

TRUE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY GOVERNOR SPROUL'S AMBITION

New Governor Warns Against "Social Wild Men" Who Would Overthrow Republic--Clean Laws, Good Administration and Popular Education Antidote For the Menace, He Says

My Fellow Citizens: Having taken the obligation necessary for my induction into the great office to which you have called me, please permit me, before we enter upon a discussion of the issues of the time, to return my grateful acknowledgement of your confidence and trust and to express the profound feeling of responsibility and the grave sense of respect and devotion with which I accept the service.

These are wonderful times in which we are living. Events of tremendous effect upon the political and social structures of mankind that in ordinary times would be appalling are happening with such frequency that we accept them almost without surprise.

No government which could be devised by sane men would suit these anarchists. They are enemies of civilization and of the Church of God. They respect no law, but insist upon license to do as they please without regard to the rights, the property, the religion or even the lives of other.

PATRIOTIC EFFORT TO OVERCOME BOLSHEVISM

This political distemper, called Bolshevism, has had its origin in countries where ignorance and force prevailed and where there was entire lack of opportunity for the deserving and lack of care for the unfortunate.

But confident as we are of our national safety, we must not ignore the menace in our midst. After having made sure that we have done those things which should be done to ensure to our citizens those blessings that the government belonging to them should give, we must not tolerate the social wild-men who would overthrow our Republic.

MORE CO-OPERATION IN GOVERNMENT NEEDED

Thus early in my executive career, I desire to say that having submitted my candidacy for Governor to the people at the primary election, upon a declaration of purpose, or a platform as we call it, and having reiterated this declaration before the general election, I feel that my course of action in office should follow as naturally as may well be, the principles upon which my candidacy was based.



Wm. C. Sproul



Edward E. Beidleman

Issues Plea For Co-operation In Conducting State Office--Would Revise Constitution To Meet Modern Needs--Discusses Financial Problems and Questions of Income

people, and our actions will be based upon our judgment with this desire constantly in mind. Some changes in the organization and methods of the Highway Department will be necessary to enable it to handle a greatly increased amount of work, and legislation will be required to give your executive and fiscal authorities the legal machinery for issuing and marketing the securities representing the loans which will be required.

In considering matters relating to our highways it is necessary to give some attention to the regulation of automobile traffic. The conditions growing out of the over made the greatly extended use of motor-vehicles transportation a necessity, and with the development of the country this great agent in handling passengers and materials must be reckoned with more and more.

Plans are under consideration for a revision and extension of the automobile license laws. Increases in license fees are warranted and especially so in the case of high-powered cars and trucks of heavy burden. It costs more to build and maintain roads than it did and the income for this purpose from those who use the roads should be increased, here should also be a distinctive license classification and a higher tax upon motor-cars used for business purposes and upon regular passenger and freight routes.

SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

The development of our public activities has been so rapid since the construction of our present form of government, that our administrative departments have been attached to the general frame without much regard to symmetrical structure or efficient organization.

The Department of State Police should be a real crime preventing and criminal detecting agency, with well-equipped headquarters at the capital, which would have complete records of all felonies, and a force of experts who could be called to the assistance of the peace officers of every county in the State.

The Department of Health, although it is already a very cumbersome organization and might be simplified, should include the State Quarantine Service, if, indeed, a service is necessary in view of the provisions of the Federal Government for the same purpose.

IMPORTANT WORK FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Perhaps in no department of the State government has there been a greater increase in work and expense than in the Department of Labor and Industry. There appears to be much confusion, much duplication of effort and much that is superfluous and unnecessary in this department.

This department should also be able to give attention more completely to helping our foreign-born. Twenty per cent. of foreign immigration comes to Pennsylvania. When we entered the war, people who did not know them looked on this great body of foreign-born people as a menace.

or to influence or dominate political action. The exercise of such power in the State or nation is dangerous and the growth of this practice gives concern to far-seeing patriots. That it is in conflict with the underlying principles of our form of government and is subversive of the constitution, I firmly believe.

