

EDITORIAL SUMMARIES OF PLATFORMS

Democratic National Platform Adopted at Baltimore, 1912

GOVERNOR WILSON has emphatically declared his purpose, in the event of his election, to scrupulously fulfill every pledge of the platform upon which his nomination placed him. The record of his fidelity to moral obligations, as Governor of New Jersey, is ample guarantee that he will complete the promise. In view of this the platform of the Baltimore Convention has increased importance and added significance. It will be the fundamental law of the administration.

The Baltimore platform is singularly free from glittering generalities and meaningless phrases. It declares, unequivocally, that "the Federal Government, under the Constitution, has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties, except for the purpose of revenue." Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution provides that "Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States." This language conveys no license to protect private interests or provide profits for individuals. The tenth amendment to the Constitution reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people," so that the power to levy tariff taxes for protection can not be read into the laws of the country.

The platform demands, moreover, "that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government, honestly and economically administered." Profligacy in government, supplemented by unequal distribution of wealth, a necessary result of high tariff taxation, raises the price of the necessities of life without protecting the product of the farmer or improving the wages of labor. The platform demands the immediate downward revision of the existing high duties upon the necessities of life and that articles entering into competition with trust controlled products and those of American manufacture sold more cheaply abroad than at home, be put upon the free list.

The platform asserts that "excessive prices result, in a large measure, from the high tariff laws enacted and maintained by the Republican party and from trusts and commercial conspiracies fostered and encouraged by such laws," and adds that "no substantial relief can be secured for the people until import duties on the necessities of life are materially reduced and these criminal conspiracies broken up." With this end in view it favors criminal proceedings against trust magnates and civil action against the trusts. It demands laws prohibiting holding companies, interlocking directors, stock watering, discrimination in prices and the control by any one corporation of so large a proportion of any industry as to make it a menace to competitive conditions. It condemns the compromises made by the present administration with the Standard Oil company and the tobacco trust and the failure to invoke the criminal provisions of the anti-trust law against the officers of those corporations.

The platform declares unequivocally for an income tax, publicity before the election of campaign contributions, Presidential primaries, the election of United States Senators by popular vote and a single Presidential term. It endorses the splendid work of the Democratic majority in Congress, favors efficient supervision and rate regulation of railroads, express, telegraph and telephone companies by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It favors vocational education, the conservation of natural resources, the development of waterways and National aid to State and local authorities in the construction and maintenance of post roads. It demands legislation to prohibit gambling in agricultural products, the enactment of effective pure food laws, the honest enforcement of the civil service law, the establishment of a parcels post, the extension of the rural free delivery, and, finally, generous pensions for the veterans of our several wars.

Upon the labor question the platform is particularly clear. The declarations of the platform of 1908 are reaffirmed as follows:

"Experience has proved the necessity of a modification of the present law relating to injunction, and we reiterate the pledges of our platforms of 1896 and 1904 in favor of

a measure which passed the United States Senate in 1896, relating to contempt in Federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

"Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.

"The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of wage earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

"We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a Department of Labor, represented separately in the President's cabinet, in which Department shall be included the subject of Mines and Mining."

The Baltimore platform further pledges the Democratic party, so far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, to an employees' compensation law providing adequate indemnity for injury of body or loss of life.

It declares opposition to the Aldrich banking scheme and recommends such a revision of the Banking laws as "will render temporary relief where such relief is needed with protection from control or dominion by what is known as the money trust, and adds:

"Of equal importance with the question of currency reform is the question of rural credits or agricultural finance. Therefore we recommend that an investigation of agricultural credit societies in foreign countries be made, so that it may be ascertained whether a system of rural credits may be devised suitable to conditions in the United States; and we also favor legislation permitting National Banks to loan a reasonable proportion of their funds upon real estate security.

Democratic State Platform Adopted at Harrisburg, 1912

The platform of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania is a model in clearness and cogency. It is the earnest expression of a patient people suffering from evils which are without reason. It declares in part:

The Democrats of Pennsylvania, in convention assembled, in this time of industrial discontent and political unrest, recall once more to the people of the State, that these conditions have arisen during a long period of uninterrupted Republican rule. The marks and results of Republican rule are these:

Destruction of representative government through the control of State and National legislatures by the agents of special interests and privileges; a loose and often dishonest constitutional interpretation that has turned the fundamental law into a barrier against proper regulation of corporate wealth instead of a protection and safeguard to the whole body of the people; a so-called protective tariff, the duties of which have constantly mounted higher at the demand of the employer, for the sole benefit of the privileged class. The immense profits, thus guaranteed by the government, have resulted in swollen fortunes to the few, while the great industrial centers have been crowded with underpaid workers and the masses of the people have been heavily burdened with unjust taxation.

Three great issues overshadow all others. Representative government must be restored; the judiciary must be restricted to its proper sphere; the evils of the tariff system must be corrected. The Democratic House of Representatives has earned the gratitude and won the praise of the whole people by its action in meeting these issues. It has destroyed the unwarranted power of the Speaker and restored the control of legislation to the House of Representatives itself. It has stopped waste and promoted economy in the administration of its own business and of every other branch of the government. It has paved the way for the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people. It has passed bills for publicity of campaign expenditures both before and after elections, and for the pub-