

THIS I BELIEVE

My dear fellow Americans:

I am a Democrat, not by accident or selfish whim. I could never have been otherwise, because our party as it operates in America, is, has always been and will continue to be the party of the people—that great majority who toil in noisy factories, behind counters, in shops or till the acres of their mountain farms. You are the people, who at night, body weary, return home to enjoy with your families the fruits of honest effort. You are the people who have made the greatest contribution to the building of America.

I am, through the provisions of our laws, AN AMERICAN. Our country's history, from its beginning, is the story of people who came from everywhere and in quest of opportunity to live, work and contribute their part in the building of a Nation where its citizens would not be penalized because of race, religion or political preferences. America's position in the family of Nations today, is proof of the success of their efforts.

I came to this land of opportunity eighteen years ago, an escapee from Hitler's Gestapo, naked, destitute, penniless and without friends. I was received, and as in the case of the millions who had preceded, America held me close to her great throbbing heart of love and charity. Mine was the opportunity to live again, to hope, to dream and to plan. It was then that I could more clearly understand and appreciate the real meaning of Leviticus 19:33, 34.

Here among our friendly mountains and friendlier people the Rollmans have established their home, rearing their family of three precious children, who are in their youth, as we would have them, planting their roots deeply in the religious, social and educational life of our community.

My religious background is to be found in the tradition of my people. Had tradition and geography been different I might have been any one of many religious persuasions. Let no man pity himself because of being a Jew, Protestant or Catholic—rather let him be pitied if his daily life does not conform to the Golden Rule. To be identified with a church, by whatever name, I hold to be important, but the name fades into relative insignificance when compared with our personal relationship with God and man. No one but a bigot would criticize another because of his religion and, thank God, I have yet to find the first one among you wonderful people.

Here surrounded by favorable and encouraging conditions I have achieved economic success. There is an admitted thrill in being able to turn out several thousand pairs of shoes per day — but the lasting joy comes from a knowledge that the hundreds who work with me are all partners in the business — sharing in its profits. It really makes for sound sleep and peace of mind to know that the coming of our plant to Waynesville made its contribution to the building of better homes and better advantages to family members.

So much for Rollman, past and present — what about the future:

An industrialist turning to politics — not as politicians interpret the term, but for the opportunity afforded, to move in wider fields of service.

I BELIEVE that I should give more articulate expression to a soul, dedicated to peace and international understanding.

I BELIEVE that peace on earth can be hastened by men and women who talk and work at peace rather than war.

I BELIEVE that the well-being of our people will be safer in the hands of those who hold office, not for personal gain, than in the hands of the professional politician.

I BELIEVE we invite national bankruptcy and disrepute by pouring billions of our tax dollars into the begging hands of countries throughout the world, in an attempt to buy that which can never be bought — Friendship.

I BELIEVE that international peace and understanding can be approached only by the establishing of high and comparable living standards among the peoples of the earth.

I BELIEVE that America can and should play a leading role in the creation and cultivation of a desire, on the part of these countries, to establish their own high standards. This can better be done by providing them with the necessary tools and materials, made in American shops by American labor, attended always by a generous helping of American "know how."

I BELIEVE, we need in Congress more men with records of success in business (people who are used to meeting a payroll every Friday, year after year)—and fewer political spendthrifts who pour tax dollars down the rat holes of the earth or waste them on ill-advised projects at home.

I BELIEVE, it is reasonable to anticipate the day when our sons and daughters can plan their future without the interruption of training camps and battlefields.

I BELIEVE, it is possible to have a strong and verile nation and at the same time affect a tremendous relief to the American taxpayer.

I BELIEVE, that veterans, those who gave so much and receive so little, should have not less but more dividends upon the investment they made in their country's security.

I BELIEVE, in the conservation and development of our fabulous natural resources in W.N.C.—mineral, timber, agriculture and hydro-electric power possibilities.

I BELIEVE, in our almost unlimited possibilities for industrial expansion. (That's why I started "Operation Bootstrap," conceived to create 25,000 additional Jobs in our region.)

I BELIEVE, that multi-millions of tourist dollars await an adequate invitation to our area while recreational possibilities must be more highly developed.

I BELIEVE, most of all in our great human resources, intelligence, courage, hospitality, rugged character and adaptability of our people.

I BELIEVE, that every effort should be made to make W.N.C. additionally attractive to our native sons and daughters by creating a richer religious, educational and cultural atmosphere and at the same time to provide through industry the income that will mean the establishment of thousands of modern and happy homes.

I BELIEVE, that the only reason that our founding fathers wanted each congressional district to be represented by one man in Washington was this:

The representative elected by the people had to take care of the interests of the people in the district. The only way this can be done is for the man elected to fight that the district gets its rightful share of all federal appropriations. Over and above that the man's sole duty is to help increase the standard of living (income) of all the people in his district. Our income in W.N.C. is about the lowest in the state, and our state has almost the lowest per capita income in the nation. If, on top of this, he has the brains, energy and knowledge to help his brethren in Washington to avoid another depression and another war, so much the better.

I BELIEVE, it is my duty, as a candidate, to irrevocably declare that I am seeking this high honor to serve my district and my country; that I am not seeking the honor for what is in it for me or to line my pockets.

With this I rest my case in the hands of God and the wonderful people whose will and judgment I shall never distrust.

Sincerely,

Heinz Rollman

*A Man Who Believes in the Integrity, Intelligence
and Independence of the People of Western
North Carolina*