

How to Retire Flinn and Penrose

When the next legislature assembles at Harrisburg there will be a contest, and a most important one to the people of Pennsylvania. At that time there will be a "show down" as to whether the Speaker of the House will be the man selected by Bill Flinn of Pittsburg; or by Boise Penrose, the present discredited boss. This is the most important issue raised in many years in this state, and up to this time the average citizen has not realized the meaning of the selection of men to the coming session of the legislature.

This is the situation: The future political conditions in Pennsylvania depend almost entirely upon this selection. As you all know, at the last primary election the Progressive, or Bull Moose, Republicans swept the state and, for the time, unhorsed Senator Penrose; because the people were disgusted with the leadership of a man who has used the high offices bestowed upon him to play into the hands of the corporations, and has stood for everything that has been detrimental to the rule of the people.

The People Were Disgusted

Penrose has been the open and avowed champion of all that has been corrupting in public life, and has had a machine back of him that he could manipulate.

The people revolted, but the mistake they made at that time was, they put another man, Bill Flinn, to the front who has been a political crook most of his life. Bill Flinn also is a corruptionist, and recently, it is charged, tried to buy his way into the United States Senate at an open price of two million dollars. He is credited with robbing Pittsburg through rotten contracts until he has grown wealthy and can count millions, that actually belong to the people. To supplant Penrose with a man of equal disrepute is jumping from the frying pan to the fire. It means no good for Pennsylvania to have Flinn succeed Penrose.

When the legislature meets in the next session there will be an open contest for the leadership, between these two corruptionists in public life, who are a disgrace to Pennsylvania. These are well known facts that no well-informed man will, or can, successfully refute.

At the opening of the next session of the legislature the first duty will be the selection of the Speaker of the House. Penrose will have a man, and Flinn will have a candidate.

The one who is finally chosen has the power to name all the committees, and these committees will control all the appropriations, and shape the legislation in the next session.

Personal Claims Not to be Considered

It will make them the absolute political rulers in the state for several years to come.

It will put them in control of the party machinery, for the reason that they will have nearly all the state patronage at their disposal.

At that time they can easily shape the party lines so as to determine the selection of the next United States Senator from this state, which will follow in 1915, and that is a short time ahead. The selection of the next Speaker of the House will absolutely determine the fate of either Penrose or Flinn for United States Senator of this great state. The Lord knows that the average citizen hopes that neither of these discredited, corrupt politicians be granted that high honor—Pennsylvania deserves something better.

For these reasons we consider that the personal claims of legislative and senatorial candidates should have little consideration in this campaign. It is the public that is to be considered. Public interests and the welfare of the state are the sole issues. Here a serious proposition arises, and we want every voter to grasp the importance of voting right. The question is:

Do the people of Pennsylvania want Boise Penrose or his rival, Bill Flinn, to be the next United States Senator from Pennsylvania and the future dictator over the Republican party and this state? Or, do they favor a better, cleaner representative, a higher type of citizen, for this important position?

Flinnism poses as the Progressive Republican party and, in its platform, unqualifiedly denounces Taft and Penrose; the movement was organized in this state for that purpose. Flinn is a shrewd politician who saw that the Republican party and the people were ready to repudiate Taft and Penrose in Pennsylvania, and they did so at the primaries by decided majorities.

Demand Pledges From Candidates

The man who goes to the next legislature is commissioned to REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, and not to advance his own political fortunes. It is his duty to PLAINLY, FRANKLY, HONESTLY, and POSITIVELY, tell the people what his position NOW is, on this question. More important:

What he will do if elected regarding Penrose or Flinn, the corruptionists.

With such an issue before us, we insist it is due the people that all candidates for the legislature NOW pledge themselves as to what they will do if elected.

Legislators are chosen and paid to carry out your wishes at Harrisburg, and not to do as they please when they go there—that is the basis of a representative form of Government such as we should have, but seldom secure, all because the people do not compel candidates to pledge themselves on important issues.

That there shall be no misunderstanding upon this subject put the questions to and demand answers from the candidates of all parties. The answers may be made through the columns of the newspapers. To this end we submit the following form:

Demand Positive Pledges

From All Legislative and Senatorial Candidates This Year.

To the Candidates for Senator and Representative in the Legislature:

GENTLEMEN:—The columns of this newspaper are hereby extended to each of you, free of charge, to state to the Voters of this District or County, over your signature, what policy you will pursue, if elected, to-wit:

Do you endorse Boise Penrose's political career?

Do you approve Boise Penrose's record as U. S. Senator?

Would you vote for Boise Penrose's selection for next Speaker of the House in General Assembly of Pennsylvania; or would you support William Flinn's selection for same office in preference?

Would you co-operate with Boise Penrose or Wm. Flinn on political and public measures?

Any reasonable reply confined to the above interrogations will be published in our next issue.