REVISION OF STATE CONSTITUTION DISCUSSED

For many years there has been more or less demand for a new constitution for the Commonwealth. On one or two occasions this demand has become insistent and some movement was made toward a general overhauling of the State's fundamental law.

With all of these facts in view, but with the unquestioned requirement that we approach definitely the task of revising our constitution or completely rewriting it, my judgment is that the present Legislature should authorize the appointment of a commission of twenty-five citizens, representative of the best thought in the various elements of our Commonwealth's life, to study the whole subject of our constitution and to report to the next Legislature its recommendations as to the advisability of a revision; the time, manner and plan of the revision, if such shall be the recommendation, with a complete study of the desirable changes. The machinery for the new convention may then be provided by the Legislature and little time will be lost while a great deal of advantage may be gained by preparing the people for this vitally important matter.

RETURNING SOLDIERS MUST BE REMEMBERED

One of the very first things which should receive our attention is a comprehensive plan for showing to the world that Pennsylvania is grateful to those who were called into the service of the nation during the great war and whose valor and devotion have added new glory to our annals.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE

Before we are able to plan very effectively for our work during the next four years, we must give direct attention to the questions of revenue. We shall have to face demands for increased appropriations due to the higher cost of maintaining our public institutions, in providing for the improvement of our schools and decent salaries for our teachers, for public works to assist in meeting the problem of unemployment, and for the extension of the State's aid for those maimed in battle and in our industries.

The Federal tax gatherer is encroaching so deeply into the fields hitherto reserved for State revenues that the question of funds for State purposes is becoming a serious one. Few people realize the stupendous charge which has been imposed upon us by the plan of taxation which the officials at Washington have devised.

Pennsylvania does not complain under the burdens which she is bearing. She has cheerfully stood by with her men and her money in the national emergency, and she is proud to again have the disposition and the substance to render such notable service to the Republic and to the world.

QUESTIONS OF INCOME MUST BE CONSIDERED

Pennsylvania is almost alone among all of the States in that it levies no tax for State purposes upon real estate, but leaves that handiest source of public income intact for the needs of its municipal sub-divisions.

It would seem that the most available source of revenue now in sight is to be found in a change in the law which would provide for a return to the State of a portion of the personal property tax. Until a few years ago the State directed the collection of this tax and a percentage of the total sum received by the county treasurers was paid into the State Treasury.

the inheritance taxes and from an increase in the automobile licenses, together with the particularly efficient management of the Department of the Auditor General, should provide the revenue that we shall be likely to need for the present.

EDUCATION IS GREAT AND PRESSING PROBLEM

Pennsylvanians have ever been proud of their public schools, and it is always more or less of a shock when we are forced to contemplate the statistics which show that Pennsylvania is not in the foremost rank among the States in the general efficiency of its school system.

The question of the compensation of teachers has become a serious one and the general movement for better pay for these deserving public servants has the support of everyone who has given the matter any thought.

Practically every improvement which has been made in our common school system has been the result of mandatory legislation, and it will take more enactments of this same kind to establish a new scale of salaries, or at least minimum salaries, and such other conditions as may be needed.

There are many avenues for extension and improvement in our educational system, to reach our adult illiterates, the position of Pennsylvania in regard to this condition not being flattering to our self-esteem; to provide vocational education, a necessary corollary to our marvellous industrial development; to teach our backward ones and the unfortunate, to help in Americanizing our foreign-born, and to help in giving our maimed heroes from our nation's battles, and our industrial victims, a chance to learn to be self-sustaining and contented.

HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT ON VERY GREAT SCALE

We are indeed fortunate to have the means in sight to begin a comprehensive road improvement program at a time when there will be need of great public works to steady industrial conditions. With the funds available from the general income of the State and a gradual use of substantial sums from the bond issue which has been authorized by the people for this purpose, supplemented by the assistance, now very material and likely to be greater of the Federal Government for the post roads, we shall be able to undertake extensive road-building operations in every county.