

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC from the Second Rhode Island District, over Station WEAN, November 2, 1946.

The only argument which has been advanced - throughout the entire course of this political campaign for the election of GOP candidates - is the argument that a change is needed. The great champion of Republicanism in Rhode Island advances the argument that change is needed for changes sake.

But even then it is admitted that any change contains its element of risk.

Even the Providence Journal acknowledges that change can cause harm; that it can mean retrogression, a return to discredited precepts and policies. It can mean destruction of all social gains.

Now, I submit to you, as intelligent voters of the State of Rhode Island, that it is not enough to advocate change, merely for change's sake.

If you are business men - you do not discard faithful and experienced employees merely for the sake of change.

You do not risk the investments of your stock-holders merely to provide some new window dressing.

You would not dare incur the wrath of your board of directors - by chancing the ruination of a prosperous enterprise - merely to effect a change.

Then, what possible justification can there be for the absurd contention that a change is needed in the vast and intricate business of government - when that desire for change is merely to satisfy the desire of the outs - who want in.

But suppose the argument is accepted - then we have the very sensible suggestion of the Journal. It might be very dangerous. It might bring

retrogression. It might destroy our social gains.

As the Journal further argued - it is the responsibility of the Republican Party and of its candidates to make plain to the people which sort of change they will represent.

In determining just what will result - if this change in the Congress is made - you have one sure guide - and only one: Performance.

I ask you, in all sincerity, to recall if you will, one GOP candidate for Public Office who has cited the past performance of his party. You will recall I know, the many statements by Republican candidates that National issues were all important in this election year. You will recall that these candidates have shunned discussion of purely local issues. They have insisted on repeated references to the National Administration.

That being so - I think I am justified in referring to the performance of the Republican Party in National Affairs as the best possible guide to what can be expected, should they be permitted to take over the Congress.

The Republican Party has refused to discuss the records of Republican Members of Congress during the past year - since war ended. They have refused to make any definite commitments to you relative to their actions in the two critical years which lie immediately before us.

Therefore, I repeat - the best guide we have in determining whether or not the change should be made - is the performance of Republican Congressmen during the past year - and the performance of the last Republican administration in Washington.

The Republican Party nationally has consistently represented a policy of deliberate obstruction. The last Republican administration consistently represented a policy of indifference.

I submit to you - the People of the United States cannot afford to risk the outcome of either obstruction or indifference. Yet that is the calculated risk we run if we support Republican candidates on Tuesday next.

I said the Last Republican administration was one given over to indifference and a complete lack of positive action. The record clearly establishes such to be the case.

The disastrous depression of 1930 did not just happen. The circumstances which were to culminate in the shattering collapse took a long time growing. Like a cancerous growth in the economic and political body of this democracy, injustice and greed sapped the strength of the Nation, forced bread-winners into the streets - permitted slums to grow and swell, forced the wheels of industry to slow and stop - and ultimately - brought the economy of the nation to a complete standstill.

Many years before the depression the signs of approaching disaster were ample. Leading economists - employed by the Wall Street Journal and other financial publications - warned of approaching catastrophe.

Unemployment grew with each passing year - but the country was at the mercy of a government that was completely indifferent to its needs and desires.

Monopolies thrived and with their growth crushed the life out of small business.

They bred and fostered price-fixing agreements - trade regulation arrangements - cartels and restrictive practices. In their selfish greed they sought the increase of their own wealth - regardless of the disastrous effect upon the country.

Even the complete collapse of our industrial activity was not

enough to whip the Republican Party into action. It procrastinated - it dodged - it denied. It promised that prosperity was just around the corner - while wealth retired into its secure fortresses - and poverty and hunger stalked every nook and cranny of the land.

Could it happen again? For the answer you examine carefully the speeches which have been made by the Republican Party's candidates in the present election. You will find there not one concrete proposal for action - except the kind of action designed to force a deadlock in the government's operations.

Intent - not upon the proper functioning of the legislative branch of the Federal Government - the GOP, motivated solely by political expediency, seeks to do everything within its power to embarrass the present administration.

