

Address of Honorable John E. Fogarty, Representative of Second Congressional District, over Station WGAN, at 7:15 P.M., October 24, 1944.

The G.O.P., because it is conscious of the fact that it faces almost certain defeat in another Presidential Election, is resorting to frayed and shopworn tricks that were the stock in trade of political campaigners in the gas-light era.

There is, on every hand, the constant preaching of fear. The Nation is threatened with dire consequences if the Democratic Administration should be returned to office. Figures are distorted - half-truths are given the weight of gospel - and phrases are plucked here and there and used in a manner that closely approaches deliberate falsehood. We are told the Pillars of Free Government will fall - Dictatorship ~~will~~ be established - Fascism, Communism, Socialism - every other ~~ism~~ - will be the order of the day, if our President is given a vote of confidence. Gloom is everywhere - success is impossible.

Such tactics are reminiscent of the threats that grass would grow in the streets of our principal cities when it was apparent the Nation had determined to rid itself of the incompetence of the Hoover regime. Such tactics do nothing to aid the voter in arriving at the decision he must make on November 7th. They merely establish the truth of the assertion that the G.O.P. is a desperate, mentally bankrupt, political organization, which can offer the American people nothing further than the promise the New Deal will not be eliminated if the G.O.P. is allowed to take over the National Administration.

The Social progress which has characterized the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt is espoused by all G.O.P. campaigners - our President's Foreign Policy is admittedly sound and successful - and the G.O.P., lacking the common decency to uphold our President as a leader among the men of the

world -- resorts to a campaign of vilification and ridicule -- seeking if possible to break down the respect and admiration of our President which is shared by all peoples everywhere.

The most common attack, over the radio, in the press, and out of the mouths of G.O.P. campaigners, is the charge of communism. We are promised that our President's re-election will bring an end to free Government -- that it will sound the death-knell of private enterprise and individual initiative. I am included in that charge -- and were it not vicious in intent -- it would in truth be ridiculous.

I have been referred to as a friend of labor. It has been charged that my only interests are labor -- but no effort is made to define that word labor, nor is it possible to determine who is meant by these derogatory references. All are grouped in the one category - "A noisy minority".

I readily admit I have tried hard to be a friend of the working men and women of the District I have the honor to represent. My principal concern has been, and for that matter, my principal concern still is, jobs. If I am not very much mistaken -- that, also, is the primary concern -- or should be the primary concern -- of everyone interested in the future of our Country, whether he be a business man, a professional man, or a common laborer.

I am firmly of the opinion that no one class of our citizens can prosper at the expense of another -- nor is it possible for any one class of our citizens to enjoy security -- and at the same time be completely unconcerned with the well-being of all other classes of our citizenry.

It would be far better if we gave up the practice of hanging tags and labels on each other and thought of ourselves as Americans interested primarily in promoting the well-being of all Americans. Then, perhaps, we could see ourselves in true perspective; I am sure we can all agree, we would certainly know what we are striving for, and our actions would be united in a



common effort.

It is the poorest sort of folly to imagine even for a moment that the people referred to as labor are not interested in Private Enterprise — or that they would lend their support to the election of a President who was not interested in private enterprise. A moment's consideration makes it quite plain that the working men and women of this state, and for that matter, of the Nation, are vitally concerned with private enterprise.

One of the reasons for the very existence of Trade Unions, from the time of their inception, has been to win the right of collective bargaining. There would be no purpose in that right were it not for the existence of private employment. It is private enterprise that provides employment. It is in the prosperity of private industry that labor finds its highest activity, finds its fulfillment as a social function.

However, the working man and woman, when he speaks out in behalf of private enterprise, does not mean ruthless exploitation. Certainly he does not mean that he advocates a return to the "l'assés faire" that marked the 1920's. He does not intend to support candidates who advocate that their National Government must remain silent, no matter what the provocation, while big business concentrates on amassing huge profits, paying the men in the shop as little as is possible, while the economic structure prepares itself for another nose-dive into depression with all its accompanying heartaches. Under no circumstances will we go back to the days of dog eat dog.

I honestly believe that business should be relieved of restrictions on its operations — to the extent that private industry can expand and develop — can help to create a brighter future — for America — and by so doing can create jobs.

However, I don't believe the National Government must be relegated to the position of a mere umpire in the economic struggle.

I don't believe our National Government should hamper the operations of business in the slightest -- so far as those operations are consistent with the common good. In fact, there are a good many business men in Rhode Island who know, from personal experience, that I have objected to red tape, and who will vouch for the fact that I have ever been at their service, and have sought for them as much freedom of operation as was possible.

It is true that today we have all sorts of regulations on business. It is also true that we have a great deal of regulations affecting our daily lives. It is safe to say the people of the country would not stand for such regulations in normal times.

The present, however, is far from normal -- the great struggle in which our Nation is involved makes the present restrictions necessary -- all of us look forward eagerly to the day when we can dispense with them forever.

