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 23

Atlanta, GA - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT From his Automobile in front of City Hall Atlanta, Georgia, October 23, 1932, 10.00 A. M.

My friends, that was a mighty nice welcome from the Governor, and from Mayor Key, and from all of you. It is a real welcome home to Georgia. (Applause)

Since this is Sunday morning, I am not going to talk politics. Anyway, I don't have to talk politics in Georgia. (Laughter, applause)

There is one thing for which I am very happy. I have only one superstition in life, and that is that in a campaign a candidate should never change his hat. (Laughter, prolonged applause) And so, here it is (showing his dark brown hat, with the lining torn inside), with the lining coming out on one side. I am going to stick to it closer than a brother -- until two weeks from next Tuesday. (Prolonged applause)

I am glad to hear these bands playing "Happy Days are here again". (Applause) That is my hope. That is the hope of all the American people. I noticed last night up in Detroit at a great political meeting, the band played "Smile, darn you, smile". And I hope that before we come into the control of the Government we won't have to order anybody to smile, but that they will smile of their own free will. (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 are integrated.

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