

PATHFINDER

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Third Term: No

COLONEL BALLOT strode up Main Street. In front of the bakery he stopped long enough to ask a young man his opinion concerning a third term for President Roosevelt.

"Roosevelt's my man!" was the answer. "If he won't run for a third term we'll draft him."

Waiting for the street-car at the corner of Main and Third stood another young man, and the Colonel asked him the same question.

"No third term!" was the answer this time. "Not for Roosevelt or anybody else."

When he reached the home of his friend Joe Doaks, the Colonel was still totaling on his cuff the nation's replies.

"Yes, indeed," said the Colonel, handing Joe his walking-stick and his broad-brimmed hat, "this is an issue on which there seems to be no middle ground."

"What issue is that, Colonel?" asked Joe.

"The subject of a third term for President Roosevelt," the Colonel replied. "All week I've been listening to positively-put opinions on both sides, with nary a hint of compromise."

Colonel Ballot showed his friend the figures. "Notice, Mr. Doaks," the Colonel pointed out, "that less than two per cent of the persons I interviewed said they were undecided or had no opinion to express—and I talked with representative people at every cross-roads in the nation.

"Actually," the Colonel continued, "there are two distinct lines of thought represented in these percentages: opinions regarding Roosevelt and opinions regarding a third term. For

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the most part, those who expressed themselves in favor of a third term were in favor of a third term *for President Roosevelt*. It was a matter, they felt, that could not be treated apart from its setting. It depended upon the man and the times. Roosevelt, they said, was the right man and the present state of affairs both at home and abroad made it imperative, in their opinion, for the right man to carry on for a third term."

"What of this 68.6 per cent of the voters who disapproved of a third term—including even a majority of the Democrats?"

"They were divided with respect to their feelings about the President, but united almost to a man in their disapproval of *a third term* for anyone. Many of them were careful to explain that they were expressing a moral feeling in this matter, which was quite apart from any personal feeling they had concerning President Roosevelt. They referred to two terms as an American tradition. They were prepared, they said, to uphold this tradition at the polls if necessary."

"I can see from these percentages," said Doaks, "that there must be something more involved than the mere political business of taking sides. What's your opinion, Colonel? How about interviewing yourself and letting me know?"

"That, sir," replied the old gentleman in his very best drawl, "is precisely what I'm not going to do. Much as I might enjoy interviewing myself, I'm not given to having opinions. Besides, the subject for today is not one you'd care to toss a coin on."

And so saying the Colonel took his leave of Joe Doaks for another week of interviewing the nation's voters for PATHFINDER's Poll of Public Opinion.