

Republican National Platform

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Under this administration a high level of wages and living has been established and maintained. The door of opportunity has been opened wide to all. It has given to our people greater comfort and leisure, and the material profit has been evident in the increasingly harmonious relations between employers and employees, and the steady rise by promotion of the man in the shops to places at the round tables of the industries.

It has also been made evident by the increasing enrollment of our youths in the technical schools and colleges, the increase in savings and life insurance accounts, and by our ability, as a people, to lend the hand of succor not only to those overcome by disasters in our country but in foreign lands. With all there has been a steady decrease in the burden of federal taxation, releasing to the people the greatest possible portion of the results of their labor from government exactions.

For the Republican party we are justified in claiming a major share of the credit for the position which the United States occupies today as the most favored nation on the globe, but it is well to remember that the confidence and prosperity which we enjoy can be shattered, if not destroyed, if this belief in the honesty and sincerity of our government is in any way affected. A continuation of this great public peace of mind now existing, which makes for our material well-being, is only possible by holding fast to the plans and principles which have marked Republican control.

The record of the present administration is a guarantee of what may be expected of the next. Our words have been made deeds. We offer no promises but accomplishments.

Public Economy

The citizen and taxpayer has a natural right to be protected from unnecessary and wasteful expenditures. This is a right which also grows in the nation with constant increasing material progress. It is a right which we are able to meet because of our frugal and conservative habits. We have not only saved ourselves from the burden of excessive debt, but we have also saved ourselves from the burden of excessive taxation. We have not only saved ourselves from the burden of excessive taxation, but we have also saved ourselves from the burden of excessive debt.

Finance and Taxation

The record of the United States Treasury under Secretary Mellon stands without peer and unassailable. The finances of the nation have been managed with sound judgment. The financial policies have provided the medium and substantial results. In 1923, the credit of our government was at a low ebb. We were burdened with a huge public debt, a load of war taxes, which in variety and amount exceeded anything in our national life. We had unfulfilled inter-governmental debts, disorganized the economic life of the debtor nations and seriously affected our own by reason of the serious obstacles which they presented to commercial intercourse. This critical situation was evidenced by a serious disturbance in our own life, which made for unemployment. Today all these major financial problems have been solved.

The Public Debt

In seven years the public debt has been reduced by \$6,411,000,000. From March, 1921 to September, 1928, over a billion dollars of securities bearing high rates of interest, will have been retired, or refunded into securities bearing a low rate of interest, while Liberty bonds, which were selling below par, now command a premium. These operations have resulted in an annual saving in interest charges of not less than \$275,000,000, without which the most recent tax reduction measure would not have been made possible. The Republican party will continue to reduce our national debt as rapidly as possible and in accordance with the provision of existing laws and the present program.

Tax Reduction

Wise administrative management, under the Republican control and direction, has made possible a reduction of over a billion eight hundred million dollars a year in the tax bill of the American people. Four separate tax reduction measures have been enacted, and millions of those least able to pay have been taken from the tax rolls.

Excessive and uneconomic rates have been radically modified, releasing for industrial and payroll expansion and development great sums of money, which, formerly, were paid in taxes to the federal government.

Practically all the war taxes have been eliminated and our tax system has been definitely restored to a peace time basis.

We pledge our party to a continuation of these sound policies and to such further reduction of the tax burden as the condition of the treasury may, from time to time, permit.

Tariff

We reaffirm our belief in the protective tariff as a fundamental and essential principle of the economic life of the nation. While certain provisions of the present law require revision, in the light of changes in

the world competitive situation since its enactment, the record of the United States since 1922 clearly shows that the fundamental protective principle of the law has been fully justified. It has stimulated the development of our natural resources, provided fuller employment at higher wages, through the promotion of industrial activity, assured, thereby, the continuance of the farmer's major market, and, further, raised the standards of living and general comfort and well-being of our people. The great expansion in the wealth of our nation during the last 50 years and, particularly, in the last decade, could not have been accomplished without a protective tariff system, designed to promote the vital interests of all classes.

Tariff Revision

Not have these manifest benefits been restricted to any particular section of the country. They are enjoyed throughout the land either directly or indirectly. Their stimulus has been felt in industries, farming sections, trade circles and communities in every quarter. However, we realize that there are certain industries which cannot now successfully compete with foreign producers because of lower foreign wages and a lower cost of living abroad, and we pledge the next Republican congress to an examination and where necessary a revision of these schedules to the end that American labor in these industries may again command the home market, may maintain its standard of living and may count upon steady employment in its accustomed field.

