
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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Albany, NY –
Radio Message to Screen Star Banquet, N.Y.C.

Tribute to members of the profession of the stage and screen for welfare and political activities, radio greeting to the Stage and Screen Star Banquet at Hotel Astor in New York City, Albany, October 27, 1932

There is only one thing in the world that could keep me from your wonderful party tonight. I had looked forward to this delightful evening in New York City—this outpouring of enthusiasm and display of faith in a great victory for our cause.

Only the great and vital need of our fellow citizens of this State, who are in need and out of work, has made it necessary for me to remain in Albany.

Most of you are aware of the fact that the State of New York, over a year ago, was the first state in all the Union to assume as a State duty the function of caring for the relief of the unemployed and their wives and children by giving aid to the cities and counties and to the agencies of private charity. From last autumn until now the State has spent out of

public opinion in this State, regardless of party, has backed me up in this recognition of the duty of the State toward its citizens.

May I at this time pay my tribute to the thousands who are members of the profession of the stage and screen? First, for all that they have done and are doing for the cause of worthwhile charity, and, secondly, for their deep understanding of the fundamental and underlying issues of this great national political campaign.

To you, my friends in the audience at this party. I want to say that I envy you—that I wish I could hear Eddie Dowling sing "Row, Row, Row with Roosevelt" and that I could join with you all in the gaiety and happiness tonight.

In my place I have sent my mother and I know that she is happy to be with you. Tomorrow I shall hope to hear all about the party from her and I know that I shall then be still more envious than I am now.

My warm regards to you all. Keep up the splendid work that you are doing for the smashing and glorious Democratic victory that we are headed for on November 8. Every day during these past weeks when I have been traveling into every part of the Nation, I have become more and more confident that the electorate understands the great issues involved, and their vital importance to the future of our beloved country. Under the leadership of a militant, vital, liberal Democracy we are headed for better days.

current revenues twenty-five million dollars in this essential and worthy cause.

Today I have been in conference with the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration and with the Republican legislative leaders. I am glad to report to you that we have reached the unanimous decision that if the proposed bond issue of thirty million dollars is approved by the voters at the polls on November 8, it will not be necessary for me to call a special session of the Legislature the week after election. That decision means that the work of unemployment relief in this State, with certain local exceptions, is proceeding satisfactorily and that the voters have it in their power on Election Day to make certain that starvation, privation and other suffering will be greatly mitigated during the severe winter months that are ahead of us.

As Governor of New York I take pride in the fact that the enlightened public opinion in this State, regardless of party, has backed me up in this recognition of the duty of the State toward its citizens.

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