

PROPAGANDA OF PESSIMISM HAS NO PLACE IN COUNCILS OF REAL AMERICANS

Doctrine of Demagogues Seeking to Arouse and of Internationalists Seeking to Destroy—Present Day Conditions Give No Cause for Gospel of Despair and Faultfinding.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., FEB. 14.—George B. Lockwood, Secretary of the Republican National Committee and editor of The National Republican, was the principal speaker at the annual convention of the Indiana Republican Editorial Association. Mr. Lockwood's theme was the torrent of destructive propaganda which is poured into the ears of the people through the medium of the press, the pulpit and the platform. He not only showed that such propaganda had no justification in existing conditions in this country, but that, if persisted in and encouraged, it would end in a program that would menace all business, industry, progress, orderly institutions and even the government itself. Mr. Lockwood said:

The greatest contribution it would be possible for patriotic men and women to make to their country's welfare at this time would be to get the American people out of the political and economic dumps and arouse in them a full realization and active appreciation of their blessings and their opportunities.

Never before did there beat against the foundations of our governmental structure so high and strong a tide of popular unrest.

The causes of this unrest are as many as the waves that rise on the surface of a storm-tossed sea. Many of them have little or no real relation to government; many are the consequences of policies and programs it is no longer possible to change because they are of the past.

Many of those now deeply dissatisfied have views as to the causes and remedies of evils real and imagined that are in direct conflict with the views of as many other malcontents; the only point of agreement is in assault upon the existing order, which if long continued, in its present vigor and venom, will threaten the stability of government and society.

No demagogue today believes he has lived up to his opportunities unless he has painted as black a picture as possible of existing conditions.

Like the quack medicine vendor operating under a gasoline torch at the village street corner, he must make people believe that they feel all the dread symptoms of the disease for which he offers a sure remedy at so much per bottle. The chief crime of the demagogue against popular government is that he constantly seeks to inject into the veins of the people the envenomed virus of pessimism.

Gospel of the Demagogue. Since the days of the Greek democracy the demagogue has taught the black gospel that whatever is, is wrong; that government is an engine of oppression operated by corrupt officials for the exploitation of the peo-

ple; that he, the demagogue, is the only honest man in public life and that the only hope of improvement is the promotion of himself to some place of power.

The political adventurer, however, is not the only preacher of pessimism in public affairs.

The thoughtless citizen who may have no political purpose in view, but who, with all the blessings and opportunities of free institutions, feels the pinch of governmental regulation, restriction or taxation somewhere, is often all too ready to join his voice to that of the very agitator who will, when opportunity comes, infinitely multiply the exactions of government.

The conservative citizen who does not like prohibition and probably did nothing to prevent the adoption of the constitutional amendment which has made it a fixed governmental policy, cries out against the federal instrumentalities which enforce the law.

The substantial property owner who may have enjoyed and profited by the war while it was on, now shrieks against government because the war debt must be paid through the levying of taxes on the only source from which taxes can come, namely, private property.

The importing interests, cut off by a protective tariff measure from further inordinate profit, spread the doctrine that the new tariff law was framed in the interests of the rich for the purpose of robbing the poor.

The international banker and the sentimental internationalist accuse the national government of the most sordid motives in refusing to involve the United States in the political and financial bankruptcy of Europe.

Appeal to Hatred and Prejudice. From these and 100 other sources come the constant outcry against Congress, the President and against the government, all based upon the selfish interest of those making these

appeals to the hatred and prejudice of the people in a republic where public opinion rules. All of this outcry is either purposely or ignorantly adding to the general dissatisfaction and unrest which, since the war, has been easily aroused everywhere in the world, and which in some parts of the world has overthrown government and public order and visited untold miseries upon the masses of the people.

All of these interests unite in telling the people that they are in a desperate plight. They tell the people not only of the trouble they are in now, but of the horrible things that are going to happen to them unless revolutionary changes are quickly effected.

They magnify the abuses and evils and oppressions of the time until they are viewed with distorted vision by millions.

They tell the farmer that he is "broke" and about to starve to death at a time when farm land can not be bought in sections of the country where land is normally productive, at twice the prices per acre prevailing during the Cleveland panic of a quarter of a century ago—a panic from which the country completely recovered within two years after the re-adoption of the protective policy.

With wages higher than ever before in peace time, with a job available for every mechanic who wants it, with 4,000,000 men now at work who were idle when the present administration was inaugurated, they accuse Congress and the President of a desire to grind down the laboring man and tell the worker that unless he is getting twice as much peace time pay as he ever received when demagogues were in power, he is not getting a "living" wage.

Business Men Join In. However prosperous the banker, the manufacturer or the distributor may be, in most cases he is busy swelling the chorus of complaint because the war bills can not be paid without heavy taxes upon property.

