Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Lebanon, KY - Extemporaneous remarks
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)
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.

I came very early to receive your honor. I have served in this body for nearly forty years. It's a little bit like going home to my old Senate District in the Hudson River Valley because we have a personal interest as well. (Applause) It's a great pleasure to be here as well, bom not just as a citizen, but as a Democrat. (Applause)

I have been fighting to be a Democrat for many years. (Applause) We have been coming along, and we're at a point where we're about to make a difference in the state. I've been fighting to be a Democrat for many years. (Applause) We have a great future and a great opportunity.

I am honored to know that I am in the home of your Governor, Senator, and a great person. (Applause) I know in the age of this great "New Deal Administration" Eliot Roosevelt. (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!