

RADIO SPEECH OF DR. JAMES J. McCLENDON

FOR BROADCAST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1943

GOOD EVENING:

I DESIRE THIS EVENING TO ADVISE ALL THOSE WITHIN THE HEARING OF MY VOICE TO BE SURE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd. IN MANY COUNTRIES TODAY, PEOPLE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING THEY POSSESSED FOR THE PRIVILEGE WHICH IS OURS; THE RIGHT TO VOTE AS THEY CHOOSE. THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO TAKE THIS PRIVILEGE ALTOGETHER TOO LIGHTLY. IF THEY WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO STOP AND THINK OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS COMING ELECTION, THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY OF VOTING AND THEY WOULD SURELY GO TO THE POLLS.

THERE IS ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT ANGLE CONNECTED WITH OUR RIGHT OF SUPFRAGE AND THAT IS THE FACT THAT MANY OF OUR BOYS ARE FIGHTING THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM HOME, SO THAT WE MIGHT CONTINUE TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE OF VOTING FOR WHOM WE PLEASE, AND THEY ARE ALSO FIGHTING SO THAT OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED THAT PRIVILEGE MIGHT AGAIN HAVE IT. THAT FACT ALONE IS SUFFICIENT REASON WHY WE ARE LEFT HERE AT HOME SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THIS PRIVILEGE.

THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WE WILL HAVE IN DETROIT FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL DEPEND UPON THE TYPE OF MEN AND WOMEN WHOM WE ELECT TO OFFICES. THESE MEN AND WOMEN OUGHT TO BE FREE FROM PREJUDICES. THEY OUGHT TO BE FREE FROM HATRED. THEY OUGHT TO BE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BY THEIR PAST RECORDS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO TREAT ALL CLASSES AND GROUPS FAIRLY AND SQUARELY. THEY OUGHT TO BE MEN ^{AND WOMEN} WHO HAVE THE INTEREST OF THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE AT HEART. THEY OUGHT TO BE

MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE FREE FROM PERSONAL AGRANDIZEMENT. THEY OUGHT TO BE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE FREE FROM BIGOTRY.

THE ISSUES IN THIS CAMPAIGN OUGHT TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO EVERYONE WHO IS DOING THE LEAST BIT OF THINKING. THEY ARE BIG ISSUES; THEY ARE NOT SMALL AND PETTY BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION. LET US NAME A FEW OF THEM TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT I MEAN. LET'S TAKE THE ISSUE OF HOUSING. THE MAN WHO IS ELECTED MAYOR OF OUR CITY AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ELECTED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OUGHT TO BE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS, ALL PEOPLES, ARE ENTITLED TO DECENT AND COMFORTABLE SURROUNDINGS. THIS IS VERY VITAL BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT INDIVIDUALS IN SLUM AREAS, IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE OVERCROWDED AND ARE FORCED TO LIVE IN UNSANITARY, DELAPIDATED, AND CONDEMNED HOMES, ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL HAVE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF DISEASE. THEY ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL HAVE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE A HIGH DEATH RATE. THIS IS TRUE, MY FRIENDS, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY OR RACIAL ORIGIN OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FORCED TO LIVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. THEREFORE, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR CITY AS WELL AS OURSELVES, WE OUGHT TO PUT MEN AND WOMEN IN OFFICE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO WORK FOR BETTER HOUSING FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE. WE OUGHT, ALSO, TO CAST OUR BALLOTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE COMMITTED TO WORK FOR PROPER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN, PLAYGROUNDS, SWIMMING POOLS, AND OTHER WHOLESOME RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES. WE KNOW THAT THESE THINGS WILL GIVE THE YOUTH A CHANCE TO RELAX AND PLAY. THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM WILL KEEP THEM OUT OF BEER GARDENS, POOL ROOMS AND OTHER PLACES OF VICE.

WE SHOULD CAST OUR BALLOT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL INSTRUCT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ABANDON "KID GLOVES POLICIES" AND TURNING THEIR HEADS THE OTHER WAY WHEN THEY SEE CRIMES COMMITTED, BUT WHO WOULD INSTRUCT THEM

TO UPHOLD THE MAJESTY AND THE DIGNITY OF THE LAW, AND WHO WOULD LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL, THAT IF THEY BREAK THE LAW, REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR OR CREED THEY MUST SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES. THIS CAN BE DONE AND THIS MUST BE DONE IF DETROIT IS TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A VERY IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT IN ANY CITY GOVERNMENT, BUT IT MUST BE FREE FROM POLITICS AND IT MUST HAVE A FREE HAND TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATIONS ACCORDING TO ITS TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. WE FEEL THAT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IN DETROIT HAS NOT HAD A FREE HAND TO DEAL WITH CRIME ACCORDING TO ITS MOST MODERN CRIMINAL METHODS, BUT HAS BEEN HINDERED AND HAMPERED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE. THIS MUST CEASE, TO BE TRUE. WE CAN AID IN THIS BY CASTING OUR BALLOTS ON NOVEMBER 2nd FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL SEE TO IT THAT THIS IS DONE.

WE NEED TO CAST OUR BALLOT FOR A MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL WHO WILL BE FAIR TO OUR LABORING PEOPLE. LABOR HAS SHOWN A MAGNIFICENT ATTITUDE TOWARD WINNING THE WAR. THEIR "NO STRIKE PLEDGE," WHICH THEY HAVE KEPT, MAKES THEM EXEMPLARY. THEY SHOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY AND RESPECTFULLY WHEN THEY WISH TO SIT DOWN WITH ANY CITY OFFICIAL AND BARGAIN FOR A JUST WAGE. THEY SHOULD NOT BE BURDENED WITH FURTHER TAXATION. WE ARE INFORMED THAT A 1% SALARY TAXATION WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 10 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM THE WORKING MAN'S SALARY. WE DOUBT SERIOUSLY WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD IT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME WHEN TAXATION HAS ALMOST BECOME A BURDEN ALREADY.

I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE A PENCIL AND WRITE THESE NAMES DOWN:

FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND JUDGE FRANK FITZGERALD. JUDGE FITZGERALD HAS STATED HIS VIEWS FAVORABLY CONCERNING THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT OF WHICH I HAVE JUST SPOKEN. I BELIEVE HE IS SINCERE AND WILL

TRY TO CARRY OUT THESE THINGS TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

MR. EDWARD A. SIMMONS, A COMPETENT ATTORNEY IN OUR CITY; A MAN WHO HAS LIBERAL VIEWS AND ONE WHO WILL WORK FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITY.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDS, A PRESENT MEMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL WHO DESERVES THE VOTE OF EVERYONE BY HIS RECORD. EVER SINCE HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL HE HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITY.

MR. JOHN C. LODGE HAS A LONG AND EMINENT RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN OUR CITY.

MRS. HELEN BRYANT IS A COURAGEOUS WOMAN WITH BROAD AND LIBERAL VIEWS. WE FEEL THAT THE CITY FATHERS NEED A CITY MOTHER TO HELP THEM RUN THE CITY.

MR. FRED CASTATOR IS AN OUTSTANDING LABOR LEADER IN OUR COMMUNITY. HE HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF FULLY CONCERNING THINGS WHICH ARE TO THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR COMMUNITY.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE ABOVE NAMED PEOPLE AND SUGGEST THAT YOU GO TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 2nd AND CAST YOUR VOTES FOR THESE. IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR REDEVOTED GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BRING ABOUT THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH YOU WANT. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

THANK YOU,

AND GOOD NIGHT