

Platform on Which Indiana Democracy Stands, Adopted at State Conclave

The full text of the Democratic State platform follows:

We endorse the Administration of Woodrow Wilson. When the impartial history of our time is written his name and fame will be placed with the foremost of the world's greatest men. The ideals for which he stood, and the great work he did, will be carried forward as far as time goes on until the nations of the world find real and lasting peace.

The Democratic party is more than ever committed to the League of Nations and Versailles Treaty. We have not failed of ratification by a Republican Senate, the predominant party would have done so long ago. The League of Nations is a masterpiece which now may be assured, our foreign markets materialized and the high ideals conceived by Woodrow Wilson realized.

The Democratic party platform of the Harding Administration is so chimerical that even its Washington authors could not name them. The good that Congress has done is not nearly so great as the harm of the policies of retrenchment inaugurated by the Wilson administration. In order to mislead the public it has cut the public service, and then, when specific deficiency appropriations have brought the grand total in excess of the Wilson estimates for the period covered.

REED BELL'S ADMINISTRATION

It is now over three and one-half years since the Armistice and the Republican administration has marked time and made no progress in aiding the country in its recovery. The only thing for relief have given unheeded world affairs remain chaotic and prosperity does not return.

And now Congress carries its efforts on two bills for higher tariffs, and a law for taxes on retail sales in place of the excess profits income tax, both of which are now introduced. The targets of the masses are put them completely at the mercy of the profiteers who have so ruthlessly plundered them in the past.

A divided Senate and House is essential to bring prosperity to the Nation.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

The Republican National and State Administrations have been the largest army of unemployed in the history of the Nation. The other—a stupendous waste.

We pledge our party to reduce both: By constructive legislation and reduced taxation give opportunity to capital and labor to work and to change the many laws under which these unnecessary officers are employed.

RASTON AND MARSHALL

We especially call the attention of the voters to the record made by the Raston and Marshall administration by Thomas E. Marshall. To the splendid administration of Governor Raston, under whose four year term the State debt was fully paid and the State's financial control will again be safe. Therefore the Democratic party pledges itself to restore it by necessary legislation to its original purpose and standard. If Raston is reelected for another term we have so weakened its usefulness that this cannot be done we pledge its abolition.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The success or failure of the public service commission depends on its administration of the law. Under Governor Raston the commission rendered excellent service for the public welfare. The present tendency of this board in such proceedings has compelled local authorities to abandon entirely many buildings which could have been restored to usefulness for a small part of the cost of new buildings, and thus added to the burdens of taxation.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Any necessary public utility is entitled to fair return on its bonafide investment, but should be compelled to furnish adequate service to the people in return.

THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

The statutory duties of auditing and accounting for the State with which the law to the State board of accounts, which serves the public power, and not the people. We believe that bureaucracy replaces representative government and propagates paternalism. We pledge our party to the abolition of the eight units of the State, selected their domestic civic duties and responsibilities without dictation or domination by the unrepresentative and unaccountable appointed agencies of government power.

TAXATION PARAMOUNT ISSUE IN INDIANA

The Republican party pledged the people that the increased valuation of Indiana property under the Goodrich tax law would reduce the rate of taxation collected would not be increased. It called a special session of the Legislature in 1920, and at this session placed heavy taxes on the property of the county council, taking them out of the hands of the State board. As soon as the election was over, the session of 1921 repealed all of the special session and placed all such hearings again in the hands of the State tax board and made its decision final. Likewise it placed the same ranking of rates with the State tax board, and the same ranking of home rule relating to taxation, bond issues and local tax rates was taken from the people and centralized in the State tax board. We now know that the amount of our taxes has doubled. And the Republican party with full knowledge of its misrepresentation of this law, and the fact that it is now silent on this question in Indiana, it has by its silence confessed its satisfaction with this law. At the request of Governor Marshall we withdraw without presenting to the convention a short plank in favor of home rule.

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TAXES

The State tax law was enacted by a Democratic Legislature in 1919 and it served the people so admirably that there were few changes for improvement in the original law. In no way did it interfere with local self-government.

The Republican administration's unwarmed perversion of the law granted by this law has resulted in making the tax board one of original power, and it has denied all local authority over taxes. Authority was shown on the tax board that was not intended by the original law nor permitted by the Constitution.

We pledge the Democratic party to repeal the Goodrich tax law and to restore the tax board to its original status, and expand and equalize, to the end that taxes may be reduced and the

people of every community permitted to govern themselves.

LIMIT ON TAXES

In order to check this orgy of bond issues and extravagant expenditures we favor the enactment of a law that will make it necessary to submit all bond issues over a certain limit amount to the people for their ratification and we oppose a tax limit on taxes collected last year more than the total amount of taxes collected a dozen years ago.

STATE REFORMATORY

The State high school system spent more than the single year of 1921 than all the State taxes collected in any one year of the Raston administration. Created for a laudable purpose, this department has failed to be an example of Republican politicians in a race to provide favored contractors and supply houses with the result that millions of dollars have been paid without adequate return.

The maintenance of gravel and stone roads under the State highway commission is the single year of 1921 than all the State taxes collected in any one year of the Raston administration. This is from six to twelve times what the counties have in local road repair funds, which to maintain similar county roads, many of which are equally good condition. We pledge the Democratic party to put this department by the standard of the law, on a stricter economical basis, in the hands of practical road and road engineers so that the people shall have better roads at a saving of several million dollars a year.

The State highway commission has sufficient funds to pay for its proposed maintenance of the law. The money saved by that commission from inheritance taxes and from automobile license fees should be turned back to the counties that they belong.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

We favor such legislation as will limit the powers of the State board of health in the arbitrary condemnation of entire communities for tuberculosis. The present tendency of this board in such proceedings has compelled local authorities to abandon entirely many buildings which could have been restored to usefulness for a small part of the cost of new buildings, and thus added to the burdens of taxation.

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We pledge our party to the abolition of the eight units of the State, selected their domestic civic duties and responsibilities without dictation or domination by the unrepresentative and unaccountable appointed agencies of government power.

THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

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