
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 October 22

Lebanon, KY - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Back Platform of his Special train
Lebanon, Kentucky, October 22, 1932, 1.50 P.M.

I am very glad to come to Marion County because I heard a lot about it in 1928, and I congratulate you. (Prolonged applause) It's a little bit like being home in my old Senate District in the Hudson River Valley, because we have a Lebanon up there as well. (Applause) It's a great place! It isn't quite as well populated as this, because it is away up in the mountains. But Lebanon also is Democratic! (Applause)

I have been listening to Senator Barkley all about Lebanon, while we have been coming down to Lebanon, and also listening to others about this part of the State.

I am proud to know that I am in the home of former Governor Proctor, and also in the home of a gentleman whom I knew in the old days of the first "Roosevelt Administration" -- Bishop Spalding. (Applause)

We have had a grand trip, and a wonderful reception in Louisville today! In the old days -- fifty years ago -- my father was in the railroad business in Kentucky. So, as a small boy, I was brought up on stories of railroading -- fifty years ago in this State. (Applause)

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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.

I am very glad to come here and I congratulate you. I heard a lot about it in 1928, and I longed to see it. It's a little bit like being home in my old home in the Hudson River Valley, because we have a great place. It's a great place. Lebanon up there as well. It's a great place. It isn't quite as well populated as this, because it is away up in the mountains. But Lebanon also is Democratic! (Applause)

I have been listening to Senator Barkley all about Lebanon, while we have been coming down to Lebanon, and also listening to others about this part of the State.

I am proud to know that I am in the home of former Governor Proctor, and also in the home of a gentleman whom I knew in the old days of the first "Roosevelt Administration". (Applause)

We have had a grand trip, and a wonderful reception in Louisville today! In the old days -- fifty years ago -- my father was in the railroad business in Kentucky. So, as a small boy, I was brought up on stories of railroading -- fifty years ago in this State. (Applause)

We have had on this trip a very distinct and definite purpose -- and that was not so much to make political speeches, but to try to find out what the conditions are, and what the needs are in every part of the country. I believe that it is very essential that I should learn this before we go down to the White House on the 4th of March. (Applause)

May I have the privilege of introducing to you my "better half", Mrs. Roosevelt. (Prolonged applause) Also, my daughter, with the "Irish belt" on, Mrs. Dall. (Applause) Also my daughter-in-law, Mrs. James Roosevelt. (Applause)

And here is my "small boy" Jimmie! (Applause)

I hope that you good people will send me a telegram to Democratic National Headquarters on Tuesday evening, the 8th of November. I am expecting a record from Marion County. (Applause)

(At this point the train started to pull out of the station, while the crowd continued to applaud and cheer the candidate, and also while the photographers were still attempting to photograph the Governor.)

I am afraid we are going to lose the photographers!