
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

File No. 1557

1944 November 4

Springfield, MA - Informal Campaign Speech

FIRST DRAFT

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS,

NOVEMBER 4, 1944

I know that on this trip I am supposed to think and act and talk solely with the idea that there is a political campaign on.

Well -- we all know that there is a political campaign on -- and I think we all agree that it is probably the most important political campaign in our country's history.

But -- here in Springfield -- I cannot refrain from dwelling on the fact that there is also a war on -- a war which, I most deeply believe, will decide the fate of our America and of the whole human race for ~~very~~ many years to come.

You good people here in Springfield, Massachusetts, ~~may~~ know a great deal about ^{This} ~~war~~ war.

You know a great deal about our preparedness for war, and you knew about it long before Pearl Harbor.

This city, ^{historic} ~~located~~ located in one of the most beautiful and most ~~valleys~~ valleys of America -- this city has always been a center of experimentation and production of the weapons of our defense against aggression.

The Springfield rifle -- The Garand rifle -- these have proved themselves in one battle after another, the essential and the ultimate weapons of war.

Springfield has provided a model for innumerable communities of war production which have sprung up in the past few years all over this nation -- from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast.

Here in Springfield, Massachusetts, tremendous history has been made. And, as your President during these ^{recent} eventful years, I am proud to be here -- I am proud to be looking ~~into~~ ^{at} the faces of you who have done so much for America and for the cause of civilization.

And also -- This city is the home of a great newspaper. I wish we had more papers throughout the nation like the Springfield Republican.

It has been four years since the last great mandate
you gave me ^{an} as the result of election.

These have been four great, eventful, stirring years.

For many American homes they have been years of
personal heartbreak and tragedy, about which any words that I
could say would be idle. Yet, even for them -- I should say, for
them above all -- there is the proud sense that America has come
greatly through a dark and dangerous time, that the ship of state
is sturdy and safe, and that with continued courage and wisdom
we can bring it into a harbor where it will not be whipped by
the storms of another war within any foreseeable period. ^{But - we are}
remain prepared, ^{this time,} we are not going to scuttle our strength.
Four years ago many of us knew that war might come.

We sought to prepare America against it, often in the face of
mocking gibes from those who said that we had nothing to fear
from the Germans or the Japanese.

We went about the work of building the national
defenses and of setting up a system of selective service, ~~which~~ ^{as he had}
the stern resolve ^{which} I expressed many times four years ago --
that we meant this for defense and not offense -- and that we
would not send our boys to fight abroad unless we were attacked.

The attack came -- treacherous, deadly attack.

Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- and not until then.

We fought back -- as our forefathers had ^{fought.} ~~done~~. We took the offensive -- and we held it. The kind of America we inherited from our fathers, is the kind of America we want to pass on to our children -- ^{but, an American} ~~more~~ more prosperous, more secure -- free from want and free from fear.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against economic breakdown and depression -- and won that war.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against the Fascist ruthlessness and brutality of Germany and Japan.

It is to save that America that our sons are fighting

gloriously on
~~our~~ battlefields all over the world -- and we will win that fight

1 I am glad and I am proud to be here again in Springfield.

I have every intention of coming here again and I have every expectation of coming here as President of the United States.

You and I have been through a lot together. And we are going to go ahead ~~together~~ together -- and we have finished this horrendous (war)

building a strong
job of winning the war and
enduring the peace.

Regardless of what happens in
this nation on Election Day - I assure
you ~~I assure you~~ ~~that I shall~~
~~be the same man you have known all~~
these years, the same Franklin D.
Roosevelt, still dedicated to the same
ideals for which you and I and our sons have
been fighting.

I am very glad to have had
this all too brief opportunity to
be back here - among you - my old
friends.

I hope to be back here in Springfield
^{again} soon, - and I have a hunch that I shall
be back here as President of the United
States.

In any case, as your President, I want
to say - Thank you for the magnificent
job you have done in the winning of this
war - and God bless you.

SECOND DRAFT

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 4, 1944

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But -- here in Springfield -- I cannot refrain from dwelling on the fact that there is also a war on -- a war which, I most deeply believe, will decide the fate of our America and of the whole human race for very many years to come.

