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America and the New Deal: Conclusion, 1938

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CONCLUSION

The principal points made in the foregoing pages have been labored and repeated enough to leave little that needs to be said by way of conclusion or recapitulation or addition. The outstanding conclusion from the sum of criticism of the New Deal government is that, ^{if} Americans wish recovery, and wish to preserve their Constitutional government and their way of life, they must demand a government that will act wisely, with integrity, prudence and ability, and with good-will to all; that will cleave to the spirit of the Constitution; and that will not gamble with the nation's present and future in wilful pursuit of ~~its~~ ambitions and experiments. An official appointed by a president is told in his commission that the president appoints him because he reposes "special confidence in his integrity, prudence and ability". And every official, from the president down, swears, in his oath of office, that he will 'support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that he will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that he takes this obligation freely, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion,-- So help him God'. Assumed in so many words by officials, the meaning of this oath is implicit in all American citizenship. Its meaning, spirit, and implications need to be pondered well by voters, their representatives, and their officials.

We have glanced at the great issues between bureaucratic dictators and representative democracy; between socialism and reasonably regulated individualism; between a dollar economics of scarcity and a wealth economics of abundance; between a prudent pay-as-you go policy and one of fantastic waste^{and} crushing debt the logical consequences of which are such general miseries as bankruptcy, repudiation, inflation. We have compared an economy for the benefit of consumers, that is everybody, with one designed^{the producers} only to subsidize producers, at the expense of everybody, including themselves. We have seen the wicked fatuity of stirring up inter-group strife instead fostering fair and frank cooperation between employer and employe.