



Can This Congress Kill the New Deal?

By Senator Robert F. Wagner, N. Y. Democrat

I BELIEVE

THE Republican Party is in favor of granting to the President the powers necessary to conduct the war, but it does not propose to let the war emergency be used as an excuse for making over American life to meet the ideas of a group of brain-trusters in Washington who favor planned economy on the European model. It intends to stop the practice of delegating the power to make laws to a lot of bureau chiefs who are out of touch with the people. It believes in working through appeal to voluntary patriotism, and coming to compulsory controls only when absolutely forced. In short, it believes in putting success in this war ahead of every consideration, while maintaining in this country as far as possible the freedoms for which our boys are fighting on every continent.

The Republican Party will give unwavering and wholehearted support to the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy in carrying on the military and naval operations of the war. It will not try to run the war itself, or ask Congress to do so. It will insist, however, on adequate war production to support the men at the front, and efficient administrators to accomplish that purpose. It will bring light to bear on waste, inefficiency and duplication in war production, in lend-lease activity, and in civilian administration. It believes that it will be of substantial assistance to the war effort to eliminate all non-essential activities, and to eliminate employees where, as in many departments, they are falling over each other. Conflicting bureaus should be combined or abolished. It will insist that our manifold Government activities in South America, for instance, be operated under a single direction with the single purpose of winning the war instead of degenerating into a kind of international WPA.

The Republican Party believes in making sound plans for the post-war period both within the United States and in the world at large. It believes in the development of a complete plan for turning this country back from a war economy to a peace economy. It proposes to work out the best possible solution of the problem of unemployment, and see that the great productive ability of this country is not checked. It believes this can be done without requiring every individual workman and farmer to take orders from some Washington bureau. It favors a program of social welfare which will relieve undeserved misfortunes, a program of old age pensions, unemployment compensation, housing and medical care; but it insists that this program be worked out so that those who have to rely on Government assistance are not thereby placed in a better position than the efficient workman who raises his own family at his own expense, builds his home, and provides for old age.

It favors complete co-operation with other nations in working out a plan to insure as far as possible a permanent peace. For that purpose it is willing to make political and economic concessions to foreign nations so long as such concessions do not threaten the safety or prosperity of the people of the United States.

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THE Democratic Party is dedicated to complete and crushing victory over the Axis. To us, these are not just catch phrases. We have accepted the people's leadership, and are justifying their faith by action that speaks louder than words or promises.

To speed that victory, we will continue to mobilize all the Nation's wealth, manpower and industrial strength. An ever-expanding role will be given to the small business man and the small farmer, the real back-bone of our free enterprise system.

We will continue the greatest possible economies in non-war expenses. Already these items have been reduced by more than one-third since 1939.

We will continue our vigilant attack against the danger of inflation, placing the welfare of all the people above the interest of any group or bloc, or the selfishness of any individual.

In this total war, we will continue to maintain the highest degree of national unity among all groups, races and creeds.

President Roosevelt's foresight in world affairs helped to prepare America for defense. The New Deal's peacetime achievements gave us the strength and national morale needed to meet the crisis. These reforms provided sound banks and public credit, conserved the soil, built necessary public works, developed water power and other great natural resources. They put the profit system into healthy running condition, and protected our people, in farm and factory, by welfare and social security legislation. All these measures helped make America strong. They are doing their full part now in keeping America free.

Once the Axis forces haul down their pirate flags, peace and jobs will be the basic goals of all free men. A mere negotiated peace would rob us of the chance to reach those goals. The Democratic Party, which has always fought appeasement of the dictators, can be relied upon to fight the war through to a finish, as the first step in building the better world of the future. In that world, we believe the United Nations must work together against both military aggression and economic aggression.

The American people, under Democratic leadership, have rolled up their sleeves and broken all records in producing arms for victory. We have thus proved that free enterprise can produce enough to provide an increasing standard of decent living.

In co-operation with free men everywhere, we will usher in a great new era of pioneering, progress and expansion. In addition, every American—and especially the returning soldier—will be assured of a rock-bottom of security against ill-health, unemployment, and want in old age. Upon this foundation of assured security, the individual will be able to build a happier future for himself and his family.

These are practical objectives, but they can never be achieved by another Harding. They will be fulfilled only under the leadership of the Democratic Party, dedicated to the common man.