You good people here in Springfield, Massachusetts, know a great deal about this war.

✓ You know a great deal about our preparedness for war, and you knew about it long before Pearl Harbor.

This city -- located in one of the most beautiful and most historic valleys of America -- this city has always been

a center of experimentation and production of the weapons of our defense against aggression.

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And also -- this city is the home of a great newspaper. I wish we had more papers throughout the nation like the Springfield Republican.

SECOND DRAFT

- 3 -

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It has been four years since you gave me the last
in
~~great~~ mandate ~~as the result of~~ an election.

~~There have been four great, eventful, stirring years.~~

For many American homes they have been years of
personal heartbreak and tragedy, about which any words that
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Yet, even for them -- I should say, for them above
all -- there is the proud sense that America has come greatly
through a dark and dangerous time, that the ship of state
is sturdy and safe, and that with continued courage and
wisdom we can bring it into a harbor where it will not be
whipped by the storms of another war within any foreseeable
period.

But -- we are going to remain prepared. This time,
we are not going to scuttle our strength.

Four years ago many of us knew that war might come.
We sought to prepare America against it, often in the face
of mocking gibes from those who said that we had nothing to
fear from the Germans or the Japanese.

We went about the work of building the national defenses and of setting up a system of selective service. We had the stern resolve -- which I expressed many times four years ago -- that we meant this for defense and not offense -- and that we would not send our boys to fight abroad unless we were attacked.

The attack came -- treacherous, deadly attack.

Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- *obviously, rightly.*
~~and not until then.~~

We fought back -- as our forefathers had fought. We took the offensive -- and we held it. The kind of America we inherited from our fathers is the kind of America we want to pass on to our children -- but, an America more prosperous, more secure -- free from want and free from fear.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against economic breakdown and depression -- and won that war.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against the Fascist ruthlessness and brutality of Germany and Japan.

It is to save that America that our sons are fighting gloriously on battlefields all over the world -- and we will win that fight too.

You and I have been through a lot together. And we are going to go ahead together -- until we have finished this tremendous job of winning the war and building a strong enduring peace.

Regardless of what happens in this nation on Election Day -- I assure you that I shall be the same man you have known all these years, the same Franklin D. Roosevelt, still dedicated to the same ideals for which you and I and our sons have been fighting.

I am very glad to have had this all too brief opportunity to be back here -- among you, ~~My dear friends.~~

I hope to be back here in Springfield soon again -- and I have a hunch that I shall be back here as President of the United States.

In any case, as your President, I want to say -- thank you for the magnificent job you have done in the winning of this war ~~and God bless you.~~

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Here in Springfield, Massachusetts, tremendous history has been made. And, as your President during these recent eventful years, I am proud to be here -- I am proud to be looking into the faces of you who have done so much for America and for the cause of civilization.

And also -- this city is the home of a great newspaper. I wish we had more papers throughout the nation like the Springfield Republican.

It has been four years -- four eventful, stirring years -- since you gave me the last mandate in an election.

For many American homes they have been years of personal heartbreak and tragedy, about which any words that I could say would be idle.

Yet, even for them -- I should say, for them above all -- there is the proud sense that America has come greatly through a dark and dangerous time, that the ship of state is sturdy and safe, and that with continued courage and wisdom we can bring it into a harbor where it will not be whipped by the storms of another war within any foreseeable period.

But -- we are going to remain prepared. This time we are not going to scuttle our strength.

Four years ago many of us knew that war might come. We sought to prepare America against it, often in the face of mocking gibes from those who said that we had nothing to fear from the Germans or the Japanese.

We went about the work of building the national defenses and of setting up a system of selective service. We had the stern resolve -- which I expressed many times four years ago -- that we meant this for defense and not offense -- and that we would not send our boys to fight abroad unless we were attacked.

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Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- obviously, rightly.

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It is to save that America that our sons are fighting gloriously on battlefields all over the world -- and we will win that fight too.

You and I have been through a lot together. And we are going to go ahead together -- until we have finished this tremendous job of winning the war and building a strong enduring peace.

