Mr. Roosevelt in Ithaca

The next Democratic candidate for governor, Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., had a big time for himself, and a surprisingly large group of regular Democrats, New Dealers and Fair Dealers, also had a big time for themselves, when the candidate and his well wishers met at Saturday’s luncheon of the Women’s Democratic Club. It was a thoroughly good show.

Mr. Roosevelt, who as the campaign goes on will be frequently referred to as Junior, was surprised and delighted by the size of his audience. So were the sponsors of the party.

The congressman made a favorable impression and he did all right in giving a sense of sincerity to what was bound to be and was a purely political speech.

Republicans here and around the state should realize that Mr. Roosevelt, escorted, chaperoned and managed by Carmine De Sapio, boss of Tammany Hall whose record with Mr. Roosevelt’s will later become campaign issues, is and will be a dangerous opponent. He has a lot of political “it”—fine figure, good looks, good voice and plenty of personal charm. He brings glamour into the campaign, plus the still strong influence of his illustrious father’s name.

What Mr. De Sapio and Mr. Roosevelt hope to do in the state is what Mr. De Sapio did in New York last November, get Junior elected governor on his father’s name just as they got a junior Wagner elected mayor of New York on his illustrious father’s name.

And once De Sapio and Roosevelt get into Albany, why not the White House?

In any event, the congressman made an effective political speech. He knows nothing—up to now—about state government, but he has the politician’s trick of making it seem that he does by gibes at his potential opponent. Some of his talk was about national affairs. What he really knows about the big problems of federal government is hard to discover, because according to Washington correspondent, Junior isn’t around the capitol very much. What he said here on defense, farm program, etc., followed the party line. But he was kindly to Mr. Eisenhower.

What Mr. De Sapio said about the common interests of downstate and upstate should have further consideration. He stretched out his arms in a spirit of brotherly love and affection. We are all one family. Touching is a good word for his eloquence. His newly elected mayor wants to touch upstate New York for anything from 75 million dollars to 100 million dollars to pay the bankrupt city’s bills.

Well, it was nice to see and hear Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. De Sapio, to be glad of the warm welcome given them by so many of our good friends and fellow citizens, and to get the opportunity again of evaluating the next Democratic candidate for governor.

Whether he is a clever and scheming politician, a charming demagogue or a statesman coming up is a matter of individual opinion. The voters must decide. But certainly, he will be a formidable candidate and the voters must decide.
FDR Jr. Says He Will Run If Nominated

By B. M. CLAREY

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr. came to Ithaca Saturday and captured 230 Democrats with the characteristics of family charm and smile. He left them, at least, with the impression he’d do all right as the party’s candidate for governor next fall.

There seems to be little doubt about it.

As for Roosevelt—a big fellow for whom the big boom is already on—this is what he had to say in answer to a news conference question about his candidacy:

“I am not a candidate until nominated by the Democratic convention. I will accept the nomination, if given me, regardless of whom the Republicans nominate. Remember, the convention is a long way off.”

His ready reply, typical of those he gave to other press queries, was followed by a reminder, “I’m not thinking of their guest so much in terms of a son of a former governor and president nor of whom the Republicans nominate. Remember, the convention is a long way off.”

Enjoyment was at peak whenever he mentioned Dewey and they applauded when he praised Tammany Hall as “a Democratic organization under De Sapio’s leadership, which speaks for the overwhelming majority of the citizens of our times.”

He criticized the administration’s labor recommendations, however, saying they bore the earmarks of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Note Plan Denounced

He denounced in particular the proposal there be a union vote before a strike, recalling that Senator Taft was always opposed to that view. “It will do more to break down fair negotiations than any other gimmick in the Taft-Hartley Law.”

Roosevelt described the Republican’s flexible farm support program as “a complete political hodge-podge,” putting more power in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture than ever before. “I think Brownell had a hand in it,” the speaker continued, “for it’s tailored to fit the 1954 campaign and is the most politically loaded farm program ever sent to congress.” (He referred to Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell.)

The matters about which Roosevelt expressed most concern, however, were the budget cuts for the military and the proposed Bricker amendment. Warning against the contemplated cutback in the Army forces, he said:

“Within two or three years our military will be geared solely to atomic weapons and when we are completely overboard on one type of defense, the Russians will go for p-b-y deal to outlaw atomic weapons. Where goes the defense of the free world then?”

Amendment Opposed

Roosevelt scored the Bricker amendment as a measure that would reduce the office of president to that of the French presidency and lower national prestige to that of the French Republic.

“It’s the old isolationist fight,” he said, “a frank admission that the United States should have no international relations. Its sponsors would have us pull in behind the shield of the oceans and let the rest of the world go to hell.” He said he was 100 percent behind the President in fighting the amendment and urged Ithacans to write U.S. Senator Irving M. Ives asking him to do the same. He said he wasn’t suggesting they ask Congressman John Taber to do likewise “because John is probably still reading the budget.”

In his brief press conference before the Hotel Ithaca luncheon, Roosevelt said there was no logi-
cal basis for taxing co-operatives "or they'll have to come up with better arguments than they have."

He then added, "I'm not a stockholder in GLF but I buy from it." Roosevelt spent a short time Saturday visiting the cow barns at Cornell.

De Sapio said Democrats must dispel the myth, propagated by the Republican Party, of the division of interests between New York City and upstate. "Your problems are no different than ours," he said, pointing out "one of the processes of Republican propaganda is to divide and conquer."

Sees Benefits Jeopardized

The New York City leader said that continuation of Republican rule nationally would jeopardize the social and economic benefits so essential to our welfare. He further said that Mayor Wagner's fight for home rule in New York City is a fight for home rule in every municipality of the state.

Party leaders from neighboring counties joined the Democratic County Committee and guests in welcoming FDR Jr. at the lunch which was sponsored by the Women's Democratic Club of Tompkins County. Introductions were by the dozen as Burns recognized all the active men and women workers and candidates.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS of Tompkins County are pictured (above) with Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr. at Hotel Ithaca Saturday. From left are Daniel Crowley, county chairman; Roosevelt; Mrs. Francis Fabbricatore, president of the Women's Democratic Club of Tompkins County; Carmine de Sapio, New York County Democratic chairman. The picture below shows FDR Jr. as he answered a question at a press conference.

Cheered lustily at his surprise appearance was City Chairman Raymond R. Barber who is recuperating from a recent heart attack. The Rev. John H. Sarde-son, pastor of the Lutheran Church and a classmate of Roosevelt's at Harvard, gave the invocation. Accompanying Roosevelt and De Sapio were Justin N. Feldman, the congressman's legislative assistant, and Benjamin Wechsler, secretary of the Democratic State Committee.

Prominent in the crowded hotel lobby awaiting Roosevelt's appearance was Republican County Chairman F. Clifton White who was on hand to say "hello" to Feldman, a friend of long standing.