

Breaking the Precedent

Read Richard Moe's article "Why (and How) FDR Ran for His Third Term" on George Mason University's History News Network site: <http://hnn.us/article/152895>

Then answer the following questions:

1. What specific plans had Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) made for after his retirement, originally scheduled for January 1941?
2. Why did FDR begin to waver on his resolution to retire in 1940?
3. What became FDR's "loophole" to his resolution to retire in 1940?

4. Describe FDR's general decision making method.

5. What were the possible outcomes of this method?

6. Do you think this is a valid method of making decisions? Why or why not?

7. Describe your decision-making method.

8. How did staying silent on his decision whether or not to retire benefit FDR?

9. How did FDR's "solitary nature" impact his decision making?

10. Describe the circumstances under which FDR eventually resolved to run again.

11. When did he finally tell someone that he was going to run for a third term?

12. How did Felix Frankfurter feel about FDR's running for a third term?

13. How does Frankfurter's response align with the arguments over "re-eligibility" at the Constitutional Convention?

14. Do you agree with Frankfurter's analysis of the situation in 1940? Why or why not?

15. Should FDR have broken the two-term precedent set by Washington?