Regardless of what happens in this nation on Election Day -- I assure you that I shall be the same man you have known all these years, the same Franklin D. Roosevelt, still dedicated to the same ideals for which you and I and our sons have been fighting.

I am very glad to have had this all too brief
opportunity to be back here -- among you.

I hope to be back here in Springfield soon again --
and I have a hunch that I shall be back here as President
of the United States.

In any case, as your President, I want to say --
thank you for the magnificent job you have done in the
winning of this war.

Hi, reading copy

Franklin D. Roosevelt

ADDRESS Of The President
From The Rear Platform Of His Train
At Springfield, Massachusetts
November 4, 1944
About 1.15 p.m., e.w.t.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
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.

My friends and neighbors:

I had hoped to be able to motor up here from Hartford,
but I thought to myself that the gasoline would be of more use
in a tank in Germany than in my car. (prolonged applause)

(I know that on this trip I am supposed to think and act and talk solely with the idea) Somebody tells me that there is a political campaign on.

(Well -- we all know that there is a political campaign on -- and) I think we all agree that it is probably one of the important political campaigns in our (country's) history.

But -- here in Springfield -- I cannot refrain from suggesting (dwelling on the fact) that there is also a war on -- a war which, I very (most) deeply believe, will decide the fate of our America and of the whole human race for generations (very many years) to come.

You good people here in Springfield (Massachusetts) know a great deal about (this) war. You have known about munitions for years, since long before I was born. You know (a great deal) about our preparedness (for war), and you knew about it long before Pearl Harbor.

This city -- located on (in) one of the most

beautiful rivers in the United States -- it isn't quite so re-
fined as the Hudson -- (laughter) -- (and most historic valleys
of America) -- this city has always been the (a) center of
organization -- experimentation (and production) of the weapons
of (our) defense against aggression.

The Springfield rifle -- the Garand rifle -- they
(those) have proved themselves, in one battle after another,
essential weapons of war.

And here (in Springfield, Massachusetts, tremendous)
great history has been made. (And) As your President during
these (recent) eventful years, I am proud to be here -- and (I
am) proud to be looking into the faces -- although they are
pretty far off -- (laughter and applause) -- of all of you who
(have done) did so much for America, and I think for the cause
of civilization.

And also, I might add, because I have known publishers
for a great many years -- this city is the home of a great
newspaper. And I wish that we had more papers throughout the
nation like the Springfield Republican. (cheers and applause)

It has been four years -- four eventful, stirring
years -- since you people gave me the last mandate in an elec-
tion. And here I am, back again. (applause)

For many Americans -- for many American homes they
have been years of personal heartbreak and tragedy, about which
any words that I could say would be idle.

Yet, even for them -- I would (should) say, for them
above all others -- there is the proud sense that America has

come greatly through a dark and dangerous time. (,that) The ship of state is sturdy and safe, and that with continued courage and wisdom we can bring it into a harbor where it will not be whipped by the storms of another war within any foreseeable period.

But -- we are going to remain prepared. (applause)
I take it as a matter of wisdom that we should not dismantle the Springfield arsenals. This time we are not going to scuttle our strength.

Four years ago many of us know that ^cthis war might come. We sought to prepare America for (against) it, often in the face of mocking gibes from those who said (that) we had nothing to fear from (the Germans) Germany or (the Japanese) Japan.

We went about the work of building the national defenses and of setting up a system of selective service. We had the stern resolve -- that (which) I expressed many times four years ago -- once here, I think -- that we meant this for defense and not for offense -- (and) that we would not send our boys to fight abroad unless we were attacked.

Well, the attack came -- treacherous, deadly attack.

Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- obviously, rightly.

We fought back -- as our forefathers had fought. We took the offensive -- and we held it. The kind of America we inherited from our fathers is the kind of America we want to pass on to our children -- but, an America more prosperous,

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It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against economic breakdown and depression -- and we won that war.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against the Fascist ruthlessness and brutality of Germany and Japan. And we are winning that war. (applause)

Yes, it is to save that America that our sons are fighting gloriously on battlefields all over the world (-- and we will win that fight too).

