

Address delivered by Congressman John E. Fogarty, 2nd Congressional District, Rhode Island, over station WJAR at 6:30 PM Saturday, October 30, 1948.

Unity in government is a wonderful expression, It is also a wonderful idea. But the unity which every American citizen wants to see in his government can't be promoted by the repetition of pretty catch phrases. Nor can it be accomplished by wishful thinking.

To achieve the unity we all feel is so important, we shall have to make up our minds that the cause is worth the effort, and buckle down to a positive program of promoting prosperity at home and peace abroad.

This is a nation of one hundred and forty million Americans. Every last one - whether he be a mill-hand or president of a gigantic banking establishment - has an interest in his government which must be recognized and protected.

During the war years we saw many demonstrations of the type of unity which can be welded by the people of America when they are convinced of the justice of their cause.

The victory which was won by the brave men and women of our armed forces would not have been possible without that spirit of cooperation.

In government circles, in business industry and in the ranks of labor - there was a unity of purpose and a unity of effort.

We are engaged now in a struggle to test whether this Nation can satisfy the needs of its citizens, politically, socially, economically - and at the same time exert a dominant influence for good in international relations.

I am sincere when I say to you that this test is a vitally important one. And it is not sufficient that lip-service be paid to the cause of unity. The cause must be clearly understood by all - and all must know where their leaders stand on every issue - domestic and foreign - which can have any possible effect on this test and on the unity which the test demands.

Now, I submit to you - the position of the Democratic Party and its candidates for office - is clearly and sharply defined, in both foreign and domestic fields.

I submit to you, further, that the position of the GOP and many of its candidates - is not clearly defined. In fact, I am sure you will agree, the position of the GOP is not known to many of its men who are seeking high office.

I can understand that some people may be inspired with confidence because of a man's personal appearance, or bearing, or background.

But, in the present circumstances there is ample evidence to establish the fact that the GOP cannot unify the legislative and executive branches of your Government.

The unity which receives so much attention from some political campaigners would be totally absent if the reins of the Government of the United States should be placed in the hands of the GOP.

Consider for just a moment the men who will - if the GOP organizes Congress - be responsible for all the legislation which clears the House of Representatives.

No new-comer to the national scene is Joe Martin, Speaker of that House.

Trained in the hard school of rugged politics - Joe Martin can be expected to ride with a tight rein on his colleagues in the lower branch of the National Legislature. For evidence of the type of rule he maintains - one has only to look at the record of the 80th Congress.

Regardless of your attitude on labor legislation, social legislation, taxes, revenue or other matters of interest, you must recall that no piece of legislation was allowed to clear the House - unless it met with his complete approval.

One outstanding example of the attitude of Republican leadership was the measure to provide for Federal Aid to education.

This legislation had almost unanimous support from educators and socially minded people all over the country. It doesn't take much effort, I am sure,

to recall the harrassed lot of school teachers; forced to maintain a high standard of living and performance - always under expense to continue their own education in order to stay abreast of constantly rising standards, these teachers were really the forgotten men and women of the past few years.

They are expected to live in fine homes, and conduct themselves in a manner which is beyond reproach. Yet - when hundreds of thousands of leading citizens in every walk of life pleaded with the House leadership to enact a bill which would provide state governments with federal funds in order to assist these teachers - the Republican leadership said NO. Statements appeared frequently in the daily press. I am sure you can recall them. During the regular sessions and during the special session of the 80th Congress, many of us appealed sincerely for federal aid to education. We insisted we had a right at least to have the measure brought to the floor - so all could stand up and be counted. The measure was never cleared for House action because the Speaker would not permit it.

Consider housing - the Senate of the United States had passed a housing bill. I admit it was not what I would have liked to see. But it was legislation. There was a hope the bill could be improved on in debate in the House of Representatives. I know of my own personal knowledge that the Speaker's offices were stormed in an attempt to get this measure reported for debate. During the closing hours of the special session - while the GOP platform Committee sat in Philadelphia preparing a platform which would assert the Republican Party stood for adequate housing for all Americans - GOP leadership refused to allow elected representatives of the people of the United States to vote on this subject which is so important to so many people.

second in command is the GOP leader in the House, Charlie Halleck - who thought he was making a good deal - when he delivered the Indiana Republican delegation to Dewey - in return for the promise of Halleck's nomination as the GOP candidate for Vice President.