A protective tariff is as vital to American agriculture as it is to American manufacturing. The Republican party believes that the home market, built up under the protective policy, belongs to the American farmer and he pledges its support of legislation which will give this market to him to the full extent of his ability to supply it. Agriculture deserves large benefits not only directly from the protective duties levied on competitive farm products of foreign origin, but also, indirectly, from the increase in the purchasing power of American consumers, payable in industries, similarly protected. These benefits extend also to persons engaged in trade, transportation and other activities. The tariff act of 1922 has justly been called the expansion act, because it has opened up to our farmers a new market for their products, the value of which has increased from \$8 billion of dollars in 1922 to \$8 billion dollars in 1927. During the same period our exports have increased from \$1 billion to \$4 billion. Contrary to our critics, the present tariff law has not hindered the natural growth in the expansion of the products of American agriculture, industry and mining, nor has it restricted the importation of foreign commodities which this country can utilize with out jeopardizing its economic structure.

Foreign Debts

In accordance with our settled policy and platform pledges, debt settlement agreements have been negotiated with all of our foreign debtors with the exception of Armenia and Russia. That with France remains as yet unratified. Those with Greece and Austria are before the congress for necessary authority. If the French debt settlement be included, the total amount funded is \$11,522,354,000. We have steadfastly opposed and will continue to oppose cancellation of foreign debts. We have no desire to be oppressive or grasping, but we hold that obligations justly incurred should be honorably discharged. We know of no authority which would permit public officials, acting as trustees, to shift the burden of the war from the shoulders of foreign taxpayers to those of our own people.

Settlement of War Claims

A satisfactory solution has been found for the question of war claims. Under the act, approved by the president on March 10, 1928, a provision was made for the settlement of war claims of the United States and its citizens against the German, Austrian and Hungarian governments, and of the claims of the nationals of these governments against the United States for the return to its owners of the property seized by the alien property custodian during the war, in accordance with our traditional policy for respect of private property.

Foreign Policies

We endorse the foreign policies of the administration of President Coolidge. We believe they express the will of the American people in working actively to build up cordial international understanding that will make world peace a permanent reality. We endorse the proposal of the secretary of state for a multilateral treaty proposed to the principal powers of the world and open to the signatures of all nations, to renounce war as an instrument of international disputes, the first step in outlawing war. The tide has stirred the conscience of mankind and gained widespread approval, both of governments and of the people, and the conclusion of the treaty will be acclaimed as the greatest single step in history toward the conservation of peace.

In the same endeavor to substitute for war the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the administration has concluded arbitration treaties in a form more definite and more inclusive than ever before and plans to negotiate similar treaties with all countries

willing in this manner to define their policy peacefully to settle disputes. In connection with these, we endorse the resolution of the sixth pan-American conference held at Havana, Cuba, in 1928, which called a conference on arbitration and conciliation to meet in Washington during the year and express our earnest hope that such conference will be greatly furthered the principles of international arbitration. We shall continue to demand the same respect and protection for the persons and property of American citizens in foreign countries that we cheerfully accord in this country to the persons and property of aliens.

The commercial treaties, which we have negotiated and those still in the process of negotiation, are based on strict justice among nations, equal opportunity for trade and commerce on the most-favored-nation principle and are simplified, so as to eliminate the danger of misunderstandings. The object, the aim of the United States is to further the cause of peace, of strict justice between nations, with due regard for the rights of others in all international dealings. Out of justice grows peace. Justice and consideration have been and will continue to be the inspiration of our nation.

The Republican party maintains the traditional American policy of non-interference in the political affairs of other nations. This government has definitely refused membership in the League of Nations and to assume any obligations under the covenant of the league. On this we stand.

In accordance, however, with the long established American practice of giving aid and assistance to other peoples, we have most usefully assisted by co-operation in the humanitarian and technical work undertaken by the league, without involving ourselves in European politics by accepting membership.

Civil Service

The merit system in government service originated with and has been developed by the Republican party. The great majority of our public service employees are now secured through and maintained in the government service under the merit system. Steps have already been taken by the Republican party to make the service more attractive as to wages and retirement privileges, and we commend what has been done as a step in the right direction.

