

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.]

FROM WEST VIRGINIA

Writing to J. A. Hibbs, Hundred, W. Va., James W. Davis, candidate for congress, says he favors tariff for revenue only, and answers all other questions "yes."

FROM TENNESSEE

Writing to T. M. Gaddis from Crump, Tenn., Congressman T. W. Sims says he favors a tariff for revenue only and answers all other questions in the affirmative.

FROM ILLINOIS

Elton Bane Builta, Arrowsmith, Ill.—Enclosed find question blank, which was sent to and answered by Mr. Louis Fitz Henry, democratic candidate from the Seventeenth congressional district of Illinois. It did not take him long to answer the questions satisfactory to me. He deserves the support of every progressive voter in the district, as his opponent, Mr. John A. Sterling, is a Cannonite standpatter, and a nothing representative.

Bloomington, Ill., October 18, 1910.—Mr. Elton Bane Builta, Arrowsmith, Ill.—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th enclosing blank list of questions taken from The Commoner, received. I have answered them and return it to you. I hope that my answers will be satisfactory to you and that you will do everything in your power to advance the interests of the cause. The republicans are very much dissatisfied with the record of the present congressman and thou-

sands of them will vote against him while many will not vote at all. In order to insure success of the principles which are advantageous to the people it will be necessary for every progressive citizen to be extremely active from now until the polls close. I trust you will give all the attention possible to getting those who believe as we do to the polls on election day.

Yours respectfully, LOUIS FITZ HENRY.

Mr. Fitz Henry answers question three by saying that he favors a tariff for revenue only and answers all other questions by saying "yes."

FROM COLORADO

O. L. Bright, Roggen, Colo.—As suggested, I sent the ten questions to Hon. A. W. Rucker, candidate on the democratic ticket for congress of the First district of Colorado, and received his answers to all the questions. You will note that he answers yes to all except the seventh, which he does not quite understand. As a constituent, I will say that Mr. Rucker has made one of the best representatives that ever went to congress from Colorado. If elected this will be his second term. Enclosed find his letter and questions, which please publish. Long live The Commoner.

Denver, Colo., October 21, 1910.—Mr. O. L. Bright, Roggen, Colo.—My Dear Sir: I have been delayed in answering your letter and inquiry of October 12, by my absence from the city. I have answered all your questions except the seventh, which I do not thoroughly under-

stand. However, you will see from the public print my attitude in regard to these matters. I thank you for your past efforts in my behalf, and will certainly appreciate whatever you may be able to do for me in my re-election. I am enclosing you herewith your questions answered to the best of my ability, and assure you that I would be glad to serve you in any way that I may be able to.

Very truly yours,
A. W. RUCKER.

FROM WASHINGTON

Writing to G. R. Jones, Wartsburg, Wash., H. D. Merritt, candidate for congress, says he favors a tariff for revenue only and answers all other questions in the affirmative.

FROM MISSOURI

Hon. J. J. Russell of Charleston, Mo., writes: Charleston, Mo., October 17, 1910.—No voter of the district has submitted the enclosed questions to me, but have clipped them from The Commoner, and hand to you with my answer, Very truly, J. J. RUSSELL.

Mr. Russell answers question two by saying: "I will follow the advice of Champ Clark," and answers all other questions in the affirmative.

Perry Wright, Edgerton, Mo.—Enclosed please find list of questions taken out of The Commoner and forwarded to our congressman. You will see all questions are answered in the affirmative; also enclose his reply to same; you can publish same in The Commoner if you like. Yours for results.

Savannah, Mo., October 17, 1910.—Mr. Perry Wright, Edgerton, Mo.—My Dear Sir: Just in from a week's campaign in Holt county and found your letter, together with newspaper clipping, which I herewith return. I have answered at least fifty of these in the last month. Every democrat ought to answer them "yes."

Yours truly, CHARLES F. BOOHER.

Mr. Booher says he is for tariff for revenue only and answers all other questions in the affirmative.

A. T. Duncan, Clinton, Mo.—I am pleased to enclose herewith the answers of our congressman, Hon. C. C. Dickinson of this Sixth congressional district. Mr. Dickinson is a resident of this city. Kind regards and best wishes.

Mr. Dickinson says he is for tariff for revenue only and answers all the other questions "yes."

FROM IOWA

Writing to William O. Brisbine, S. C. Huber, Tama, Iowa, candidate for congress says he favors tariff for revenue only and answers all other questions in the affirmative.

FROM CALIFORNIA

Arthur W. Callaghan, Northwestern, Cal.—I am sending you Mr. W. Kentt's answers to the ten questions. He is the republican candidate for congress from this, the Second district of California, and in a few days I hope to have the same answered by our democratic candidate. Things are looking fine for our party.

Mr. Kent answer's questions 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 "yes." He answers 7 "no." He answers 3 in this way: "Revenue and protection of industries that can in a reasonable time be self-supporting." He answers 4 in this way: "No, I would regulate monopolies. Competition can never be restored." He answers 5 this way: "An uncontrolled monopoly, yes." He answers 10 this way: "Haven't read it. Am for parcels post."

FROM OKLAHOMA

J. Grover Scales, Row, Okla., October 27, 1910.—Our candidate for congress, Hon. James S. Davenport, has kindly answered all the questions that you ask in The Commoner. He answers "yes" to all of the questions by saying that he believes in a tariff for revenue only. Mr. Davenport represented our Third congressional district in congress two years ago, and being dissatisfied sadly with our present republican representative, we are enthusiastic to see this patriotic democratic candidate overwhelmingly elected. Yours for democracy.

FROM NEBRASKA

Thomas Asp, Holdrege, Neb.—I have asked Hon. R. D. Sutherland the questions proposed by The Commoner, and he has answered them directly in the affirmative, every one but No. 3, which he answers, "Tariff for revenue only." We surely have a democratic candidate in the Fifth Nebraska district this year that we may feel very proud over, and a man who, by all means, ought to be elected by a large majority.