

SPEECH OF HAMMOND NAMING JOHNSON

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the convention:

From each of the great galaxy of commonwealths constituting the Union, come the delegates of an earnest and impatient people. Earnest in their determination that public wrongs shall be speedily righted, that corrupt practices shall cease and that civic righteousness shall prevail. Impatient at the policy of delay and postponement pursued by the political party now in control of all departments of the federal government and impatient at the frivolous excuses and apologies of the Republican party for its inaction and its neglect to perfect necessary legislation.

The power to defeat progressive and reformatory measures favored by the great majority of the men of the land has been lodged in the hands of a coterie of reactionary politicians who exercise it to further partisan ends and to serve special interests, regardless alike of the needs of the nation and the demands of the people. Against this deliberate delay in the performance of public duty, against political corruption, against the entrenchments of lawless wealth and against the deliverance of the rights of the people and of their chosen representatives into the possession of a triumvirate out of sympathy with the people, the Democratic party sets its face and prepares for a mighty conflict. Again proclaiming for all, equality, for none, special favor, it enters upon the contest with the consciousness of being right and with the assurance of being victorious.

Here in this beautiful city of the mountains have assembled the delegates who are to select the leader in this campaign of the people to recover their rights and privileges.

Whatever dissensions there may be in our ranks, whatever differences of opinion may prevail, to be worthy of the task before us we must choose our leader with calmness and deliberation and when he is chosen we must follow him with zeal and with strength, mindful only of the great purposes we seek to accomplish. If there is one in our party great enough and good enough to be made our candidate, upon whom all within our ranks can agree and around whom no internal strife has raged, and who can better than any other unite all the factions and all the divisions of the Democratic party upon a platform enunciating the demands of the people and dedicated to them, it is wise and it is our duty to name him as our candidate.

The great North Star state, midway between the two oceans and at the head of the great valley of the Mississippi, comes here with a message to deliver and a record to disclose. She has a son whom she loves and has signally honored and she can not better aid in the great work that lies before us than in offering to us a leader that honored citizens of the state.

Thousands upon thousands of the men and women of this country were born in other lands and under other flags. The opportunities to be found in this land, the broad principles upon which our form of government rests, the freedom of action and the security of life and of property here attracted them so irresistibly that they left the homes of their fathers and came to live with us, to pray for the nation's welfare when there is peace and to fight for the nation's honor when there is war. They became Americans. It is of the son of Swedish immigrants that I speak.

They came with all the hope and with all the fear that is experienced by those who try the unknown. There was a new language to be acquired, new customs to be learned, a new life to be begun. They found a beautiful spot in the plain, near the lakes and the forest, and there they built their little cot and underwent the struggles the pioneer immigrant so well understands. At the knees of his hard-working, noble-minded, God-serving mother, where he was taught to lip his evening prayer, her son first learned something of the character of this great nation, as she whispered to him her reasons for leaving far-away Sweden and taking up her home down by the trees and the river and the lakes.

Deprived at an early age of the father's guiding hand, the mother and her little ones were obliged to make their way alone. Out of the depths of poverty have come some of the noblest souls the world has known. The hardships, the numerous trials, the weary struggles for the day's nourishment, raiment and shelter, leave an impress upon the

character of him in whose life they come that can never be removed. The story of the poor and the interests of the common people appeal to him as they cannot appeal to one who has not experienced the sorrows, the burden and the anxiety of penury and want. The gross, the selfish, the callous and the indifferent are worn away by the grinding wheels of poverty, leaving but the refined, the gentle and tender nature, sensitive to the calls of distressed and unhappy humanity. Creatures of environment that we are, how great is the influence of our surroundings in those tender years when impressions are most readily made and most lastingly retained. In this uprising of the people, let our reader be a man of the people, one who has risen from the depths and is by birth, by training and by nature truly a son of toil.

When the boy grew older he read a few good books and in a quiet country village pondered over the great questions affecting the destiny of the state and of the nation. Once convinced that the government was beset by special interests seeking to obtain unholy profits from it, slaves of greed and selfishness, lovers of power and dominion, every patriotic impulse in the young man's breast impelled him to oppose and denounce these enemies of the public good. Believing that they sought shelter and protection at the hands of the Republican party and had to a large extent, through their agents and representatives, gained control of that party and of some of its recognized leaders, he attached himself to the minority party and labored in its ranks, without thought of office or preferment, and with voice and pen endeavored to bring home political truths to the people of his native state and to throw light upon the dark practices of unfaithful office-holders and public servants.

Four years ago the dominant political party in the state of Minnesota, flushed by a series of easy victories but not held together by devotion to any great living issue, found itself engaged in bitter factional quarrels. Great chieftains had arisen and their personal ambitions and their contests for political supremacy so engaged the attention of the adherents of the Republican party that encroachments upon the rights of the state were suffered to remain unchecked and the interests of the state were no vigilantly guarded. It was the time for a leader to appear, one who had the confidence of the people of the state, whose integrity was unquestioned, whose character was stainless, whose energy and ability were known; one who had made no factional enemies but who had always been loyal in the service of the state. From no one section, from no one faction, from no one class came the call for the man of the hour. It summoned him from his modest office, the publisher of a weekly paper and around him rallied the remnants of the Democratic party that had so often struggled in vain against the crushing force of Republican majorities. Reunited, inspired with the hope of victory, they followed this man and supported him. Not to honor him, not to gratify his ambitions, but to rouse a state from drowsy inaction to energetic life. In that year President Roosevelt carried the state by a plurality greater than 160,000 but the Democratic governor was elected.

Two years ago he was a candidate for re-election. His successful effort in securing a reduction of transportation charges, his successful campaign against timber trespassers who had long been undisturbed, his insurance reforms, his tireless struggles for faithful and efficient service in every department of the state government, and his

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frank and fearless manner of dealing with all questions and matters that came before him made him the trusted tribune of the common people of the state. "One good term deserves another" was the campaign cry, and when the ballots were counted it was found that he had been re-elected by a plurality greater than 70,000, the greatest ever given to a gubernatorial candidate in the state.

Today this man, in the prime of life, courteous, kind and unpretentious, strong, resolute and virile, an orator of unusual power, who has attained honorable distinction by his own industry and effort, whose high character and winning personality compel the love of his friends and the respect of his political opponents—this man, innocent of the allurements of great wealth, who has not been swayed from the path of duty nor fascinated by the power given into his hands nor dazzled by the greater honor placed before him, never unmindful that as a public officer he is the servant of the people and bound by every obligation of duty and honor to strive to advance their interests, is the ideal candidate of this great party for president of the United States.

For the first time Minnesota offers to the Democratic party a candidate for the presidency, a man who has been tried and found no wanting. It offers to you its best loved citizen. It offers you the governor who has twice led his party to victory, a leader stainless and pure, strong and brave, able and sincere, a true Democrat, faithful to the teachings of the fathers, understanding the needs of the day, devoted to the good and the right. For nomination for the presidency of the United States Minnesota presents the name of John A. Johnson.

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part of the water flow of the Calapooya river and cost \$4500. Mr. Hoss has been working there with a force of men since April 5th, and has just returned to the city. He is expert in his line of developing waterpower. It is to be regretted that the magnificent water powers running to waste through this city are not better utilized. Salem has from 400 to 1000 horse power wasting itself away year in and year out, and little or no effort made on the part of the owners to convert it into industries.

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