

## MR. ROOSEVELT CONFESSES

The third term, as Mr. Roosevelt confessed in his radio talk to the convention, needed a war. It needed a war and along with it the strange doctrine that only one man could save the country.

All thru his second term Mr. Roosevelt was determined to have the third if he could get it. He knew that the judgment of the country would be against him unless the nation could be thrown into a state of great alarm and worked into a sense of great national emergency.

If Mr. Roosevelt was to be the first man to hold the White House as a permanent residence, the doctrine of indispensability had to be made as plausible as it could be. Mr. Roosevelt says that it was only after the beginning of the European war in September that he began to lie awake nights troubled by his conscience. Until that time he had been persuaded that he could do what he desired to do, which was retire from public life.

When the Germans invaded Poland and Great Britain and France went to war "that quiet, invisible thing called conscience" began to conflict with his "deep personal desire for retirement."

Long before Sept. 1, 1939, Mr. Roosevelt had cultivated the mystery of his purposes. He had refused to answer the anxious questions of his own party associates. He had indicated his disapproval of every candidate suggested as his successor. He had moved likely fellows, when he could dispose of them, about so as to detach them from publicity. His place men, who knew how to please him, were saying in public places that he must be drafted. They didn't say it was for war; they said it was for continuance of the New Deal revolution.

Mr. Roosevelt did not rebuke any one who said he was indispensable because the New Deal must not perish, but he did show his displeasure when any other Democrat was mentioned as a possibility.

This cultivated uncertainty discouraged all other ambitions. Men said they would be candidates if Mr. Roosevelt did not desire to be renominated. The uncertainty did not begin September first. The question of the third term had occupied public attention for more than a year before the war started. Mr. Roosevelt's friends did not, as he says they did, know that he intended to retire and not seek renomination.

His predecessors when their intentions were asked had been quick to say that they would under no circumstances accept a third term. Only Mr. Roosevelt refused to answer that question. He not only refused but he created the conviction in the minds of all the people that he would take the third term, that he would use all the powers of his office to get it, and that the firmest determination of his life was to break tradition and to stay in the White House, becoming historically notable as the President who did what no other President had done.

When war broke out he seized his opportunity immediately. He brought the war as close to these shores as he possibly could. Documents reveal that before the French and the British despaired of peaceable solution of the Danzig question Mr. Roosevelt's ambassadors, Mr. Bullitt in Paris and Mr. Kennedy in London, were giving representatives of the Polish government to understand that America would be in on the side of Poland if Poland would resist. What this did to make impossible any negotiations between Poland and Nazi Germany cannot be known now. There is a feeling that it did a great deal.

As soon as the war had begun Mr. Roosevelt proclaimed a state of limited national emergency. He had the neutrality law repealed in order that the United States might become the supply depot of one set of belligerents. Week by week, he has increased the warlike measures and operations of the United States. He has never allowed the people to avoid the idea that they are about to go to war.

As the time for the nominating convention approached, Mr. Roosevelt, lying awake nights wondering how he could most easily achieve this overweening ambition, sent his messages to congress calling for 14 billion dollars of armament and a week before the delegates came to Chicago he announced his purpose of asking authority to call out the National Guard. He threw over the country the shadow of the war which was to make it impossible for him not to sacrifice himself to this undying ambition of his while he called upon his fellow countrymen to sacrifice themselves to chimeras he evoked from beyond the seas.

As hypocrisy this reaches the zenith of the ridiculous. A man who says he wanted to retire has played upon the emotions of the American people with every tremulous tone he could sound, seeking to further his ambitions to be the first Caesar who crossed the White House threshold not willingly to go out of office which it represented. He pictures himself as a country squire sacrificing himself to the war conditions he has created.

This dictatorially minded man produced the sham of the Democratic convention, rehearsing every event from the opening speech by Mr. Bankhead to the last note of his own soulful voice saying how he was immolating himself upon the alter of his country. The sham, beginning when he refused to make the simple statement that he was not a candidate for the renomination, coming to one climax when he told the convention Tuesday night that he did not want it and to another Thursday night when he confessed that he has been wanting it in his sleepless hours all along for the last 10 months.

Surely a reading of Mr. Roosevelt's record along with a reading of his speech will show to any one whose mind is open the duplicity of a man given to histrionics, a man obsessed with visions of extraordinary grandeur, and a man who craftily seeks his way into the sympathies and illusions of a people who may be deluded by such craftiness. He has a low opinion of the sound judgment of the people of the United States.

Less candor has never been in the White House. More duplicity has never been there. There has never been a sorer contempt for the common sense of the American people. There never has been a more determined resolve to sacrifice American welfare to personal aggrandizement.

Any one who could read that speech to a convention completely dominated by the federal purse and completely immunized from any considerations of national good and not see how false it was in word and emphasis, how deceitful it was in purpose and intent, and how completely it revealed the overreaching ambitions of a willful, egotistic man, has closed his eyes to the evidence before them and his ears to the meaning of the words he hears.

Mr. Roosevelt speaks of submitting to a draft upon his conscience because these are times in which men must surrender their liberty of choice in action to the national emergency. There is no national emergency except the one he has first created in his own purposes and then endeavored to convey to the country as a certainty of doom. This certainty of doom he hopes to be his certificate of election to a third, and after that how many terms? The sleepless man in the White House is sleepless with unlimited ambition. He is willing to go to any extreme to satisfy this restless urge of his. He has betrayed himself by his confession and his acts make the confession unnecessary.

Republicans need not regret anything that happened in the Stadium in Chicago Thursday night. There the intrigue was written as boldly, as distinctly, as if in words of prophetic fire. The country knows what it can expect because it sees what has been done. A cold and clammy intrigue burst out in the truth of a confession which must needs fail to do what it tried to do. It tried to picture a stricken man yielding to the necessities of his country. What it did was to show an ambitious man sacrificing his country to himself.