going to have not just a land-slide, but the only kind of revolution that we Americans can talk about -- a revolution by ballot.

As I was telling them over in Indianapolis today, the Chairman of our Party, Mr. Farley, was absolutely dead right when he said that he doesn't concede but a few States to the Republicans in November. (Applause)

As you know, I was here before. I had my "small boy", Jimmie, my daughter Anna, and Betsy with me. But this time I am glad to say Mrs. Roosevelt is along with us. Here (indicating) she is. (Prolonged applause)

Well, it's fine to see you all. I'm not the least bit worried about the State of Illinois. The chief question

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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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Well, it's time to say you all. I'm not the least bit worried about the State of Illinois. The chief question

that is in my mind is which State is going to give the biggest majority to me -- New York, or Illinois. (Applause)  
I think I will put it up to you people to see if you can't beat us out in New York. -- (interrupted by) --

A VOICE: We will have a big "Republican vote" for you. (Applause)

GOVERNOR: Well, there is one thing we are going to try to do: We are going to try to raise the price of corn above ten cents a bushel. (Applause)

(At this point the official photographers were engaged in taking pictures of the Governor.)

I think the last time I was here one of the photographers "got left" on the top of the freight car on the siding. (Laughter)

A VOICE: You ought to have "Babe Ruth" with you, and you would be all right.

GOVERNOR: That is right. You know we went to one of the World Series games in Chicago, and I didn't know who to vote for.

A VOICE: Do you remember when Judge -- what's his name -- said he just needed a victory that afternoon to make him happy?

GOVERNOR: I will tell you a secret: One of the

things we are going to talk about -- instead of talking about agriculture in general -- one of the things I am going to talk about is farm mortgages -- tomorrow night, at St. Louis, at nine o'clock. (Applause)

A VOICE: I wonder how you are going to answer last night's speech of your opponent?

GOVERNOR: I don't think it is answerable. (Laughter) It is laughable. (Applause)

I would very much like to introduce to you an old friend of mine who doesn't come from here, Senator Barkley, who is from Kentucky. (Applause)