

Fall 1936

[Young People's Democratic Club - Poughkeepsie, NY]

FDR. Speech File

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I wish it had been possible for me to be with you tonight. To those of us of an older generation, a gathering of a younger group intent on better government is always inspirational.

Since I cannot, I want to convey to you a little message of greeting.

You are young Democrats and rightly rejoice both in your youth and your democracy.

Four years ago I accepted a commission, not only from the democracy of the country but from Americans embracing every political faith. Under this commission the fight has been waged and today we can say America is safe and sound.

However, the task is not yet completed and I am appealing to men and women of all faiths, young and old alike, every American of the good old American faith to help me carry the fight to a finish.

Specifically, may I call one thing to your attention. The House of Representatives is the channel through which you and all the voters of the country express your legislative will. For this reason, may I ask that you individually do all you can to send the nominee of our party, Alpha R. Whiton, our neighbor from Putnam County to Congress. A community owes it to itself to have in the Halls of Congress a man who will truly represent his constituency, not one swayed and influenced almost entirely by partisanship. I do not hesitate to urge that each of you do his part for the Party's candidates for each of the local offices in our own county.

May I take this occasion to thank you all for your loyal support in the past and which you are now giving to the cause of a continuing better government.

E.P.P.
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Sam Rayburn has written James Roosevelt asking him to go and speak at that Florida-Chester meeting October 4.

Get note to Mack to back this up. Tell just how important it is to get some pep in that organization over there.

Engagements of long standing make it impossible for me to be with the Young Peoples Democratic Club of Poughkeepsie this evening. It is one of the burdens of office, with duties toward a whole nation,^{that} one cannot see as much as he would like to see of his friends and neighbors, even when he is near-by.

~~I know that you, my friends and neighbors, will excuse me this evening and will believe me when I say that I wish I could be with you.~~

I am even going to assume that you, as my friends and neighbors, wish to help me bear these burdens of office. You can. You can by just this fine kind of enthusiasm which has brought you together in this meeting to-night. You can, by spreading your enthusiasm to those other friends and neighbors who could not, or would not, join with you in this meeting.

You are young Democrats. You should rejoice in both your youth and your democracy. Four years ago I accepted a commission, not only from Democrats young and old, but from Americans of every political faiths and ages. Men of many political faiths have helped us to execute that commission. The fight has gone this far; I am able to say to you, America is safe and sound.

But the task is not yet complete. Our Party has commissioned me to continue to fight. I am not ashamed, with this high commission imposed upon me, to ask men and women of all political faith, every American of the good old American/^{faith} to help me.

The political way for Americans of good faith who are my friends and neighbors to help is, first of all, to send to Congress a representative who will assist in the task committed to our care, and not hinder it. Hence it is with confidence, that I ask you to exert the utmost of your effort as citizens and good Americans to send to Congress Alpha R. Whiton, our neighbor from Putnam County.

The House of Representatives is the channel through which you express your legislative will. I confidently commend to you Mr. Whiton as the instrument of that expression. Nor as a citizen of Dutchess County do I hesitate to commend to you and to all the people of Dutchess County, the able man our Party has chosen to fill those local offices which always affect just as intimately your lives and destinies as does the expression of your will through the House of Representatives at Washington.

A very fine good evening.

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