



The Indianapolis Times

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Hoover's Reply
President Hoover replied to his critics Tuesday night. It was his first campaign effort. It was a fighting speech. As such, it stimulated hope in the breasts of his followers.

But his defense aroused more sympathy than conviction. He was trying the difficult task of defending a record of failure. He and his party took credit for prosperity. Now they are given credit for the crash.

It may be just or unjust—and we believe Mr. Hoover, with all his faults, is blamed for too much—but there is an element of retribution about the public's attitude toward the administration.

Some of his defense rang true. His leadership did help to keep us on the gold standard. He did fight the bonus. He did assist in fending off flat money.

He did help to stop the financial panic, check bank failures, and open frozen credit channels. He deserved praise for that.

But that is not enough. And it is the tragedy of Mr. Hoover that he can not see that it is not enough. He still wants to pour in relief from the top, expecting it all to trickle down to the bottom—from the banker down to the breadline.

Three years of that method have failed to bring industrial or agricultural revival. Mr. Hoover has exhausted his resources. All he can do now is to ask people to have hope and pray.

He talks of more tariffs for the farmers, but he should know, as they know from terrible experience with the present Hoover rates, that the high tariff is not a cure, but a curse.

He talks of more credit, but he should know, as they know, that what the farmer and home owner and business man and worker needs is not help to get further into debt, but help to get out of debt.

He talks of opposing cancellation of foreign debts, but he should know, as they know, that these debts are not being paid now and will not be paid in the near future—if ever. About the only new thing he offered Tuesday night was to destroy the Hoover farm stabilization machinery, which has failed.

When the President attacked the Democratic party on the basis of its weak record in the last congress, he was more effective. On that record, there is basis for the President's hot rebuke of the Democratic party's legislative leadership. The country well might hear more of the same.

The Des Moines speech will have served a useful purpose if it puts the Democratic campaigners on the defensive long enough to make them take stock of their own party's manifest shortcomings as demonstrated in the last session of congress. The Democratic spokesmen have the feeling of victory now; it is time they were brought to consider the gravity of the responsibility they are seeking to take upon themselves.

The flight of the President who traveled into the midwest to defend his record and defy his critics should furnish them with sufficient warning that it is a hollow prize for which they are reaching if they are not prepared to meet the problems under which the country nearly is so prostrated.

Roosevelt and Smith

The reconciliation between Smith and Roosevelt had to come. They have been friends for a long time. Smith helped to make Roosevelt. It is fitting that he now help Roosevelt toward the presidency.

For he can help—not so much by his slashing attacks on the administration, such as his convention speech Tuesday night. Other lesser men can do that almost as well, because the Republican record of failure speaks for itself.

But Smith, we hope, can add a definiteness to the Roosevelt campaign which too often has been lacking in Roosevelt himself. Smith can not be other than forthright. He always has been that way.

The wisdom of Al Smith and the courage of Al Smith should be of the greatest service to Franklin Roosevelt.

Watch These Candidates

No voter should permit his interest in candidates for president, senator or governor obscure the fact that the candidates for the legislature will make the laws under which the people of this state must live.

In this country most of the candidates have made their records. They have voted on such matters as regulation of holding companies for utilities, upon the curbing of loan sharks, upon the rights of labor to protection in industry.

While taxation now holds the attention of the citizens, largely because taxes are so difficult to pay, the fact remains that the ordinary family is taxed more for the services of utilities than is paid for government. The right of cities to own and operate these utilities must be made easier.

The small loan problem is still to be settled. In the special and the regular sessions, proposals to reduce the burden upon those who can find no other source of credit were defeated through the manipulation of a lobby that had nothing to its credit for either ethics or decency.

When the candidate for the legislature asks your vote, find out what he proposes to do about these matters.

Ask him how he stands on an income tax as a means of raising revenue to relieve property and raise the necessary funds to maintain schools, policemen, firemen and the other servants of organized society.

Party tickets alone do not count. Look at the records, and even when the records are good, ask for new pledges in your own interest.

A Popular Amendment

Alabama's ratification of the lame duck amendment to the Constitution brings one-third of the states into line behind this vital proposal for strengthening representative government.

The celerity with which legislatures are approving this amendment in the first year of its submission is the best possible evidence that the reform long has been needed, and wisely conceived.

No state has rejected the proposal or refused to act on it, in spite of the fact that most legislative sessions this year have been emergency ones, called to meet other urgent problems.

Representative government has been criticised more harshly this year than ever before in this country. It has been called bungling, inefficient, liable to manipulation, incapable of acting rapidly enough in a crisis.

The lame duck amendment is an answer to many of these charges. It puts elected officials into power two months after the people have voted, instead of thirteen months afterward. It guarantees that defeated representatives shall not be able to legislate with an eye, in some cases, to future jobs, rather than to public duty.

It gives congress the right to remain in session

M. E. Tracy

Says:

History Contains Few Examples of a Nation Sacrificing Leadership So Quickly or Uselessly as Has the United States Since 1919.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—The campaign still is dumb regarding foreign problems. Neither presidential candidate seems particularly interested in this all-important field.

This is strange, considering the responsibilities a President faces in it and the power he can exercise.

One can only guess why Mr. Hoover and Mr. Roosevelt are so coy when it comes to war debts, Russia, and the Manchurian crises. If the depression is of world-wide origin and if recovery depends on world-wide remedies, such subjects are worthy of discussion in connection with remedial plans.

Farm relief obviously is impossible, unless we cease to produce a surplus, or find a market for it. Industry can not hope to get back on its feet as long as foreign trade remains at its present low level.

Thousands of American laborers are out of work because this country is not getting its rightful share of Russian purchases. The idea that this nation can be revitalized by its people living off one another is preposterous.

Foreign relations and foreign trade played a big part in producing hard times, which means that they must be made to play an equally big part in restoring good times.

The tariff, of course, is a keystone in the arch of our gradual isolation. It must be revised downward to set the right fashion, if not for other reason.

The tariff, however, is but one phase of a policy which has set us apart from the rest of the world and made our country a common target for all forms of envy and retaliation.

Useless Sacrifice Made

HISTORY contains few examples of a nation sacrificing leadership so quickly or uselessly as has the United States since 1919.

The miserable performance goes back to partisan politics.

Republican leaders made up their minds to beat Wilson and rejected a great program of world stabilization to accomplish it. It was a tragedy of the first magnitude, yet not one of those leaders comprehended as much.

They were out to win a campaign, and that was sufficient to blind them to consequences of a monumental blunder.

When this government refused to sit down at the council table with other governments, it began to brew the bitter draught from which all humanity is suffering today.

The present depression was born of the stupid, mistaken policy for which Harding stood and which has characterized the two succeeding administrations.

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How Does Roosevelt Stand?

PRESIDENT HOOVER can be excused from discussing foreign affairs, because his record speaks for itself. This is not the case with Governor Roosevelt, who comes before the country as champion of a new order.

It is absurd to suppose that Governor Roosevelt looks upon foreign affairs as unimportant, in any program of recovery. It is equally absurd to suppose that he hopes to do anything of constructive value without taking them into account.

Such being the case, his comparative silence is little less than amazing. Not only the people of this country, but people throughout the world, would like to know what he has in mind regarding those problems which plague the international horizon.

Would he continue to refuse a conference with Russia? Would he go on proposing one moratorium after another on European debts? Would he be content to make academic suggestions with regard to Manchuria?

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