The opponent of prohibition who did not make a squeak when the policy of prohibition was being put into the constitution almost without resistance, is now accusing the federal authorities of fanaticism because in the fulfillment of their sworn duty they are enforcing the law. These agitators are trying to make partisan politics out of a constitutional provision which the party of opposition has as much to do with adopting as the party now in power. These critics are encouraging a lawlessness they might not like to see spread to matters in general and are trying to increase the mob spirit by predicting publicly that the rights of the people are about to be completely overthrown.

The international financier and the sentimental propagandist of the European League of Nations are continually holding this republic up to contempt as a slacker among nations in refusing to fulfill its "duty" to the rest of the world. Recently, in the

presence of an audience of chautauqua lecturers preparing to go forth and instruct the public, such European propagandists as Rabbi Wise denounced the United States on the grounds that this government is responsible for all the misery of a Europe we spent 60,000 lives and \$50,000,000,000 trying to save only to earn the ingratitude of the people to whose rescue we went, and of their agents in the United States. The pulpit and the platform are adding to the chorus of opposition to governmental policies adopted by the American people themselves.

Facts Give Lie to Charges. With all this propaganda of pessimism in full cry, what are facts about conditions in the United States?

If the knoekers and leekers would hold their tired tongues for a few months this country, which is in a better condition than any other in the world, would be more prosperous than it has ever been in peace time during all our history.

While almost every other important power is on the verge of bankruptcy, with its securities and currency below par, the American dollar and the American bond are on a basis of 100 per cent value.

American foreign trade is increasing, and this year's American holiday trade was double in value and volume that of any previous year.

American postal receipts and savings bank deposits are higher than ever before in our history.

Manufacturing industry and construction are now in full swing, unemployment has ended, and agriculture is sure to feel the effect of this before the crops of 1923 are harvested. Despite all the gabble to the contrary the prosperity of the American farmer is dependent upon domestic rather than upon foreign consumption. Increased industrial activity in the United States means increased consumption of what the American farmer produces, and therefore better prices for the output of the farm.

If all the American people who are genuinely attached to their government were to make up their mind that they are not half as badly off as the demagogues and theorists and reactionary grumblers against government tell them they are, they would by that very change of mental attitude put themselves on the high-way of the most prosperous period the American people have ever experienced. Moreover, they would eliminate from their minds a vast amount of unnecessary unrest which reflects itself disagreeably in the private life and the local affairs of every community.

Optimism Built America. The Americans of the constructive years of this republic were optimists. They were builders. They were governed by courage and not by fear.

Americans of today ought to sweep aside the preachers of envy, hatred and destruction who contribute nothing but discontent to a situation that calls for the old American spirit of brave self-reliance and belief in American institutions.

This is the best country in the

world, with the freest government, the most liberal institutions and the greatest measure of diffused prosperity.

Most men in public life are honest, and most of those who impugn the integrity of public men in general are dishonest. It was never before so much of a privilege to be an American citizen.

All the elements are here for the greatest prosperity and progress this nation has ever known. The politicians who try to teach the people that the federal government is in the hands of crooks and plunderers, are more dangerous foes of the republic

than the reddest communist in the country, even though the motive force of their diatribes is unscrupulous personal ambition rather than actual hatred of the government.

All that is necessary to lead the American people into the full enjoyment of the great heritage of opportunity that is theirs is to turn a deaf ear to demagogical pessimism and to go forward in the knowledge that things in this country are good, and secure in the faith that they are going to be better, as they will be.

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Thrifty Tim

"I've just returned from a visit at the poorhouse," said Thrifty Tim, while waiting for a Wall Street crease in his blue serge, "and I couldn't find a person there who had been called a tightwad in their younger days."

That may be left-handed philosophy, if you don't get just what Tim meant—but think it over.

Please notice that Tim was only a visitor—distributing a few gifts to the needy. He has it to give.

Lloyd Hutchinson

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1809-65 Abraham Lincoln February 12

SPEECH IN INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA

February 22, 1861

MR. CUYLER: I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live.

You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to our distracted country. I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated in and were given to the world from this hall. I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted that Declaration. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence.

I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time.

It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

Now, my friends, can this country be saved on that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it.

Now, in view of the present aspect of affairs, there is no need of bloodshed and war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course; and I may say in advance that there will be no bloodshed unless it is forced upon the government. The government will not use force, unless force is used against it.

My friends, this is wholly an unprepared speech. I did not expect to be called on to say a word when I came here. I supposed I was merely to do something toward raising a flag. I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet. (Cries of "No, no.") But I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, if it be the pleasure of the mighty God, to die by.

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