

Address of Honorable John E. Fogarty, Member of Congress, Second Rhode Island District, over Station WJAR, on Friday evening, November 3, 1944, 10:00-11:00 P.M.

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Speeches*

GOP candidates in the current campaign have already confessed their eagerness to drive wages down. But prices are to be maintained in order to provide a greater margin of profit. As wages go down, the purchasing power of the American family grows less, and we soon find a curtailment of production, there just isn't enough money around to buy everything that is produced. Then unemployment starts and with it - the competition among workers for the available jobs. In short order the working men themselves are forcing wages lower -- in their scramble to get any kind of income in order to feed their families. We saw just that happen the last time. Unemployment increased and became a snow-ball. Warnings were left unheeded, while the phony prosperity of Coolidge gathered momentum. Finally came the day of reckoning -- and the avalanche -- caused by the complete indifference of the Federal Government and Industry - swept the Nation to the brink of ruin. Americans have thanked God ever since - that there was a man available to wrest success from what in the spring of 1933 looked like complete disaster -- and Americans will never forget what Franklin D. Roosevelt did for his country. He was at that time acclaimed generally as the greatest man of his age -- but today, papers like the Journal will wilfully distort the facts, and try to tell the Americans who froze and starved in the winter of 1932 - 33, that the depression started when Roosevelt took office, and they cite with sanctimonious righteousness the words Hoover preached when men were begging -- yes, actually begging -- for bread -- "Don't let anyone tell you it couldn't be worse".

America must provide jobs -- America can provide jobs. That is the responsibility of Industry, primarily, and there isn't a government that could stop industry from providing those jobs -- even if a government wished to do

so. However - I want to state unequivocally - If Industry fails in that responsibility -- then the Government must step in and do the job.

What we need in Industry is more imagination of the kind it possessed in the days when there were genuine individualists in business. The trouble with some of them is they're so busy hating Roosevelt they don't have time to love their country.

After this war, government and private enterprise must team up to promote jobs. American business needs leaders with boldness and imagination. A whole world lies impoverished and smashed. It's the same opportunity their fathers saw, when they set out to build America.

There are unlimited opportunities for business to provide jobs. There are markets all over the world, waiting to be tapped. There are areas about to be opened to commerce which have been, hitherto, the exclusive property of International Cartels which have stifled competition and have ruined business with those areas.

Industry must be aggressive -- Government must cooperate and help wherever possible. Let me mention here -- business now has an administration that believes in and developed reciprocal trade agreements -- agreements the GOP in Washington fought bitterly against. Incidentally -- that program was hailed as an end to free government, also, just as Dewey once referred to the Lend-Lease program.

We can have prosperity and we can have security. The two go hand in hand. We can't have prosperity and unemployment. They kill each other off; And we know too, if another economic crisis threatened, the President would not hesitate to throw public works into the breach, and by so doing - he'd be protecting business - just as well as the working man and his family.

We can assure that Prosperity and full employment by the re-election of President Roosevelt — and if there are any who think the President's promise of 60,000,000 jobs is fantastic - let them remember that Dewey said just that about the President's demand in 1940 for fifty thousand planes.

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