

and which can more safely be entrusted to guide the destinies of our national government for the next four years. Based upon *performances*, which of the parties gives greater hope of doing a better job, in which experience is an important asset?

In the last twenty years we have witnessed kaleidoscopic changes in the history of the world. During the first twelve years of that momentous era we had the Republican Party continuously in power in Washington. Republican Presidents had served for twelve years, for three consecutive terms. For almost eight years the Democratic Party has been in power. Historians may well refer to this twenty-year period as the "tale of two crises;"—one, the greatest economic crisis of *our* time; the other, the greatest international crisis of *all* time brought about by the war-crazed leaders across the oceans.

Let us examine the handling of these events, the one by the Republican Party; the other by the Democratic Party. Let us determine in the light of the past whether we wish to turn out of office the party of accomplishment, experience and present ability and substitute in its place the party with a record of glaring failure.

How well do we remember the years from 1929 through 1932! The leaders of the Republican Party had blindly failed to heed the storm signals that were posted. The warnings of economists and conservative business men had gone unheeded. Then the bubble burst; the banks closed; the farmer went broke; homes were foreclosed; hunger and cold threatened millions of our unemployed.

The Republican Party showed an utter inability to comprehend the economic forces that engulfed our Nation. Apparently, it did not know how to find a way out. Its leadership was impotent, and with only one or two minor exceptions did nothing to alleviate the horrible conditions brought about by the depression.

In the face of that great emergency the party which had been in power for twelve consecutive years failed our people. And that failure brought about suffering that defied description. Where was the leadership that the Country so sorely needed? It could not be found in the Republican Party. Impotence, weakness, lethargy marched hand in hand, while the ranks of the unemployed increased. The economic condition of the Country went from bad to worse, and still there was no action. The ability to decide, to accomplish, to do;—all seemed to have disappeared from the Republican Party.

The people of our Nation sought a leader. They were disillusioned with the Republican Party. They found a great executive, a man of proven worth, most of whose lifetime had been devoted to public service. They elected a great Democrat, *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*. The people placed at the helm this man capable of supplying dynamic leadership, the kind that had been so woefully lacking in his predecessor. The people turned to their government because they knew it was the duty of their government to protect lives and property, and to lead them out of the morass into which they had been led under three terms of Republican rule.

Have we forgotten how those groups who suffered in that terrible depression turned to this government for aid? Have we forgotten the frantic appeal from the banks all over the Country that cried "Help, save us"?

They sought action. They got it—in striking contrast to the "let-it-alone" attitude of the Republican Party. Billions of dollars were advanced