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President's message—

ROOSEVELT'S POWER to sway a huge portion of the nation by one of the best and most powerful radio voices the world has ever known was again demonstrated in his recent address to the congress.

It was a masterpiece of words, delivered with dramatic effect. Upon that much democrats and republicans agree.

Comment of newspapers of the nation has been interesting, with great diversity of opinion, but democratic, republican and independent newspapers are almost in unison in declaring the address to have been a campaign speech, with congress aiding in a campaign rally for the democratic party.

The San Francisco Chronicle, republican, the Rochester Times-Union, independent, both speak of the address as a political harangue. The last-named newspaper says the address embarrassed the American people because what should have been a dignified address upon the state of the union was turned into a vindictive arraignment of opponents of the administration.

While the greater number of democratic newspapers have spoken highly of the address, no republican daily of note seems to have given complete endorsement, while numerous democratic newspapers, almost damning with faint praise, together with a huge number of independent papers, make the criticism that nothing definite was offered; that, although the address was supposed to be made to congress, the time was adroitly arranged for the moment the greatest radio audience could be secured; that the address was delivered to that radio audience and no suggestions were made to congress that assembled for an address to be delivered to it; that the address, rich in human and emotional values, was lacking in statesmanship and purpose, stated nothing definite.

The Cleveland Plaindealer, independent-democratic, said the address claimed too much and admitted too little.

It is almost astonishing the number of great dailies of the country, those of both political faiths and independents, that characterized the circumstances under which the address was given as in bad taste.

THE DEFY to the republicans to repeal the major legislation of the Roosevelt administration probably was mighty good politics, especially as the republicans have been considerably weak on everything except criticism and have failed to produce a candidate who would make any kind of favorable showing in oratorical encounter with the present occupant of the White House.

The republicans might, of course, point out that the larger part of administration legislation which has not been thrown out by the supreme court, or which is not threatened with supreme court attack, was being considered during the Hoover administration.

Anyway it seems to be in poor grace for the head of the democratic administration to challenge the republicans to declare for something. The democrats declared for a lot of things four years ago, but such declarations have been as completely disregarded as if they had not been made. Does Roosevelt wish the republicans to follow that example?

THE BEST explanation of what kind of address the president made would be to say that it has the hearty endorsement of administration supporters as the greatest state paper of history and that by the republicans it is considered one of the weakest. Thus each side got exactly what it wanted.

Getting onto

Townsend bandwagon—

TOWNSENDITES already are learning one of the difficulties of handling a popular movement. This writer predicted months ago that seekers for public office would use the Townsend movement as a means for landing themselves on some governmental payroll. Other newspapers are now calling attention to this danger.

Townsendites themselves have no doubt long sensed this danger, but to guard against it is going to be most difficult. How are the Townsendites to pick the shouters who join the movement for their own selfish benefit from those who sincerely believe in the movement?

THE STAYTON MAIL is one paper which sees this danger. It says:

"There will be scores of candidates for various offices in the spring, all shouting to the house-tops that they favor the popular old age pension plan and therefore ought to be elected; some of them will be running for offices in which they could not possibly have any influence on national policies such as pensions. And some of these shouters, mark our word, will be rogues and thieves, parading under a banner in which they do not really believe."

The Mail points out how some will shrewdly take advantage of the old age pensioners. They will be candidates for state and county offices which have nothing to do with old age pensions. Such persons, if elected, will never be called upon to perform any official act which will show whether or not they are Townsendites at heart.

What can a state treasurer or a county assessor do to promote old age pensions? Yet many who do not care a whoop about old age pensions are likely to be elected to such offices because of loud-mouthed endorsement of something which as government officials they could do nothing to bring about.

Legislators and members of congress can do something about old age pensions. Their attitude on old age pensions may properly be a consideration in the campaign, but



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the idea of voting for or against any other candidate for no other reason than that he is for or against the Townsend plan may result in electing men unfit for office. Other qualifications being equal, it is to be expected that we shall vote for those who believe in the things that we do, but qualifications for office should always have serious consideration.

Whether a person is for or against the Townsend plan can have no bearing upon the kind of sheriff or state labor commissioner he would make. If Townsendites are going to vote for men solely upon the basis of whether or not they are for the Townsend plan, they should pick such candidates and beware of self starters.

The Sentinel makes these remarks because it believes many insincere unqualified persons are going to endorse the Townsend movement for the purpose of being elected to offices that have no importance so far as the movement is concerned. It has ever been so with popular movements.

Silk Creek

Jan. 7.—Sibyl Ruth spent the week end in North Bend visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Overholser entertained with a New Year's dinner. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Overholser, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Overholser, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Overholser and Ruth Tulock, Mrs. Hooker and Bessie Hooker of Lorane.

Edwin Estes, from near The Dalles, visited his mother, Mrs. Nettie Estes, during the holidays.

The Arthur Woolcott family were dinner guests at the C. E. Ruth home New Year's day.

Mr. Palleske, who had been visiting his family here during the

holidays, returned to Los Angeles Sat.

Mrs. C. E. Ruth visited a few days this week in Eugene with a daughter, Mrs. Charles Tague.

The Alvin Allen family spent New Year's day at Lee Cooley's home near Yoncalla.

Elizabeth Rhode spent three nights last week with a grandmother, Mrs. E. Fahrwald of C.G., and one night at the John Dugan home at Latham.

Mrs. J. G. Grimes was given a surprise party on her birthday Sat. night by the James Monroe family of C.G. Refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Lowrance and daughter Maurine spent New Year's day with Mr. and Mrs. Miller of Latham.

Ruth Garner of Ray, Cal., with a woman friend, visited her parents over the holidays.

L. M. Owens of Battleground, Wash., was an overnight guest at the Ernest Darnell home Mon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Grimes and daughter Grace were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Weston Allen of C.G. Sun, in honor of Mrs. Grimes' and Cora Cooley's birthdays.

The L. E. Wertz family visited Mrs. Wertz' brother in Anlauf Sun. Mr. and Mrs. Weston Allen of C.G., Mr. and Mrs. Oas Knight of Saginaw and Mr. Knight's sister from Arizona were dinner guests at the E. A. Allen home New Year's day.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Teeters spent New Year's day with Mrs. Teeters' mother, Mrs. Eliza McKibben of C.G.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson of C.G., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed of C.G. and the Muno family visited at the E. A. Allen home Sun.

Mrs. Beulah Allen purchased a model A Ford car in Eugene last week.

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