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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**

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**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**"Points for Candidates" -  
[from Governorship period]**

POINTS FOR CANDIDATES

1. GENERAL Much can be made out of the definite facts (a) that the present leadership of the Republican Senators and Assemblymen, who have the Legislature both Houses, continues to be wholly lacking in any forward looking policy, and that all initiative comes from the Governor. Furthermore, that it has become a standing joke in Albany that the Governor initiates some new and vital needed reform and the Republicans, several weeks later, come out with the announcement that they had suddenly thought of it themselves.

(b) The second general point is that the Republican legislative leaders, on a great many vital and important issues, have such a strangle hold on the other members of their party that they will not let important bills out on the floor of the Senate or Assembly for general discussion. The result is that two or three men in each House are the absolute dictators of legislation and the other one hundred and twenty Republicans do just as they are told and strangle free discussion.

(c) It is well to emphasize in strongly Republican Counties that our fight is not against the Republican party but is against the stupid Republican leadership; that the fight is not against the present Republican Assemblymen in person so much as it is against his proven habit of being a mere cipher in Albany, accepting whatever Speaker McGinnies, Leader Russell Dammore and Chairman Hutchinson tell him to do.

2. It is very important to get a record of votes of the Republican Assemblymen showing as it probably will that he voted against many measures of great social importance, and against even allowing other measures of great importance to be taken out of committee and discussed on the floor. In other words, prove that he opposed open discussion of questions like the four year term for Governor, the development of the State owned Water Power, all of the bills wanted by labor, etc. etc.

3. AGRICULTURE A special story on the tremendous help given agriculture at the instance of the Governor is being prepared. It is important to stress the definite fact that for fifteen years the Republicans have been

intended to create a false impression. The Legislature did pass the bill but failed to include the necessary three million dollar appropriation to carry it out. In other words, the Legislature merely made the gesture which could give practical tax relief in the absence of an appropriation. It is absolutely on a par with the ~~action~~<sup>-2-</sup> of the same legislators two or three years ago when they passed a bill solemnly increasing the pay of school teachers and failing to save the necessary amount of money. Naturally the bill was vetoed by the Governor, and crooked-minded Republican politicians then tried to tell the school teachers of the State that the Governor had vetoed their program but that they would get little credit for having done so. Their initiative came from the Governor and antedated any action on their part by two months.

In this connection it is worth while to note a very definite and deliberate lie that may be used by the Republican candidates and newspapers. Part of the Governor's Advisory Committee's recommendations was the relieving of towns and counties of their annual share of the cost of building highways, bridges on State and County roads. The Republican State Committee is saying that the Republican Legislature passed this bill and that Governor Roosevelt vetoed it. This is a good deal worse than a lie because it is a half truth and intended to create a false impression. The Legislature did pass the bill but failed to include the necessary three million dollar appropriation to carry it out. In other words, the Legislature merely made the gesture which could not give practical tax relief in the absence of an appropriation. It is absolutely on a par with the ~~action~~<sup>action</sup> of the same legislators two or three years ago when they passed a bill solemnly increasing the pay of school teachers and failing to vote the necessary amount of money. Naturally the bill was vetoed by the Governor, and crooked-minded Republican politicians then tried to tell the school teachers of the State that the Governor had vetoed their salary increases. The same thing done about bridges this year is another example of the Republican leaders' duplicity.

4. AGRICULTURAL TAX RELIEF In every county it will be well worth while to keep on asking the question throughout the campaign - "is the saving of \$\_\_\_\_ (you will be given the figures), because of the Governor's legislation last winter, being passed back to the taxpayers by the local Board of Supervisors, or will this saving be covered up and used in the county for some other purpose?"

5. WATER POWER I would not stress the words WATER POWER so much as I would the words "electricity in the home." The whole purpose of the Governor's recommendations to the Legislature last winter, which the Legislature would not allow even to come out of committee for rediscussion, was to get a definite report from the Board of Trustees on the development of the state owned water power on the St. Lawrence. The purpose of such a report was primarily to plan for cheaper cost of electricity in the average farm and city house throughout the state; that this would give an approximate equalization of the cost which today varies so greatly between different localities. It may be well to use the fact that the cost of a railroad ticket per mile is the same throughout the state, no matter if it be on a main line or on a small local line. The Republican leaders' policy is to stave off any action on the development of electrical power so that if they can win the Governorship they will turn the one million and a quarter horse power on the St. Lawrence, now owned by the State, over to some private company for development.

6. WARDS OF THE STATE There is no question that the state is not taking proper care of its wards. The hospitals, schools and prisons are disgracefully overcrowded. The Legislature has known this but had done nothing and it has remained for the Governor to make a drive insisting that the next Legislature provide adequate buildings to house the state's wards. He had to fight all spring and summer before he could persuade the Republican leaders to go along with him on this program. In other words, we need new blood in the Assembly to put through these very essential humanitarian reforms.

7. HIGHWAYS The plan of tax relief, suggested by the Governor's Advisory Commission, carried with it the gasoline tax to be used for the benefit of roads. The result is that today the state receives about fifty-four million dollars (\$54,000,000) from the license tax and the gasoline tax and ALL of this money goes straight to the building of highways. The counties and towns have been relieved of about fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) a year in highway costs and new feeder roads will be built at the expense of the state instead of at the expense of the town.

8. The last Legislature declined to go along with the Governor on his program for the revision of the present administration of justice. They tried to set up a committee opposed wholly of lawyers, most of them members of the Legislature. The Governor took the position that a matter of such grave importance should be studied by the highest type of citizens, not confined to the legal profession. He feels that this is a subject which affects every man, woman and child, and as such should be worked out by representative citizens from all sections of the state and all walks of life.

9. TOWN AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT The Governor is laying special stress on the desirability of making town and county government more efficient. He does not insist on any laws which would violate the principles of home rule. The trouble is now that when a town or a county wants to consolidate unnecessary offices, get rid of waste, put in expert managers, etc., the town or county cannot do it. The Governor proposes enabling legislation which would allow the town or the county to put in better business methods by a vote of the people. For instance, some counties may want to consider abolishing the local office of town collector of taxes and put all tax collections under the County Treasurer, at the same time making the tax bills uniform, each duly stating on its face what the taxes are to go for. Under the Governor's proposal the law would be so changed that the county could do this if it wanted to but not otherwise.

Another example is the desire of many people in some counties to create a county department of public works, which would take over the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of town highways instead of having this work divided up as it is now between one highway department in every town in the county. There is no doubt that the present system means great duplication and waste, and that a great saving could be made either by concentrating the highway departments of three or four towns into one, or by concentrating all the highway departments of a county into a county department. The Governor merely suggests that enabling legislation be passed to allow towns to do this if, and only if, they so desired.

The third suggestion is for enabling legislation to allow the county to get rid of some of the unnecessary offices of Justice of the Peace, providing for a thoroughly trained Associate County Judge or some other form of county magistrate, who would go around the county, as a kind of circuit judge, and try the small civil and criminal cases which are now tried, in most cases, by a perfectly well meaning Justice of the Peace who knows nothing about the law. This legislation also would be wholly permissive and would merely ~~allow~~ let the county improve its present procedure if it wanted to.