
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

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1932 November 7

Beacon, NY - Extemporaneous remarks

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INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
Beacon, New York
November 7, 1932

A good many of us old people are still here who were here in the year 1910 when I spoke from this same spot. Well, there has been a good deal of water that has gone over the dam since then, but I am still living in Dutchess County, you are still my neighbors, and no matter what happens tomorrow I am still going to be your neighbor and I am still going to live in Dutchess County.

You know, my association with what is now Beacon goes back a great many years. The very first year that I went to the Legislature to represent this County, some of you people remember the perfectly terrific battle there was on about getting a charter and the awful fight we had while trying to find a name for the new community. In those days the first name that was proposed was perfectly grand -- some of you people still remember the name that was actually carried in a popular election, "Melzinger", and aren't you people glad that I declined to approve and would not put a bill in Albany to allow that name to be settled on this community? (Laughter) And, at a meeting down here afterwards, when we finally fixed up the first city charter, a lot of

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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.

were here in the year 1810 when I spoke from this same spot. Well, there has been a good deal of water that has gone over the dam since then, but I am still living in Dutchess County. You are still my neighbors, and no matter what happens tomorrow I am still going to be your neighbor and I am still going to live in Dutchess County.

You know, my association with what is now Beacon goes back a great many years. The very first year that I went to the legislature to represent this County, some of you people remember the perfectly terrific battle there was on about getting a charter and the awful fight we had while trying to find a name for the new community. In those days

-- the first name that was proposed was perfectly grand -- some of you people still remember the name that was actually carried in a popular election, "Heininger", and aren't you people glad that I declined to approve and would not put a bill in Albany to allow that name to be settled on this community? (laughter) And, at a meeting down here afterwards, when we finally fixed up the first city charter, a lot of

Democrats and a lot of Republicans got together and it was suggested that we adopt the name of Beacon, and I am glad that name was adopted because it is a forward-looking name just in the same way that I am very certain that this is a forward-looking, progressive community.

I have been coming down here since I was about five years old and I am going to keep coming whether I am a candidate or not. It is fine to see you and I shall look forward to seeing you again.

Many thanks.