

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC from the Second Rhode Island District, November 4, 1946 over Station WEAN, Providence.

My Dear Friends:

Tomorrow the people of the United States have an opportunity to demonstrate to all the world that the Democratic system under which we function is the best system of government yet devised by man. All over this globe the leaders of men, the international opportunists, and the plain people of every Nation, look to the United States. We have some critics abroad, just as we have millions abroad, whose sole hope for the future lies in the prosperity and greatness of the United States.

In all seriousness, I implore you - let nothing interfere with the exercise of your franchise in this all-important election. No matter what inconvenience you may be caused by going to the polls - the risk you run in staying away from the polls is far greater.

I am confident that you have already determined what candidates you will support at the polls. In supporting them you are hoping they will be victorious over their opponents. It is vitally important that the candidates who are victorious tomorrow - shall have an overwhelming plurality. For only thus will it be clearly evident which course of action is selected by the American electorate.

In closing this campaign. I wish to submit to you just one proposition. Simply stated it is this - the election of Democratic members of Congress will insure progress toward completion of the job of reconversion. It will guarantee that our present prosperity will shower its benefits on all the people of our land. There will be no halt - no hesitation. All will enjoy the fruits of a genuinely prosperous era.

The election of Republican Congressmen will mean a halting and

stumbling recession in the progress which is already underway. The practical result of a Republican Congress will be concentration on politics rather than concentration on progress. It is only natural that the Republican Party, if it controls the next Congress, will be concerned - almost to the exclusion of everything else - on embarrassment of the Democratic Party. For at least two more years we have a Democratic Chief Executive. In the field of hard-headed realistic politics, it will be to the advantage of Republicans in Congress to oppose whatever suggestions or recommendations are made by the President. Their thoughts and activities will be concentrated on 1948, and the welfare of the Country will suffer while the various elements within the Republican Party - the Tafts - the Brickers - the Warrens and the Deweys - struggle for control of the Republican Party machinery.

I submit this to you in all seriousness, because I believe it is exactly the risk we run - if Republicans are elected to Congress.

We are moving into a most prosperous period. The New York Times yesterday stated "All the charts, tables and forecasts quite plainly say that the American people are enjoying a material prosperity unparalleled in their history". There are still some irritations due to shortages in some lines - but these stem from the fact - that while every industry is shunning, while 58 million are employed turning out all the goods and supplies we need - we haven't yet been able to supply enough to go around. This points to a lengthy period of prosperity - this can be made permanent prosperity - if we don't get bogged down in the political squabbling of Republican politicians who want the Presidential nomination in 1948.

Finally, I urge you to consider carefully the importance of your ballot tomorrow. Vote in the manner you honestly believe is best for your country - and for your family. But - whatever your decision may be - vote early. By your vote you will be demonstrating your faith in our country - and

in our democratic system.

For myself - I am grateful for all the courtesies which have been extended to me during the course of this campaign. The voters of the Second Congressional District have been more than kind in the manner in which they have accepted all the campaigners during the past few weeks. It demonstrates a determination to make our two party system function.

The radio and the press have been splendid in the manner in which they have handled all the campaign oratory and statements. For this I am grateful.

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