You and I have been through a lot together. And we are going to go ahead together -- until we have finished this tremendous job of winning the war and building a strong enduring peace. (applause)

So, sometimes I really honestly do forget politics. Regardless of what happens (in this nation) on Election Day -- I assure you that I shall be the same man you have known all these years -- (applause) -- (the same Franklin D. Roosevelt), and I am still dedicated to the same ideals for which you and I and our sons have been fighting.

And so I am very glad to have had this all too brief opportunity to be back here -- (among you) I might almost say to chat with you.

I am glad (hope) to be back here in Springfield now, and I am (soon again -- and) coming back again. (applause) And being half from New England myself -- up the river here in Northampton -- (laughter) -- I have a hunch -- like lots of people

do in western Massachusetts and eastern New York -- I have a hunch that I shall be back here again soon as President of the United States. (great applause)

In any case, as your President, I want to say to you -- thank you for coming here. I have never spoken from here before -- I think it's a pretty good spot. (laughter) And thanks particularly for the magnificent job you have been doing (done) in this city (the) towards winning the (of this) war.

(great and prolonged applause)

ADDRESS OF The President
From The Rear Platform Of His Train
At Springfield, Massachusetts
November 4, 1944
About 1.15 P.M., e.w.t.

My friends and neighbors:

I had hoped to be able to motor up here from Hartford,
but I thought to myself that the gasoline would be of more use
in a tank in Germany than in my car. (prolonged applause)

(I know that on this trip I am supposed to think and
act and talk solely with the idea) Somebody tells me that there
is a political campaign on.

(Well -- we all know that there is a political campaign
on -- and) I think we all agree that it is probably one of the
important political campaigns in our (country's) history.

But -- here in Springfield -- I cannot refrain from
suggesting (dwelling on the fact) that there is also a war on --
a war which, I very (most) deeply believe, will decide the fate
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The Springfield rifle -- the Garand rifle -- they (those) have proved themselves, in one battle after another, essential weapons of war.

And here (in Springfield, Massachusetts, tremendous) great history has been made. (And) As your President during these (recent) eventful years, I am proud to be here -- and (I am) proud to be looking into the faces -- although they are pretty far off -- (laughter and applause) -- of all of you who (have done) did so much for America, and I think for the cause of civilization.

And also, I might add, because I have known publishers for a great many years -- this city is the home of a great newspaper. And I wish that we had more papers throughout the nation like the Springfield Republican. (cheers and applause)

It has been four years -- four eventful, stirring years -- since you people gave me the last mandate in an election. And here I am, back again. (applause)

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Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- obviously, rightly.

We fought back -- as our forefathers had fought. We took the offensive -- and we held it. The kind of America we inherited from our fathers is the kind of America we want to pass on to our children -- but, an America more prosperous,

more secure -- free from want and free from fear. (applause)

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against economic breakdown and depression -- and we won that war.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against the Fascist ruthlessness and brutality of Germany and Japan. And we are winning that war. (applause)

Yes, it is to save that America that our sons are fighting gloriously on battlefields all over the world (-- and we will win that fight too).

You and I have been through a lot together. And we are going to go ahead together -- until we have finished this tremendous job of winning the war and building a strong enduring peace. (applause)

So, sometimes I really honestly do forget politics. Regardless of what happens (in this nation) on Election Day -- I assure you that I shall be the same man you have known all these years -- (applause) -- (the same Franklin D. Roosevelt), and I am still dedicated to the same ideals for which you and I and our sons have been fighting.

And so I am very glad to have had this all too brief opportunity to be back here -- (among you) I might almost say to chat with you.

I am glad (hope) to be back here in Springfield now, and I am (soon again -- and) coming back again. (applause) And being half from New England myself -- up the river here in Northampton -- (laughter) -- I have a hunch -- like lots of people

do in western Massachusetts and eastern New York -- I have a
hunch that I shall be back here again soon as President of the
United States. (great applause)

In any case, as your President, I want to say to you
-- thank you for coming here. I have never spoken from here
before -- I think it's a pretty good spot. (laughter) And
thanks particularly for the magnificent job you have been doing
(done) in this city (the) towards winning the (of this)
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(great and prolonged applause)

STATEMENTS FILE

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 4, 1944

①

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~~act and talk solely with the idea~~ ^{P. Somebody tell me} ~~that there is a political~~
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(Well -- we all know that there is a political
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You good people here in Springfield, (Massachusetts,)

know a great deal about (this) war.

