

BOTH "TELLING THE TRUTH"

What Roosevelt Was in 1908

BY WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

(From "My Conception of the Presidency," by William H. Taft, Collier's Weekly, June 23, 1908.)

"It remained for Roosevelt to prove how the people will respond to a strong and true leadership when their hour has come for great reform. The policies which he inaugurated must be continued and developed. They are right and they are the policies of the people. For that reason his successor may well disregard any charge of lack of originality if he does not make an entirely new program of his own.

What Taft Was in 1908

BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(White House, Washington, June 18, 1908).

I feel that the country is indeed to be congratulated upon the nomination of Mr. Taft. * * * I do not believe there could be found in all the country a man so well fitted to be President. * * * Mr. Taft stands against all privilege, and he stands pre-eminently for the broad principles of American citizenship which lie at the foundation of our National Well-being.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.



In 1912 Taft Says:

ROOSEVELT IS NOT SAFE

(At Boston on April 25, 1912, President Taft broke his silence on Roosevelt and delivered his first extended attack. As reported in a dispatch to the New York Times and published on April 26, the President said:)

"Neither in thought, nor word nor action have I been disloyal to the friendship I owe Theodore Roosevelt. When the time came for this campaign to begin I let the people know that I would like to have my administration approved by their giving me another term. At that time Theodore Roosevelt said he was not a candidate and that it would be a calamity if he were nominated. Since then he has changed his mind."

"Declaring that Mr. Roosevelt ought not to be selected as a candidate of any party," Mr. Taft said that the former President might now be paving the way, if successful in the present campaign, to remain the Chief Executive of the nation for as many terms as his natural life would permit.

"If he is necessary now to the government, why not later?" asked the President, and continued: "One who so lightly regards constitutional principles, and especially the independence of the judiciary, one who is so naturally impatient of legal restraints and of due legal procedure, and who has so misunderstood what liberty regulated by law is, could not safely be trusted with successive presidential terms."

TEDDY MISREPRESENTS

(Boston dispatch dated April 29, 1912, and published in the New York Times, April 30.)

"No man has the right to misrepresent another to get himself up in office, no matter how humble that man is," the President shouted at one point in his Lowell address.

"Condemn me if you will," he said in conclusion, "but condemn me on other witnesses than Theodore Roosevelt."

"I was a man of straw, but I have been a man of straw long enough; every man who has blood in his body and who has been misrepresented as I have been, is forced to fight."

AND IS FILLED WITH VANITY AND EGOTISM
(Boston Speech.)

"In every announcement he makes you will think he is the whole show, and there isn't anybody else in this country. It's I, I, I, and therefore I say you feed that vanity and that egotism by giving him something that Washington did not get, and Jefferson did not get, and Jackson did not get, and Grant could not get; you are going

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In 1912 Roosevelt Says:

TAFT FAVORS RULE BY SPECIAL CLASS

(Carnegie Hall speech by Roosevelt, March 21, 1912).

"Mr. Taft's position is perfectly clear. It is that we have in this country a special class of persons wiser than the people, who can not be reached by the people, but who govern them and who ought to govern them; and who protect various classes of the people from the whole people."

TAFT IS NOT A PROGRESSIVE

(In the New York Times on April 4.)

"Four years ago the Progressives supported Mr. Taft and he was opposed by such representatives of special privilege as Mr. Penrose of Pennsylvania, Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island, Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire. These men were not Progressives then and they do not pretend to be Progressives now. But unlike the President, they know who is a Progressive and who is not. Their judgment in the matter is good. After three and a half years' association with and knowledge of the President, these and their fellows are now the President's chief supporters."

TAFT HAS BEEN FAITHLESS

(From the New York Tribune of May 19.)

"I am against Mr. Taft because Mr. Taft has been faithless to the cause of the American people."

IS DISLOYAL TO DECENCY AND FAIR DEALING

(Col. Roosevelt began his Massachusetts campaign with a speech at Worcester on April 26, 1912. An Associated Press dispatch, dated Worcester, April 26, and published in the New York Times on April 27, says in part:)

"When for instance, he (Taft) said that I have endeavored to minimize the importance of my Columbus speech, he says what he must know to be untrue."

"Again, when Mr. Taft in any speech speaks of me, directly or obliquely, as a neurotic or a demagogue, or in similar terms, I shall say nothing except to point out that if he is obliged to use such language he had better preserve his own self-respect by not protesting that it gives him pain to do so. No man resorts to epithets like these if it really gives him pain to use them."

"Col. Roosevelt referred to President Taft's explanation of his statement that 'ours is a government of all the people by a representative part of the people.'"

"For him to try," said Col. Roosevelt, "to escape the consequences

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