

Two Examples of Republican "Harmony"

MR. TAFT WARNS AGAINST 'FLABBY COMPROMISE' THIS YEAR

He Declares That Neither Mr. Roosevelt Nor Himself, as Leaders of the 1912 Quarrel, Should Be Named Next Time

[Correspondence New York Herald, Washington Bureau, January 4.]

William Howard Taft sounds a warning to the republican party against nominating Theodore Roosevelt as its 1916 color bearer and against making a "flabby compromise" with progressives in the hope of winning the presidency.

Mr. Taft's views are expressed in a statement sent today to the Cincinnati Times-Star by its Washington correspondent, G. J. Karger. C. P. Taft, brother of the one time president, is owner of the newspaper, and Mr. Karger was associated closely for years with William H. Taft. The message is accepted as authentic and the first clear statement of Mr. Taft's views on the national political situation.

"Mr. Taft has no objection to having it understood that he takes it as a matter of course that, Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft having been the opposing leaders in the quarrels of 1912, the republican party will not court another defeat by the nomination of either," the correspondent states.

It is an absurd suggestion that any other than a "real republican" shall be the party nominee or have a part in determining the choice of the republican convention, according to his interpretation of Professor Taft's view.

It is also asserted that it is the "good Lord, good devil" kind of politics which some republicans have been playing which has encouraged the democratic-progressives to look for the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt or some one of his choice.

"The republican party will not become the progressive party," Mr. Taft is quoted as saying by the Times-Star. "The republican party is not dependent on the progressive party in the next campaign. Pro-

gressive voters who have come back attach no condition to their return.

"The most radical mistake the republican party can make is to sacrifice its principles either in its platform or in the character of its nominee for the purpose of securing their support.

"If the republican party will nominate a regular republican it can win, and if it can not win with a regular republican it ought not to win in any event. The backbone of the republican party is in the business men of the country, and they want a true note struck as to business conservatism and a medium course prescribed in the matter of peace and war preparedness.

"If the scheme should be to conciliate the progressive leaders, at whatever cost, it will be at a cost merited by such a course. Even though victory could be secured by a flabby compromise, it would avail nothing, for the party would divide again as it did before.

"Real republicans will protest against the adoption of any colorless opportunist policy in dealing with men with whose views the delegates to the convention are not in real sympathy; they will protest against any attempt to induce them to support the republican party by making allowance in advance for their feelings, in the hope and possible expectation of pursuing a subsequent course which shall not gratify those feelings.

"It is the timidity shown by certain republican leaders in asserting the principles of the republican party, which gives color to the absurd suggestion, the ridiculous proposal, that any other than a real republican shall be the republican nominee or take part in determining the choice of the Republican National convention."

ONLY MR. ROOSEVELT OR JUSTICE HUGHES CAN DEFEAT MR. WILSON, MR. BIRD SAYS

In Letter to George W. Perkins, He Declares Either Acceptable to Most Progressives and to the Rank and File of the Republican Party

[From The New York Herald, January 4.]

George W. Perkins, chairman of the executive committee of the Progressive National committee, will give a dinner in Chicago next Monday night to members of the national committee and other leaders in the progressive party.

"After that I believe I will be in a position to talk," said Mr. Perkins yesterday when discussing Theodore Roosevelt's chances of getting the united backing of the progressives and the republicans for their next presidential nomination.

"There will be more to be said then than after the Gary dinner?" was suggested.

"Yes; I think so," said Mr. Perkins with a smile.

But Mr. Perkins would not commit himself for publication yesterday. He would not even indorse the sentiments expressed in a letter which he had received from Charles Sumner Bird, of Massachusetts, in which Mr. Bird came out emphatically in favor of Mr. Roosevelt as the best man "to defeat President Wilson next November."

"As chairman of the executive committee it would not do for me to say how I stand on that letter from Mr. Bird," said Mr. Perkins. "Wait until after that dinner next Monday night. Then we should know better where we stand."

The letter from Mr. Bird is in part as follows:

"The progressives, more than two million strong await with much interest the action of the National Progressive committee which meets in Chicago on January 11. We are largely anti-democratic, and yet many of us will vote the democratic ticket rather than support a reactionary republican candidate or subscribe to a narrow, stand-pat platform.

"The time is at hand when the responsible leaders of the progressive party should declare, in no uncertain words, what they propose to do in the national campaign of 1916. This is no time to temporize, to finesse, to play the dog in the manger. The responsibility for failure to unite progressives and republicans into solid anti-democratic body should be put squarely up to the republican organization.

Opposes Southern Control

"The responsible leaders of the republican party should be made to understand, in clear terms, that the nomination of a reactionary or second rate candidate will widen the breach of 1912 and insure the election of President Wilson and the control of congress by the southern democracy.

"They should be told frankly, and publicly, that if the republican leaders force upon the country a reactionary candidate the progressive organization will put into the field a straight ticket which progressives of all parties can conscientiously vote for.

"There are two men, and two only, who have a ghost of a chance to defeat President Wilson next November—Justice Hughes and Mr. Roosevelt. Either would be acceptable to the great majority of progressives; either would be satisfactory to the rank and file of the republican party.

"Mr. Hughes, as governor of New

York, was independent, efficient and courageous. Undoubtedly he would make a great president. There are some, however, who feel as he evidently does, that a supreme court justice should not step from the bench into a political fight. There are others who realize that Mr. Hughes' opinions on the issue that will be paramount at the next election are unknown.

"It may be that he believes in President Wilson's Mexican, European, tariff for revenue only, business persecuting policies, and if he does his nomination would obviously be an absurdity. However, Justice Hughes is a strong man and undoubtedly would be supported by progressives and republicans alike.

"Theodore Roosevelt was a great president, a strong executive, who called to his cabinet the ablest men of that time. First of all, he is a patriotic and loyal American. At all times, under all circumstances, he has hit hard for Americanism, for national honor and for our national responsibility in the work of the world.

"Had He Been President"

"Had he been president during the last three years the crimes done in Mexico would have been averted, the Lusitania would have been afloat and our rank among the nations of the world nothing to be ashamed of.

"Mr. Roosevelt is the only prominent public man who has protested effectively and openly, against the crime of Belgium, the rape of American women in Mexico and the murder of American citizens on the ocean. Other public men have ducked and dodged and played the coward. He has swept aside all shams and called a spade a spade.

"While giving due praise to the German people for the economic results accomplished in the last generation, he has condemned in no measured terms their militant bureaucracy that has ridden roughshod over treaties and promises. He has not been stopped by the fear of losing German-American votes, but has stood four square to every wind that blew."

"Theodore Roosevelt is known world wide as an exponent of national patriotism, and he, above any other man, can make a real fight against the milk and water foreign attitude of the democratic administration. He can not only unite the progressives and republicans, but he will get many democrats who, under no conceivable condition, would follow any other republican candidate.

"Theodore Roosevelt for president. Elihu Root for secretary of state! What a sigh of relief and confidence would come from every section of the country! I repeat—put it up to the republican leaders. If they refuse to see, if they decline to act, then the responsibility for another democratic victory will be theirs."

Letters to the Tribune

In a letter which Mr. Perkins sent out the other day to about two hundred and fifty members of the progressive party he called attention to many letters which have appeared recently in the New York Tribune, saying that there was no doubt that the country was demanding Mr. Roosevelt. C. W. Gilbert, one of the editors



Opportunity Knocks at the Republican Door.

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.