Agriculture

The agricultural problem is national in scope and is being recognized by the Republican party, which pledges its strength and energy to the solution of the same. Realizing that many farmers are facing problems more difficult than those which face the nation as a whole, the party is anxious to do in every way possible. Many of our farmers are still being through requirements, a consequence of the years directly following the great war. All the farmers are being called on to meet new and perplexing conditions created by foreign competition, the complexities of domestic marketing, labor problems, and a steady increase in local and state taxes.

The general depression in a great basic industry inevitably reacts on the conditions of the country as a whole and cannot be ignored. It is a matter of satisfaction that the desire to help in the correction of agricultural wrongs and conditions is not confined to any one section of our country, or any particular group.

The Republican party and the Republican administration, particularly during the last five years, have settled many of the most distressing problems as they have arisen, and the achievements in aid of agriculture are properly a part of this record. The Republican congresses have been most responsive in the matter of agricultural appropriations, not only to meet crop emergencies, but for the extension and development of the activities of the department of agriculture.

Cite Loan System

The protection of the American farmer against foreign farm competition and foreign trade practices has been vigorously carried on by the department of state. The right of the farmers to engage in collective buying and co-operative selling as provided for by the Capper-Vostead act of 1922 has been promulgated through the department of justice, which have given most valuable aid and assistance to the heads of farm organizations.

The treasury department and the proper committees of congress have lightened the tax burden on farming communities, and through the federal farm loan system there has been made available to the farmers of the nation \$1,850,000,000 for loaning purposes at a low rate of interest and through the intermediate credit banks \$655,000,000 of short term credits have been made available to the farmers. The post-office department has systematically and generously extended the rural free delivery routes into even the most sparsely settled communities.

When a shortage of transportation facilities threatened to deprive the farmers of their opportunity to reach waiting markets overseas, the president, appreciative and sensitive of the condition and the possible loss to the communities, ordered the reconditioning of shipping board vessels, thus relieving a great emergency.

Last, but not least, the federal tariff commission has at all times shown a willingness under the pro-

visions of the flexible tariff act to aid the farmers when foreign competition, made possible by low wage scales abroad, threatened to deprive our farmers of their domestic markets.

Under this act the president has increased duties on wheat, flour, mill feed and dairy products. Numerous other farm products are now being investigated by the tariff commission.

We promise every assistance in the reorganization of the marketing system of sounder and more economical lines, and where diversification is needed, government financial assistance during the period of transition.

The Republican party pledges itself to the enactment of legislation creating a federal farm board clothed with the necessary powers to promote the establishment of farm marketing system of farmer-owned and controlled stabilization corporations or associations, to prevent and control the surplus through orderly distribution.

We favor adequate tariff protection to such of our agricultural products as are affected by foreign competition. We favor, without putting the government into business, the establishment of a federal system of organization for co-operative and orderly marketing of farm products.

The vigorous efforts of this administration towards broadening our exports market will be continued.

The Republican party pledges itself to the development and enactment of measures which will place the agricultural interests of America on a basis of economic equality with other industry to insure its prosperity and success.

Highways

Under the federal aid road act, adopted by the Republican congress in 1921, and supplemented by general appropriations each year, road construction has made greater advancement than for many decades previous. Improved highway conditions are a gauge of our rural development and our commercial activity. We pledge our support to continued appropriations for this work commensurate with our needs and resources. We favor the construction of roads and trails in our national parks, necessary to their preservation and utilization. In appropriate cases, we favor the use of federal funds to pay the taxable landowner's share of the cost of road construction.

Labor

The labor record of the Republican party stands unchallenged. For 52 of the 72 years of our national existence Republican administrations have provided today American labor enjoys the highest wage and the highest standard of living throughout the world.

Through the success and soundness of Republican rule the American workman has had a real wage which allows comfort for himself and his dependents, and an opportunity and leisure for advancement. It is not surprising that the foreign workman, whose greatest ambition still is to achieve a "living wage," should look with longing towards America as the goal of his desires. The party favors freedom in wage contracts, the right of collective bargaining by free and responsible agents of their own choosing, which develops and maintains that purposeful co-operation which gains its chief incentive through voluntary agreement.

Railroads

Prompt and effective railroad service at the lowest rates which will provide for its maintenance and allow a reasonable return to the investors so they may be encouraged to advance new capital for acquired development has long been recognized by the Republican party as a necessity of national existence.

Merchant Marine

The Republican party stands for the American built, American owned and American operated merchant marine. The enactment of the White-Jones bill is in line with a policy which the party has long advocated. Under this measure, substantial aid and encouragement are offered for the building in American yards of new and modern ships which will carry the American flag. The Republican party does not believe in government ownership or operation, and stands specifically for the sale of the present government vessels to private owners when appropriate arrangements can be made.