Charlie was out-maneuvered and went back to Indiana an embittered man.

If the GOP again organizes the House of Representatives - do you need to stretch your imagination to picture Halleck's attitude toward a particular Republican in the white House.

Disputing with Halleck for second place in the GOP high command of the House of Representatives is Leo Allen - another trained in the hard school of rugged politics.

Allen is Chairman of the House Rules Committee. As such, Allen dictates what measures will come to the floor and which will not - that is after they have been allowed out of other committees.

Throughout the 80th Congress, Leo Allen has proven himself a faithful servant - not of the American people - but of the GOP and the National Association of Manufacturers and other wealthy lobbies which daily patrol the halls of Congress.

Martin, Halleck and Allen not only threaten the unity which is so vital to all our people in these days of actual stress, they guarantee that there will be no unity if they are returned to their positions of power - and a Republican is installed in the white House.

Why - for evidence of my contention, that unity will be impossible between Dewey and the Republicans in the House - you have only to turn to the New York Times of Friday.

There you will find the statements made this week by Congressman John Taber - Republican Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives. Mr. Taber indicates that Dewey, if elected, would have to come around to Taber's way of thinking if he wants to get any work done.

You know this nation is committed to the Marshall Plan. It is forward-looking, honest and deserving of the whole-hearted support of every genuine American.

But John Taber deliberately planned to make it ineffective when he deliberately ordered a cut of the billions of dollars from the European Recovery plan during its first year of operation.

Remember, the European Recovery Plan is not set up to go on indefinitely. The funds must be provided by the Congress. And the House of Representatives in 1949 will have to decide whether the plan is to be continued - or we are to return to the folly of isolationism.

If the GOP again organizes the Congress - and they have their party established in the White House - then John Taber will have a major share in the determination of that decision.

Martin, Halleck and Allen, no doubt, are men of excellent personal characters. But, the point I want to make with you is just this.

It is easy and popular to denounce Communism. It is easy and popular to talk about our love for peace all over the world. It is also easy and very popular to talk about unity.

But, facts speak louder than words. The record is the best standard for judging future performance.

It is imperative that we continue our efforts to restore the Nations of Europe to a sound and stable footing. Only so can we continue to contain Communism and halt the march of the hordes of Red Russia over all of Western Europe.

No matter what fine phrases may be sounded in this election campaign - the Republican leadership in the Congress cannot be counted on to go along with this policy.

Though we concede the importance of our efforts in Europe and the rest of the world - it will matter little if we vigorously denounce Communism - and neglect to attend to the economic conditions which threaten the stability of our democracy at home. To oppose communism effectively - then we must make our brand of democracy work.

social security must be broadened - and in this connection I ask you to ignore the promises and remember the facts - that the GOP leadership in the House killed the extension of social security and denied its protection to salesmen,

insurance men and many others who are good Americans and deserving of its protection.

The present ridiculous minimum wage must be raised from sixteen dollars a week to a decent level. The Executive and legislative branches of the government must be constantly alert to economic factors which spell trouble. And this, the GOP leadership has refused to attend to. It has branded such plans and programs as "socialistic".

All of us must put our shoulders to the wheel and realize that this is our country - this is our world. We can shape its destiny to the end that all Americans can enjoy a higher standard of living and all peoples everywhere can enjoy the fruits of freedom and prosperity. To do that, we must be united in purpose and effort.

And the GOP leadership in the House - Martin, Halleck and Allen - cannot promote that unity.

I submit to you - there is too much at stake - regardless of our attitude toward persons or parties - to place the reins of government - to give the deciding voice in domestic and international affairs - into the hands of the GOP leadership now entrenched in the lower branch of Congress.