

JACKSON DAY REFLECTIONS

The President spoke last night of Hamilton who, in spite of his perverted attitude toward the people, did the big job of his day which was to re-establish the currency and credit of the country. He spoke of Jefferson who, in spite of his defection to the fanaticism of the French Revolution, did the big job before him by establishing the government of this country on the basis of the rule and suffrage of the rank and file. He spoke also of Lincoln who did his job which was to fight the sources of disintegration and preserve the union.

The big job of this day is to preserve and protect the right to work; the right of every man to earn a living in this country. Public work cannot, of course, accomplish the whole task. The system of free enterprise on which Democracy is founded must be protected from its own inner disease of monopoly and from the depressing effect of lack of mass buying power. But public work can and will be the necessary protection of free enterprise against depression, the buttress that supports the dam and prevents the flood of unemployment that means panic and collapse.

The men who conceive and present an acceptable plan to accomplish nation-wide employment and security will win the next election. If their councils are weakened by dissension, compromise or surrender, the forces of reaction will win and all the gains will be lost. The statesman that presents and fights through such a plan will be the leader in the next administration.

There is danger that the present scope of public work will be lessened. There are holes springing in the dam and the buttress may be washing away. If we falter we will fail. There ought to develop quickly a defensible plan for public work in the United States on a permanent basis. We are familiar with the philosophy and we know the techniques. There should develop a resolute determination to appropriate sufficient funds, and to raise them or pay for loan funds with the necessary and fair taxation to support a program of public work on sufficient scale to save the system of free enterprise; and to make the right to work in America an accomplished thing instead of a hollow sound. This is today's battle ground of freedom.

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