September 24, 1940

[National Comm. of Independent Voters For Roosevelt]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT
VOTERS FOR ROOSEVELT

     I think we all of us have our feet on the ground
sufficiently to know that we haven't accomplished for the
country as much as we ought, but that a great deal is left
to do. We don't want to stand still and we don't want to
go back. For that reason all of us have been bearing the
work in the heat of the day for a good many years; George
Norris - long before I did - and I have been bearing a
certain amount of the work in the heat of the day for just
about thirty years, yes, thirty years this year, and George
isn't through and I am not through, and some of these
youngsters like Fiorello are not through.

     They have got a great many years left to work for
what we call by the generic term "liberalism" - for progressive
objectives. And I personally am very, very happy to have this
group come here today, and very, very happy to accept the
support of every liberal and every progressive in the United
States because I think we agree now that we are living in an
era, an age where the principles of democracy itself are at
stake. They are being attacked on many quarters and it is
going to help democracy to survive if democracy will remain
progressive and liberal through the many strange things that
are happening.

     And so you are working not just for progressive
measures and ideals in the country -- you are working very
distinctly for the preservation of democracy. And so I am
glad to see you.