Mississippi Flood Relief

The Mississippi valley flood in which 700,000 of our fellow citizens were placed in peril of life, and which destroys hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property, was met with energetic action by the Republican administration.

During this disaster the president mobilized every public and private agency under the direction of Secretary Hoover of the department of commerce and Dwight Davis, the secretary of war. Thanks to their joint efforts, a great loss of life was prevented and everything possible was done to rehabilitate the people in their homes and to relieve suffering and distress.

Law Enforcement

We reaffirm the American constitutional doctrine as announced by George Washington in his "farewell address" to wit:

"The constitution which at any time exists until changed by the explicit and authentic act by the whole people is sacredly obligatory upon all."

The people through the method provided by the constitution have written the eighteenth amendment into the constitution. The Republican party pledges itself and its nominees to the observance and vigorous enforcement of this provision and of the constitution.

Honesty in Government

We stand for honesty in government and for the appointment of officials whose integrity cannot be questioned. We deplore the fact that any official has ever fallen from this standard and that certain American citizens of both parties have so far forgotten their duty as citizens as to traffic in national interests for private gain. We have prosecuted and shall always prosecute any official who subordinates his public duty to his personal interest.

The government today is made up of thousands of conscientious, earnest, self-sacrificing men and women, whose single thought is service to the nation. We pledge ourselves to maintain and if possible to improve the quality of this great company of federal employees.

Campaign Expenditures

Economy, honesty and decency in the conduct of political campaigns are a necessity if representative government is to be preserved to the people and political parties are to hold the respect of the citizens at large.

The campaign of 1924 complied with all these requirements. It was a campaign, the expenses of which were carefully budgeted in advance, and which, at the close, presented a surplus and not a deficit.

There will not be any relaying of resolute endeavor to keep our elections clean, honest and free from taint of any kind. The improper use of money in governmental and political affairs is a great national evil.

Immigration

The Republican party believes that in the interest of both native and foreign born wage-earners, it is necessary to restrict immigration. Unrestricted immigration would result in widespread unemployment and in the breakdown of the American standards of living. Where, however, the law works undue hardship by depriving the immigrant of the comfort and society of those bound by close family ties, such modification should be adopted as will afford relief.

Navy

We pledge ourselves to build and maintain the navy in all types of combat ships to the full ratio provided for the United States by the Washington treaty for the limitation of naval armament and any amendment thereto.

Women and Public Service

Four years ago at the Republican national convention in Cleveland women members of the national committee were welcomed into full association and responsibility in party management during the four years which have passed they have carried with their men associates an equal share of all responsibilities and their contribution to the success of the 1924 campaign is well recognized.

The Republican party, which from the first has sought to bring this development about, accepts wholeheartedly equality on the part of women, and in the public service it can present a record of appoint-

ment, judicial, treasury and other governmental departments. We earnestly urge on the women that they participate even more generally than now in party management and activity.

National Defense

We believe that in time of war the nation should draft for its defense not only its citizens but also every resource which may contribute to success. The country demands that should the United States ever again be called upon to defend itself by arms, the president be empowered to draft such material resources and such services essential commodities, whether utilized in actual warfare or private activity.

Home Rule

We believe in the essential unity of the American people. Sectionalism in any form is destructive of national life. The federal government should zealously protect the national and international right of its citizens. It should be equally zealous to respect and maintain the rights of the states and to uphold the vigor and balance of our dual system of government. The Republican party has always given its energies to supporting the government in this direction when any question has arisen.

There are certain well defined federal obligations such as interstate commerce, the development of rivers and harbors, and the guarding and conservation of national resources. The effort which, however, is being continually made to have the federal government move into the field of state activities, has never had and never will have the support of the Republican party. In the majority of the cases state citizens and officers are most pressing in their desire to have the federal government take over these state functions. This is to be deplored for it weakens the sense of initiative and creates a feeling of dependence which is unhealthy and unfortunate in the whole body politic.

There is a real need in the country today to revitalize fundamental principles; there is real need of restoring the individual and local sense of responsibility and self-reliance; there is a real need for the people once more to grasp the fundamental fact that under our system of government they are expected to solve many problems themselves through their municipal and state governments, and to combat the tendency that is all too common to turn to the federal government as the easiest and least burdensome method of lightening their own responsibilities.

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