Unsolicited Advice to Fellow Democrats

The Constitution does not require that the President of the United States be a protestant, catholic, jew or whatever. The Constitution does not require that the President come from North, South, East or West.

What is enough for the Constitution ought to be enough for the Democratic Party. I am confident that it will be enough for the people of the United States.

The Democratic Party can select as its Presidential candidate, an American who is able to do this job. But we are not going to select him, much less elect him, if we permit ourselves to be sidetracked by peep-shows into the religion of candidates or by idle speculation on their geographic origins. I challenge those who raise these issues to name any potential democratic candidate who, if nominated and elected will not act, within the Constitution, for all of the American people regardless of their faith; who will not act for all sections of the nation, from Hawaii to Maine and from Alaska to Florida. I am convinced that the American people know that they can depend on any Democrat who is likely to be nominated to serve all the people and all sections of the nation.

The challenge to the Democratic Party in this election year is to nominate a candidate who can and will lead. The challenge to the people of the nation is to elect an American who will speak and act on their behalf in a fashion which is worthy of them and is in accord with our finest national traditions. That is the problem before us, that, and no other. We shall more surely so nominate and so elect as we put aside the side-issues of religion and geographic sectionalism.