The most outspoken Republican campaigner on this score was Joe Martin who spoke over a radio station in Providence. He came closest to the exposition of the Republican Party's program, should they be allowed to control the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Joe Martin promised to strip, remove, curtail and repeal the effective provisions of all manner of legislative enactments.

He promised a complete program of negation. He threatened every federal agency with a top-to-bottom investigation of all its activities during the life of the New Deal. What can this portend but a complete stalemate in the functions of Government?

Under our system of Government, the Executive and the Legislative branches of Government are independent - but related so closely that there must be cooperation between the two.

We have here, not merely a threat that cooperation will be difficult

to obtain. We have a promise that cooperation will be forgotten and in its place will be substituted a policy of deliberate opposition, solely for the purpose of gathering some strength for the 1948 Presidential campaign.

The GOP campaigners have spent day after day - and night after night - viewing with alarm all the activities of the present administration. As a substitute for what they allege are the shortcomings of that administration - what do they promise you? What constructive proposals have they made? What concrete program have they advanced?

Search the record and you search in vain. They offer nothing but intemperate criticism - and they promise nothing but a stalemate.

In the welter of campaign statements - from one side or another - it may seem almost impossible to separate the wheat from the chaff. It may be impossible to evaluate properly the irritations which were the natural associate of a war-time economy. For this reason, there may be many independent voters who are not quite sure just what issues are involved in this - the first post-war election.

Permit me to submit one most important issue which must be resolved by your votes on Tuesday.

Outweighing, in my mind, all considerations of social justice, economic activity, and the method in which we pursue these aims, is the question which must be answered by the independent voter. It is simply - whether a vote for Republican candidates for the Senate and the House will not invite a two-year deadlock - a governmental paralysis that will last at least until the next President is chosen.

If the Republicans win control of one or both Houses of Congress, administrative responsibility will not go along with it. In that event, the

President will have responsibility but not power; Congress will have the power without responsibility.

Such deadlocks have occurred before and the results should cause every independent voter to pause and consider the consequences of voting Republican on Tuesday.

An outstanding example of the deadlock which will result from such a situation is Wilson's failure to win a Democratic Congress in 1918.

I am sure you will agree that there are very few Americans who are not wholeheartedly behind the United Nations. Many, if not all, believe this may be man's last hope to prevent a war to obliterate our civilization. We don't want its promise shattered.

Yet, in 1918, we had the same opportunity. Woodrow Wilson had formulated a proposal similar to that which we have today. The world waited eagerly for the enthusiastic cooperation of the United States. Woodrow Wilson became a martyr to this cause of International peace - but all his efforts failed, solely because the GOP took over the control of Congress in 1918. Their purpose then - was to prevent Wilson achieving success in anything. Their actions were all guided by the hope a Republican could be elected President in 1920.

Many prominent Republicans of that day had espoused the cause of the League of Nations and World Peace, but their voices were puny in comparison to the political opportunists who sought only the Party's advancement - at the cost of future peace and stability.

The choice is yours on next Tuesday. We can have two years of active, whole-hearted support for the United Nations. We need that time to get it operating with such strength that it can resist the later attacks of those

who would undermine its noble efforts.

Or we can have a wave of politics first - good government after - and make of the United Nations a political football, destined to a fate similar to that which destroyed the effectiveness of the last International organization.

We can have progressive - effective government during the next two years, during which time we can work out all the kinks in the reconversion picture - and get on with the job of building a prosperous and contented Country. Or we can have stalemate - political opportunism, and a deliberate campaign to create confusion in order not to help the country - but to hurt the Democratic Party.

Whatever your choice - I urge you - from the bottom of my heart - Vote on Tuesday. Many people of other lands look this way for example - for leadership. Their hopes are centered in the success of our Democratic system.

There are some abroad who criticize and endeavor to discredit our system of Government. Our own personal actions are always the best answer to both.

No matter what the outcome of Tuesday's election is to be - I pray fervently that the decision will be made by the overwhelming numbers of American citizens. It is more than important - it is vital - that we demonstrate clearly that our system does function properly - that all our people are interested in their government - are interested in the Democratic system. We can only prove that to others without our borders by voting on election day.