

NEW OUTLOOK

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EDITORIAL

VOTING STRENGTH

IF IT IS TRUE, as increasingly stated, that the one sixth of the nation now appallingly on unemployed relief rolls, will vote the Democratic ticket at the next presidential election, because it wants the dole to continue, this first half of the first term of President Roosevelt must go down in our history as a period of unparalleled bribery and corruption of American citizens.

It is difficult to believe, however, that the American citizen, beaten down by the aggravated circumstances of a prolonged Depression, is so lacking in discernment as not to see that this relief money is in reality only part of his own funds that he originally paid to Government for more regular purposes. It is difficult to believe, moreover, that the American citizen, weakened though his strain may be by unworthy recent incursions from abroad, is today so lacking in the independence and self-respect that characterized his fathers, that he would pledge himself to any such arrangement, especially one that saddles a heavy burden of debt on children as yet unborn. If he is indebted for anything, it is to his country and not to the Democratic Party.

Still further, it is incredible that the leaders of the Democratic Party as a whole, would so far under-estimate the intelligence of American voters as to suppose that in the remaining two years of this Roosevelt Administration they would not come to realize the true character of their plight and where to place the responsibility for it. It is incredible; and yet to over-reach is quite consistent with the other actions of a political machine that moved in, bag and baggage, with its successful candidate.

Its steam-rolling methods began before the inaugural and have continued unceasingly since. Even now, when its fabric of wasteful experiment in

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time of national emergency is admittedly crumbling in so many places, its leaders have the affrontery to ask the citizens to stand by it on the brazen plea that the country is too far committed to turn back without irreparable damage.

There is no longer any real doubt of the advantages of a two-party political system in the United States of America; but its efficient operation heretofore has been timed for the close of the presidential term when it was proper to express public opinion on what had been accomplished. During the term, it has been maintained, there should be no political jabberwocky, but full cooperative action for the good of the people. Instead of that, it would seem that scarcely one important measure has been enacted into law by the party in power without weighing it first for political effect. In that deplorable conception of government alone, the long-suffering citizen who now is expected to ride to the rescue has been betrayed.

When Andrew Jackson was elected President in 1828, he instituted the so-called "Spoils System," as a necessary expedient to overcome the deadlocks of the irreconcilables then in politics—legislators opposed not always to him but to each other, and at a time when the nation was still forming. He used this power for the good of the nation and not for the aggrandizement of a party. On the other hand the motives in the present case are so far suspicious that on these leaders rests a peculiar, grave responsibility—to prove that they did not place the nation under a gigantic extra load of debt for generations to come just to try to obtain six years more of Democratic patronage.

Of course, apart from any defense that they may set up, the voters will have something to say about it. The Constitution provides for that.