

12 Eleanor, FDR

September 1, 2022

117.

Lights shift back to FDR and ELEANOR for the remainder of the scene.

ELEANOR

Franklin, what the hell was that!?

FDR

It can't be Upton Sinclair,
Eleanor.

ELEANOR

Bullshit!

FDR

Look, I don't like Frank Merriam
either, but what's done is done.
And that's the end of it.

ELEANOR

I wasn't aware I had married a
coward. Well, if you're not brave
enough to endorse Upton, I will!

FDR

NO YOU WILL NOT!

This eruption stops her cold.

FDR

You will not endorse Upton
Sinclair. I have worked too hard
for too long for some socialist
prick to de-rail the New Deal and
everything I have done for this
country.

ELEANOR

Ha! You're scared of him, aren't
you?

FDR

I'm not scared of anyone.

ELEANOR

You know, I couldn't figure out
why the hell Merriam would support
the New Deal. But now it's all
coming together. You're thinking
about '36, aren't you? You think
Sinclair could run and beat you.

FDR

Believe whatever your little heart
desires, but you must promise me
you will not endorse Upton
Sinclair. Eleanor!

ELEANOR

...fine. I promise.

ELEANOR turns to leave.

FDR

Where are you going?

ELEANOR

I'm going to get some tea. Maybe a
doughnut. Or do I need your
permission to do that now, too?

ELEANOR stares him down and then exits without another
word. FDR sits in silence for a moment, unsure of the
decision he has made. We move to: