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COPY

EXECUTIVE MANSION
Albany, New York.

August 22nd, 1932.

Mr. Daniel Doherty,
27 Auburn Street
Charlestown, Massachusetts.

My dear Mr. Doherty:

Thank you for sending me your book, "Who Will Be the
Next President, Hoover or Roosevelt?". I appreciate the prophecy in the
book, and hope I may live up to the ideals with which you credit me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt.

9/11/615

**WHO WILL BE THE
NEXT PRESIDENT**

HOOVER

— OR —

ROOSEVELT

?

*PROPHECY OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 1932
WHO WILL BE ELECTED AND WHY*



WHILE prophesying the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President, I am concerned only with issues or conditions that in my opinion will cause the most political interest. I have endeavored to conduct this analysis as impartially as it is possible to do so. The issues in the coming campaign will be many, but Prohibition, Depression, Soldiers' Bonus, Foreign Relations, Relief Loans, Law Enforcement,—are just a few, but perhaps the most important questions that will be raised. Personal abilities and personal appeals will play no small part in the coming contest.

Dealing with Prohibition, to start with, the Democrats have taken an honest, outright, and easily understood position. They say (We favor the repeal of the 18th Amendment; to effect such repeal we demand that Congress immediately propose a constitutional amendment, to truly representative convention in the States called to act solely on this proposal.) Contrast this statement with that of the Republicans. They say (We do not favor a submission committed to the issue of either retention or repeal.) Is there anything clear or courageous about that? Of course not.

The Democratic stand on Prohibition has displeased all of the political traders on the dry side of the fence, but only a small number of drys are traders or tricksters. The majority of the drys are sincere, and believe that the majority of the people really believe in Prohibition, and they are willing to submit the matter to the people.

Against this division of the dry forces, the Democrats have the unified enthusiastic hearty support of the wets. While the Republicans have tried to please everyone, they have satisfied nobody. The straddle plank is too damp for the drys and too dry for the wets; so the results, as far as the G.O.P. are concerned, are almost a total wreck.

There are some slight differences here or there in both platforms; but aside from the stand on the 18th Amendment there is hardly any fundamental difference. On the whole, as a vote-getter (and remember, that's what we are discussing), the Democrat's is by far the best. It has proved one thing, conclusively, which has agreeably surprised suffering humanity. The Democrats can be brief.

Next in importance will be the Depression. Who brought it about? Who should be held responsible, etc.? In the opinion of many Prohibition and Depression are closely related, but we are not discussing that subject here.

All the political "wise ones" seem to be divided in their opinion concerning the cause of the Depression, but the urge to get rich quick was encouraged by the ruling political machine of the nation, and as a result the human sheep were closely shorn by every conceivable kind of shark, and not all of them resided in the vicinity of Wall Street. After the clean-up came the let-down—all of which is now history. But who is responsible? I am not obliged to answer that question. The question I am supposed to answer is, Who does the general public think is responsible, and what will be the reaction in November?

The fact is that the Republican Party in 1928 claimed that it was responsible for the Prosperity which existed then. And, what's more important, it guaranteed to continue that state of Prosperity. Mr. Hoover himself went so far as to say that they hoped to be able to abolish Poverty throughout the nation.

If the Republicans were responsible in 1928, isn't it logical to contend that they are just as responsible in 1932! The people made it very clear, by the votes which they cast, that they were giving due credit to the Republican Party at that time. Many of these same people feel differently now. Poverty has replaced Prosperity. The pleasant voice of credit, praise, pride and principle, is silent. The hero has fallen. The fickle political friends of a day no longer admire he who has failed them.

The two-billion-dollar loan distributed to the banks and railroads by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is not going to help Mr. Hoover. A few days ago the papers published some very interesting facts, relative to the salaries paid railroad executives, which range all the way from \$65,000 to \$100,000 per year. This is more money than many of the Government's most efficient employees are able to earn in a whole lifetime of faithful service; and now they are told to take a month's furlough without pay. These public servants have many friends who resent this state of affairs, and they, no doubt, will "Remember November".

There is far more political dynamite in the Soldiers' Bonus than either of the parties seem to appreciate. So far as their platforms are concerned, there is hardly any difference on the issue, but the House of Representatives did favor the payment of the bonus immediately, and the Democrats will be given credit for that. Everyone knows

that the President intended to veto the bill if the Senate had passed it, so that the Republicans will be held responsible for the defeat of that measure. And the bonus marchers have many sympathizers, even if most of the newspapers are against them. It is an old and a true saying that misery likes company, and it also makes friends. Every man who is out of work, or who has suffered in one way or another during this financial crisis, will feel that he has much in common with the hungry, homeless veterans of Anacostia.

On the top of all this, the Democrats will not forget to tell the voters about the generosity of the present administration in its financial transactions with friendly foreigners. The rumors that have been current since the appointment of Mr. Mellon to the Court of St. James, relative to secret agreements, are beginning to appear well-founded. There is one thing the average American dislikes more than anything else, and that is, secret dealings with other nations.

The deplorable disregard for Law which exists today cannot rightfully be blamed on Mr. Hoover or his administration, but when it rains it pours; so, right or wrong, there does exist a very strong feeling that something definite should be done by the proper constituted authorities to end the frightful conditions so shockingly manifested by the cruel kidnapping and murder of Lindy's baby. And in the very City of Washington, one Gaston Means has been convicted of having received over \$100,000 in connection with this case. Means has been referred to in the newspapers as a notorious character, and the fact that he was a secret service agent for the Government during a previous Republican administration will not be helpful to the present regime.

Gangsters and bandits appear to have more power than the Police forces, at least that is the impression that many people have gotten in reading of their activities.

Nothing has happened in our time that has so aroused the people as has this Lindbergh baby tragedy. The sorrow in the hearts of all the people was just as sincere and just as profound as if it had happened within their own family circle. There never was a hero quite like Lindy. Those who loved him almost to the point of reverence are striking out widely at every symbol of power that might have brought about conditions so tranquil as to make greed and brutality impossible, but instead did nothing.

The question might well be asked at this time—Why does the Government spend \$750,000 annually for the patrol of a single river in Asia, protecting Americans and their property, while gangsters here at home do as they please?

The one and only hope that the Republicans have to pull them through is hard-hitting Ogden Mills. He will be by far the ablest campaigner, and if he should get energetic support he will make the Democrats step lively, but in my opinion that support will not be forthcoming. So that it begins to appear as if Mr. Mills is going to steal the show. But even Mills cannot restore the Republicans' reputation for sound business management. That has been smashed into smithereens by the \$400,000,000 deficit.

The lead horse of the Republican campaign aggregation in 1928, Mr. Borah, will be playing a lone hand this year; and the Republicans will certainly miss him. Johnson and Butler will give the "old guard" little aid or comfort. Vice-President Curtis is almost useless as a vote-getter in a National contest—while Speaker Garner, the Democrats' Vice-Presidential candidate, will make the South safe for Democracy.

Slogans have always played a more or less important part in all campaigns, and Roosevelt's "Forgotten Man" will catch on. Half of the men I know think this description fits them perfectly. Roosevelt is no doubt a man of action. When he flew half way across the country to Chicago and addressed the Democratic National Convention which nominated him a few hours before, he captured the progressive forces everywhere. This bold and beautiful departure from established customs required imagination and courage—qualities much needed but seldom found in statesmen of today.

Personalities count for more than parties at this time, because the parties are so much alike and the persons so much different. The name "Roosevelt" is a powerful magnet in America, and millions will readily recognize the striking political resemblance of the Rough Rider in the fearless flyer.

ROOSEVELT WILL WIN!

—D. D

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Who will be the next President
Hoover or Roosevelt

1932

By Daniel Doherly



Donegal County Archives

SPARTAN CLASP
No. 35



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