General Information

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Description

On "Meet the Press" in 1956, Eleanor Roosevelt discusses the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties on the eve of the election.

Keywords

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MLA
"Meet The Press: Eleanor Roosevelt Says Politicians Should Pay More Attention to the Poor." Ned
Transcript
Eleanor Roosevelt Says Politicians Should Pay More Attention to the Poor

TIM RUSSERT:
And we are back. Sixty years ago this week, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died at his residence in Warm Springs, Georgia. His wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, made several appearances on MEET THE PRESS. Here she is in 1956 speaking very much in the Roosevelt tradition.

(Videotape, September 16, 1956):

MR. NED BROOKS (NBC News):
Our guest is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. For years, Mrs. Roosevelt has led the list of the world's most admired women and her views on public affairs are followed by many millions of people through her syndicated newspaper column.

MR. RICHARD CLURMAN (Newsday): Mrs. Roosevelt, I wondered if you could tell us what you think are the principal issues in this campaign? What separates the Democratic and the Republican Party?

MRS. ROOSEVELT: Well, I think the principal issue really is whether you are prepared to do anything new. At present, we have a government where there is prosperity primarily in big business which does seep down to a certain extent, but that has not proved always to be lasting, and I think you will find that small farmers and small businessmen are feeling that life is not quite as easy as they thought it was. Now, I think one of the basic issues is whether the Democrats actually are prepared to think of the individual and to have new ideas as to how you broaden your base of well-being in the country and how you make life more worth living for everybody. So I think if you compare what we have with what many other nations have, we have much to be thankful for, but that does not mean that we should be satisfied to know that there are any of our people who do not have what I call a really good life and we still have a fifth of the nation that does not have.

(End videotape)

MR. RUSSERT: Eleanor Roosevelt 49 years ago. We'll be right back.