

all of these for an executive who has devoted his whole life to the practice of law and the management of a public utility. The months of delay that would follow while such an individual acquired experience could be fatal.

I have cited this only to point out that today the American people have every confidence in their government and have confidence in its foreign policy and are behind their leader. They do not have confidence in the promises of a man, no matter how great his ability, who lacks experience which is sorely needed.

No general sentiment of the American people was ever more manifest than the present day determination to have adequate National Defense. Everything is naturally secondary to this consideration. What matters it whether we work out a finely-spun theory for some domestic policy, only to have our Nation caught unprepared in a world struggle for supremacy? We are not alarmists but at least we can be realists. France lies prostrate; Holland and Belgium are no more; Scandinavian countries are under the heel of the despot and the rest of the world watches to see where the blow will strike next. England—and England alone—is courageously fighting. It may be best left unsaid what might happen if England should fall.

All this shows the need—the imperative need—to have at the helm of the government the best available, the most experience, the best exponent of American principle, the man who not only dealt in words but has acted in a way that is understood by the dictators,—the man who *acted* instead of talking about supplying destroyers to the British and acquiring for the country much-needed naval bases. To say that he *acts* in a way that is understood by the dictators is stating the simple fact.

It is such a crisis, the like of which has never faced this Country in all of its history that brought about this candidacy for a third term. The answer will come on November 5th, and I am one of those who predict it will be an overwhelming victory for the Democratic Party. Our people need the courageous leadership that has made the name of President Roosevelt the hope of all our Nation.

Before concluding, may I offer another important consideration. It concerns our great Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull. The defeat of President Roosevelt would mean his elimination from the Cabinet and, if anything could be more untimely, it would be hard to imagine. Mr. Hull has gained years of experience in this key position where the Country confidently follows with approval his judgment on the handling of foreign affairs. He has spent years building up better trade relations with our South American neighbors. He has sought to break down by reciprocal trade treaties the barriers to trade raised by tariff walls. He knows the foreign situation; he is familiar with the dangers that may lie ahead. A defeat of President Roosevelt means a drastic change in the State Department while we go through the transition from one administration to another. It cannot help but adversely affect our Country.

We are now in the midst of a great National Defense Program. We all hate war. But President Roosevelt knows and you know that the best way to safeguard our interest is to be fully prepared. Our Navy will soon be the greatest in the whole world. Airplanes are coming off the assembly line; our manpower is being trained. We are not waiting for the world to collapse about us before we begin to protect ourselves. We are acting, not talking, these days.