① (great applause for the President)

My friends and neighbors. I had hoped to be able to motor up
here from Hartford, but I thought to myself that the gasoline would
be of more use in a tank in Germany than in my car.
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-2-

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as the Indians -- (laughter) --

(laughter and applause) -- Well for a great many years --

It has been four years -- four eventful, stirring
years -- since you ^{people} gave me the last mandate in an election.
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But -- we are going to remain prepared. ^(applause) This time
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(and we will win that fight too.)

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(X) Regardless of what happens (in this nation) on Election Day -- I assure you that I shall be the same man you have known all these years, -- (applause) -- and I am (the same Franklin D. Roosevelt,) still dedicated to the same ideals for which you and I and our sons have been fighting.

P (X) So, sometimes I really honestly do forget politics.

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^{am glad} I hope to be back here in Springfield soon again -- ^{now, and I am}

^{again soon} and I have a hunch that I shall be back here as President
 of the United States. *(great applause)*

In any case, as your President, I want to say ^{to you}
 thank you for the magnificent job you have ^{been doing} done in ^{this city} the

towards winning of this war. *(great & prolonged applause)*

-- like lots of people do in western Massachusetts
 and eastern New York -- I have a hunch

coming here. I have never spoken from here
 before -- I think it's a pretty good spot.
(Laughter) And thanks particularly for

coming back again. *(applause)* And being half from New England myself -- up the
 river from in Northampton -- *(laughter)* --

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 4, 1944

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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Well -- we all know that there is a political campaign on -- and I think we all agree that it is probably one of the important political campaigns in our country's history.

But -- here in Springfield -- I cannot refrain from dwelling on the fact that there is also a war on -- a war which, I most deeply believe, will decide the fate of our America and of the whole human race for very many years to come.

You good people here in Springfield, Massachusetts, know a great deal about this war.

You know a great deal about our preparedness for war, and you knew about it long before Pearl Harbor.

This city -- located in one of the most beautiful and most historic valleys of America -- this city has always been a center of experimentation and production of the weapons of our defense against aggression.

The Springfield rifle -- the Garand rifle -- these have proved themselves, in one battle after another, essential weapons of war.

Here in Springfield, Massachusetts, tremendous history has been made. And, as your President during these recent eventful years, I am proud to be here -- I am proud to be looking into the faces of you who have done so much for America and for the cause of civilization.

And also -- this city is the home of a great newspaper. I wish we had more papers throughout the nation like the Springfield Republican.

It has been four years -- four eventful, stirring years -- since you gave me the last mandate in an election.

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Yet, even for them -- I should say, for them above all -- there is the proud sense that America has come greatly through a dark and dangerous time, that the ship of state is sturdy and safe, and that with continued courage and wisdom we can bring it into a harbor where it will not be whipped by the storms of another war within any foreseeable period.

But -- we are going to remain prepared. This time we are not going to scuttle our strength.

Four years ago many of us knew that war might come. We sought to prepare America against it, often in the face of mocking gibes from those who said that we had nothing to fear from the Germans or the Japanese.

We went about the work of building the national defenses and of setting up a system of selective service. We had the stern resolve -- which I expressed many times four years ago -- that we meant this for defense and not offense -- and that we would not send our boys to fight abroad unless we were attacked.

The attack came -- treacherous, deadly attack.

Our pledge was kept. We fought back when we were attacked -- obviously, rightly.

We fought back -- as our forefathers had fought. We took the offensive -- and we held it. The kind of America we inherited from our fathers is the kind of America we want to pass on to our children -- but, an America more prosperous, more secure -- free from want and free from fear.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against economic breakdown and depression -- and won that war.

It was to save that America that we joined in a common war against the Fascist ruthlessness and brutality of Germany and Japan.

It is to save that America that our sons are fighting gloriously on battlefields all over the world -- and we will win that fight too.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
NOVEMBER 4, 1944

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