To my mind that day will be here a great deal sooner -- if we all determine to espouse the cause of cooperation. The cause for which all plead so eloquently as a solution of the violent ills which beset the world; that cooperation which we believe is our sole hope for the establishment of a just and permanent peace.

Every American looks forward to the day when he can resume his normal life -- free from all but the absolutely essential restraints.

The men in our armed forces dream of the day when they can return to private employment or to private business and once more take up their old pursuits -- can plan to build a home -- raise a family -- once again promote the betterment of their communities.

The men and women in War Industries look forward to the day when they can resume the lives of ordinary humans -- free from the worries that assail the minds of mothers and fathers today.



The farmer too, looks forward to the day that is free of the orders and regulations and shortages and priorities that makes his present operations next to a nightmare.

All of us look forward to that day -- Pray God it won't be long in coming.

But even that day won't be completely free of problems. Much has been done to pave the way -- much remains to be done.

There must be jobs for our returning heroes. They are our first consideration. There must be jobs for the workers now in War Industries, as those jobs can't possibly be provided by any Administration, whether it be Democratic or Republican, without the cooperation of all Americans.

And those campaigners who content themselves with speech-making, who castigate and vilify the present administration, preaching fear and by so doing admitting they entertain doubts of our future success -- I submit to you -- offer nothing toward the accomplishment of the purpose which is your concern and my concern -- jobs.

I submit to you, whether you be inclined toward the Democratic Party, which is my Party, or toward the Republican Party, we need a lot less use of fancy phrases, such as Free Enterprise, Rugged Individualism, Private Initiative -- and a lot more evidence of a willingness to face facts.

What we need in Public Office today is the courage to face existing situations and to speak out honestly and fearlessly, with courage in the right as God gives us to see the right.

It is mighty easy to stand on the side-lines, avoiding responsibility, and then like the familiar Sunday Morning Quarterback -- issue pronouncements and manifestos declaring that all was wrong -- and pointing out where the successful path lay.

I ask you in all sincerity -- what evidence of leadership came from those who now issue their diatribes against the present administration? Stop and think for a moment -- where were these great men -- great by their own proclamations -- when the going was tough -- when all of us were worried -- when some of us had the courage to stand up for what we believe was right? Where were they in the past -- when men walked the streets of Providence -- when there wasn't a job to be had for love or money? When banks failed and the savings of a lifetime disappeared overnight -- when suicide was the order of the day -- when business after business failed? They offered then little hope -- they offered no leadership -- they refrained even from comment.

Oh - I admit there were mistakes -- but did ever any National Administration face such a task? Did ever any administration accomplish so much?

Search the record -- search in vain -- there were none of them present then -- but there are those now who boast they came to life in 1940 -- and in 1940 they refrained from killing liberal legislation. There are those who now think the people of Rhode Island owe a debt of gratitude to "veteran legislators" who became conspicuous there were people in Rhode Island during the last two years of their tenure in office.

You have heard them over the radio -- and you've read their statements in the daily press. "Nothing could have gotten by without our party's permission," they proudly declare. That it did get by, in the last two years, it would seem, is a particular favor which has been bestowed on us, the ordinary people of the State. Since when, did we have to depend on favor -- since when did our God-given rights as American citizens have to wait on the behest of any political organization -- yet they'll tell us -- we got these things in Rhode Island -- only because I -- my party's boss in the Senate -- allowed it to come to you.



Then they preach of dictation -- then they dare talk of communism -- what is such a declaration -- but the cheapest form of political aggrandisement -- it is nothing more than preaching that the State is Law -- and I am the State -- such a man condenses himself -- such a man defies the people of his State to elect him again to public office.

We need less of this -- our Country will be far better off with none of it.

If we differ, let us differ honestly. Let us refrain from indulging in falsehoods, or even worse, half-truths. We have a gigantic job on our hands -- if, in truth, we fight for freedom. Let's bring freedom and justice to our own Country, while we are at it. Let's get together and get on with the job.

Our President has led us through some mighty stormy passages. I have confidence in him, and I know that, no matter what vile charges are made against him, the average American has confidence in him. The stories we hear today are not new -- they were the common thing in Jefferson's day.

Professor John Cozser, the Ohio historian has pointed out in commenting on such stories -- "The election of Jefferson, America was told, would destroy our Government; the election of Jackson would install a despot; the election of Lincoln would destroy the Union. The amazing thing is (that) our American Government has survived the destructive influences of the Jeffersons, Jacksons, and Lincolns for over a hundred and fifty years."

After November 7th -- our beloved Country is going on to new Horizons. We haven't yet even begun to know the possibilities which are ours. We are going forward with Roosevelt to a brighter future for ourselves and for free men everywhere. It is cowardice to heap calumny on the head of

our Chief Executive today -- and then later say to the world -- they were merely campaign statements.

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