

W. D. A. F. Monday evening 10:15 March 30, 1938

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It was my original intention tonight to devote my final radio talk before the election tomorrow to a discussion with you of the future of Kansas City. There is, however, a limit to the endurance of any person, and so I have determined to speak also of a phase of the campaign that is most distasteful, but which as a candidate I cannot overlook.

I refer to the efforts of our opponents to blacken the character, the honesty and the integrity of myself and of the able and honorable men who are associated with me on the Democratic ticket. There is a limit to the endurance of any human being in the face of malicious and persistent attacks, and when you consider that thieves, crooks, grafters and racketeers are among the milder of the names that we have been called, I am certain you will agree with me that I have a right to speak my mind.

At the outset, I do not deny the right of those who oppose us to challenge our statements, to question our official acts or to advance any argument of sound political nature, for we are servants of the people, this is a free country and a political campaign is underway.

But I do deny, and most emphatically, that they have the right or the privilege, for selfish partisan advantage, to make persistent attempts to blacken our characters or question the honesty of our official acts without substantiation for their vicious charges.

Throughout my years of public service I never have sought office because of any selfish desire for personal gain. I have offered myself as a candidate because of a sincere desire to repay to the best of my ability the community where I have lived and prospered. My every official act has been motivated by a heartfelt desire to benefit the city that I am proud to call my home.

But after witnessing, in this campaign, the names of myself and my official associates being dragged through the mud, after having observed our opponents combing the gutters and the cesspools for filthy and slanderous names to throw at our heads, I easily can understand the oft repeated statement that it is becoming increasingly difficult to interest reputable business men and civic leaders in politics.

I say, here and now, that I am affiliated with the Democratic party because I believe in its principles, and because I am proud of the splendid record of achievement that it has

made nationally, in Missouri and in Kansas City.

I say to you also that I believe that the Democratic party offers you the only city ticket that assures you a continuation for the next four years of the economical, progressive and businesslike administration that you have enjoyed during the past twelve.

It is not my intention, in speaking my mind concerning the campaign now drawing to a close, of offering a single word of criticism against any individual on the opposition ticket. I will not cheapen myself by dealing in personalities.

I am acquainted with a few of our opponents, I will not deny that all of them are individually splendid gentlemen but I say this, and I dare them to refute it — as a group they have conducted the lowest, the cheapest and the most vile political campaign that this community ever has witnessed.

Their whole campaign has been a deliberate effort to detract the attention of the voters from the splendid record that we have made.

Despite the attempts at vilification, personal abuse and wholesale mud slinging that they have attempted, there is just one issue in this campaign, and it is so well- defined, so clear-cut and so outstanding that all efforts to conceal it behind a smoke screen of slander, all schemes to sidetrack it with dummy issues, necessarily are destined to failure.

That issue — the only issue — is whether the voters and the taxpayers of Kansas City desire to retain in office the Democratic administration which has given them economical, efficient and progressive municipal government for the past twelve years, or prefer to turn over the keys of the city hall to a hybrid group of professional office seekers and hungry job hunters who are traveling under no party banner, who have no specific program and who are motivated only by a desire for power.

I am a firm believer in party responsibility, I am seeking reelection on the Democratic ticket. Every candidate on that ticket, every Democratic office holder, realizes that the Democratic party is asking your support not only at this election, but will ask it at all future elections.

It behooves us, therefore, to give you the best and most economical government possible, to provide for you every municipal service to which you are entitled, in order that we may continue to have your support at the polls in future years. We are running

honestly and proudly as Democrats.

And who, may I ask you, are our opponents? Do they seek your support under an honest party banner which you will find on election ballots next year, the following year and for all the years to come?

They do not, as you well know. A mongrel pack of snarling, snapping political opportunists, drawn together under a joint sheep's coat only because of a mutual and consuming thirst for office and power, they content themselves with baying at the moon, with barking at their own shadows and with growling at bogey men which they themselves have set up in a vain effort to turn your eyes from the real issue.

Their ticket represents a temporary coalition of various groups ordinarily antagonistic to each other, and now drawn together only through a common desire for power. Associated in the leadership of their campaign are men who in the past have been leaders of the reactionary element that persistently has opposed the improvement and development of Kansas City. What assurance do you have that this amalgamation of normally unfriendly groups would continue to work together? And what assurance do you have that the old and hereditary antagonisms would not again flare up, halting the wheels of government and of progress?

Remember this — they have no party responsibility, for that has been cloaked under a temporary and makeshift name, and because they have no party responsibility, what interest would they have in establishing a good record in office? How many of you, offhand, can recall the name of the group which opposed your present administration for years ago? And what, may I ask, has happened to it?

And now, in the limited time that remains, may I discuss with you briefly what originally was to have been my sole topic — the future of Kansas City?

I firmly believe that these next four years offer the greatest opportunity for progress in the history of our community. But that progress will not come uninvited — we must grasp the opportunity that presents itself, and we must press our advantage fully, but conservatively.

I have told you in my two previous talks of our sound financial condition, our low tax rate, our amazingly low per capita cost of government, the high rating of our bonds, the efficiency of your government. I also have discussed with you the Ten Year plan, which

has made possible the intensive physical development of our city in preparation for the future greatness for which it is destined.

Your present administration promises that for the next four years it will continue to work for the continued growth and development of Kansas City, and will cooperate fully in every movement or enterprise pointing toward that goal. It will meet squarely every problem that arises, and will seek to solve them with the best interests of the community always in mind.

If we are to make the best of the commanding position that we now hold in regard to future growth in population, in industry and in wealth, we must participate actively in the race of progress. We must make our choice — whether we shall take the clear path ahead with a certainty of success, or whether we shall wander off into the selfish bypaths of stagnation and uncertainty.

And remember this - the city administration in power will play an important part in shaping and directing our steps toward the greatest opportunity for progress in the history of our city. It is essential that your affairs be governed by a progressive, harmonious and forward-looking group. The next four years will not be a period in which to risk the administration to a temporary amalgamation of minority groups. It will be no time for bickering, quarreling or jockeying for power.

The Democratic party offers to you a ticket that fulfills the requirements for the next four years - a harmonious, progressive and forward-looking group. It is composed of men who are united in their desire to see Kansas City grow and prosper, who have demonstrated their ability to work together for the best interests of the community. They come to you proudly under the banner of a political party that was here yesterday, is here today and will be here tomorrow.

The Democratic party asks the voters of Kansas City for reelection - not on the basis of idle, empty promises or bombastic, spectacular campaign charges, but upon its record of service, of economy and of progress during the past twelve years.

During that period we have put your house in order, have made every preparation for the future. During the same period private investors, with faith in the city and in the administration, have expended more than 50 million dollars in rebuilding the skyline, thousands of new homes have been erected, new industries and new businesses have

been attracted here.

The Democratic ticket is the ticket of progress. It is composed of business men who have demonstrated their interest in the city and its welfare. On the basis of our past record of achievement, of economy and of progress, we ask for your continued support at the polls tomorrow.

I thank you, and good night.