

Ask Your Congressman

The time is past for sham battles and in order that a real victory may be won for the people every candidate for congress should be questioned on several particular subjects by the men whose votes he seeks.

Readers of The Commoner everywhere should ask their congressman:

(1) Do you believe: "A platform is a pledge, given by the candidate to the voters, and when ratified at the polls becomes a contract between the official and his constituents. To violate it, in letter or in spirit, is not only undemocratic, but repugnant to the principles of representative government, and constitutes an embezzlement of power."

Answer

(2) Will you vote for a change in the house rules, putting the selection of committees in the hands of party caucuses, each caucus selecting its own committee membership?

Answer

(3) Where do you stand on the tariff question? Do you believe in the principle of protection as interpreted by the republican party or do you favor tariff for revenue only?

Answer

(4) Do you endorse the democratic platform declaration that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable?

Answer

(5) Will you do your utmost to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist?

Answer

(6) Will you favor a bill requiring the publication of all campaign contributions prior to election day?

Answer

(7) Are you opposed to national incorporation—that is, the grant of corporation charters by the federal government instead of by the state government as at present?

Answer

(8) Are you in favor of the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people?

Answer

(9) Are you in favor of the income tax?

Answer

(10) Do you approve the democratic national platform for 1908?

Answer

[Note: It is suggested that voters cut out the above list of questions and send it to the candidate for congress in their district, asking him to fill in the answers and return the same to the voter. The voter may, if he desires, forward the same to The Commoner, and it will be printed in this paper.]

Manly, Iowa, September 28, 1910.—The Commoner: In compliance with your request I sent to D. D. Murphy of Elkader, Ia., democratic candidate for congress of the Fourth congressional district for Iowa, and have received his answer, which ought to be satisfactory, and in justice to Mr. Murphy I enclose his answer, and desire that they be published in The Commoner. He says he is for tariff reform, and answers all the questions "yes." Very respectfully,
R. G. MITCHELL,

Democratic Chairman County Committee, Worth County, Iowa.

Elkader, Iowa, September 26, 1910.—R. G. Mitchell, Manly, Iowa.—Dear Mr. Mitchell: Yours of 24th enclosing ten questions received, and I am returning it to you with my answers, which I had no difficulty at all in making. I also notice what you say about a question in the minds of a good many democrats throughout your parts, as to my position on some of these questions. They need have no question whatever as to my position on any question now before the people for settlement.

The issues, as I understand them, all range themselves round and center in one central comprehensive principle, and that is a question of whether or not the rights of the people are to be protected as against encroachments on the part of special interests. There is no longer any question, it seems to me, that special interests in this country have been having undue influence in the making, and in the administration

of our laws, and that laws have been so made and administered as to permit these interests to enjoy special privileges. That they have been permitted to transfer by laws, money from the pockets of the people, it may be in very small contributions, but in the aggregate, very large, into their own coffers.

The changes in the methods of production and transportation in the past generation, have made it possible to center nearly all of the work of the world in the hands of monopolies, and if the people are to have a square deal, it is absolutely necessary that wherever any industry becomes monopolistic, that it be subject to regulation by law.

I expect to spend some time in your part of the district during the campaign, and I think there will be no doubt left as to where I stand on all questions in which the people are now interested in the political world. With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely yours,
D. D. MURPHY.

Representative Cantrill of Kentucky is the first member of congress or candidate to answer the questions printed in The Commoner. To question number three, Mr. Cantrill answers that he is in favor of tariff for revenue. To all the other questions he answers yes. These answers were made in reply to one of Mr. Cantrill's constituents. The following letter is self explanatory:
Georgetown, Ky., September 26, 1910.—Mr.

Joe Duvall, Frankfort, Ky. Dear Sir: I enclose answers to the questions you mailed to me. Questions two, three, six and nine were before the last congress and my vote is recorded in the affirmative. I am glad at all times to have suggestions from the voters of this district. You can always count on me voting to put into effect every plank of the national democratic platform of 1908. Very truly,
J. C. CANTRILL.

GOD IS LOVE—PEACE

That we have right to fortify
Our waterway in torrid zone,
Is fact that no one can deny,
Since we are building it alone.

But how to fortify it best,
And with what minimum expense,
That it may stand severest test
And prove for us a sure defense;

Is quite another fact, and one
Upon which men may disagree,
One urging disappearing guns,
Another armored ships at sea.

But neither of these plans appeal
To me, as being safe or cheap,
My armament would be more real,
A Watchtower even while men sleep.

I'd write at entrance of both seas,
In letters bright as burnished gold
To shine afar, the one word "Peace,"
For every nation to behold.

And with a pen still dipped in light,
Once more I'd write sweet Peace above
Three words against which dynamite
Is dumb and silent "God is Love."

—C. F. VANDERVOORT.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Many of the magazines devoted to the interests of women and the home are urging their women readers to take an interest in the questions of the day, and especially in the workings of the questions of tariff reduction and reform. The burden of these questions fall heaviest on the women and the home, and it is becoming harder every day to meet the demands of increased prices and still live even comfortably. The facts are cited that less than two-thirds of the persons entitled to vote avail themselves of the privilege of the ballot, no matter what the issue, and women are urged to insist on their husbands, brothers, sons going to the polls at the next election, which will soon take place. These magazines, interested in the welfare of the homes and families, insist that what we need more than anything else is the "active, intelligent, aggressive interest of the voter," and this voter should be urged by his wife, sister, mother or daughter, or by all of them, to do his duty in the election of men who will stand by the people. Women are being urged to interest themselves in the causes of the exorbitant prices paid for everything, and try to bring about a better and saner administration of affairs, by using whatever interest they may have for the election of congressional representatives who will work for the good of the people. One gets from congress only what he sends to it, and if unprincipled men, or men who care more for money than for their own honor and welfare of their constituents, are placed in our highest offices we, who have the welfare of the home and family at heart, are the ones to blame, and the ones who must bear the burden of its hardships. See that your home voter goes to the polls, and votes the right ticket. Study matters closely, and be sure you know which is the right ticket and the right man.
HELEN WATTS McVEY.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of October. Take advantage of this offer at once, and send in your renewal.