

C. GUY CUTLIP
JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT
SEMINOLE COUNTY
SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA

September 16th, 1936

Mr. John T. Cooper
WEWOKA, Oklahoma

Dear John:-

You write me recently asking if I am going to support Mr. Roosevelt for president. That is a frank question and deserves a frank answer. I am going to vote regular and hope for the best.

But this does not mean that there are not many things being done by the national administration against which my better judgment revolts- against which I am disgruntled and in which I am disappointed. To you, an old socialist ~~campaigner~~ campaigner, the turn to the left of the national administration is received with satisfaction, but to me who never voted for any such measures, they seem destructive of a free government, a republican form of government. There are many things that I do not understand that are being done by the national administration.

I dont understand why the national administration did not follow the platform upon which it was elected. That platform, in the main, promised the reduction of governmental expense and expenditures and the abolishment of many of the bureaus, commissions and departments that are destroying the people with over taxation and infringing their rights.

I dont understand why cattle and sheep and hogs, horses and mules and other wealth is destroyed at a time when helpless babies and grown ups are crying for something to eat. Was it to make prices higher for the few and penalize the many? Those things mentioned are wealth, there never was nor can there ever be a surplus of such wealth.

I dont understand why the wealth should be taken out of the various communities of the nation and lodged in the central government for distribution to the needy when the several communities and states have every power to relieve the needy that can be asked for and can do it cheaper and with less likelihood of being imposed upon by unworthy folks.

I dont understand why the poor man is paid the pitiful sum of two or three dollars each week for labor performed when the straw boss is getting forty dollars per month regular time. I thought it was the needy that was to be benefitted.

I dont understand why the NRA was envoked to throttle competition and fix prices in a government that guarantees economic liberty to its people.

I dont understand why the AAA was administered to purchase the farmers of the country into economic slavery and curtail production of food stuff that would feedy the hungry.

I dont understand why the national administration would put the stamp of approval upon the "potatoo law" that would prevent a citizen of free country from producing more than five bushels of potatoes to the family unless it was to boost the price for the big potatoo raisers of the country and penalize the poor people of the land.

I cannot understand why property can be taken away from a citizen, even if it be gold, in violation of the constitutional rights and immunities guaranteed to the average citizen.

I cannot understand why the national government should indulge in the vast waste of money and national wealth and thereby burden our unborn children by expending that money for frivolities and dole and dress suits for fiddlers, when it could have been spent for flood control and conservation of the soil, for the building of vast highways east and west and north and south across the United States to transport troops and equipment in time of invasion, and thereby give our children some value received for the money they will have to expend to meet the wastefulness of the present generation.

I cannot understand why sixty to one hundred million dollars should be expended trying to harness the twenty four foot tides in the Bay of Fundy just because a president's summer home is located near by; nor a ship canal across Florida that in the minds of reasonable men is a pure squander.

I cannot understand why prices are deliberately run up on the great middle class of people at a time when they are oppressed by too high taxes already.

I cannot understand when men are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars NOT to raise a few hundred head of hogs when ham is worth forty eight cents per pound and ordinary liver thirty cents per pound and the administration is crying: "you can't let people starve."

I cannot understand why the financial institutions, both banks and insurance companies, of the nation should be loaded to the brim with government securities for borrowed money when a drop in the market price would wreck every one of those institutions.

I cannot understand why the principles of the Democratic party have been dropped and the principles of the socialist party substituted, even to insulting the South which has always stood for White supremacy by forcing negroes ~~in~~ upon their sensibility.

I cannot understand why the national administration is seeking by every available move to destroy local state governments and centralize every conceivable function of government in the central set up.

Neither can I understand why the administration continues to defer to those staunch socialist and communist partizans, Comrade Tugwell, Red Hopkins and Citizen Wallace.

I can understand why the administration employed the HOLC, the Federal Land Bank, extended the services of the RFC and instituted the CCC corps, because those things are simply helping worthy people to help themselves and there cannot be any great loss to the government or our children. I can understand why the administration stabilized the banks of the country, saved the insurance companies, the Building & Loan companies and thereby saved the stock of the millions of stockholders of the nation. And I can understand and appreciate the stand of the president when he told the English government at the International conference to "go to hell" when it tried to dictate our monetary policies.

But I cannot understand why the national administration should desire to turn over to politicians the planning of the individual citizen's every day life when everybody complains they would not trust a politician in one of General Key's sanitary closets with a muzzle on.

I cannot understand why WORTHY men are forbidden work upon government projects and pushed out of the line of relief by "moochers". What kind of a citizenship are we trying to raise up? One that will be self supporting, or one that will be absolutely dependent. The conduct of the administration seems to lean toward the later.

These are the things that makes the wrestling match between Jacob (if it was Jacob) of old and the Angel look like a frolic compared to the struggle between my patriotism and my party allegiance.

I could make a much better speech for the Republicans this fall than I could for the present administration, BUT that is natural; it is always easier to pick faults than it is to put forward a constructive program. When men earnestly endeavor to do things they think beneficial to people it is easy for the sitters on the side lines to see the faults.

But, here is my conclusion, if mistakes have been made by the Democratic party, I, as a Democrat (not a socialist) says let the democrats correct those errors. The thing that bothers me is, will the present administration endeavor to correct them. Monstrous mistakes have been made under the "experiment" but I have yet to hear any voice of the administration admitting the mistake.

As a good democrat I can hold my nose and make a good speech for the party and perhaps out of trust and loyalty I should do so. If commanded, I shall do so. But you are at the head of that matter. Use your own judgment.,

Respectfully.,

C. Guy Cutlip
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