

and would not have been done if no contribution had been made. Yet you clearly imply that he is and has been improperly influenced by the fact of these contributions having been made. Do you consider such an implication either straight-forward or sincere?

Quotes Letter to Cortelyou

In a letter to the chairman of my campaign committee on October 26, 1904, I specifically approved of the conditions under which the national committee were accepting contributions, saying that their acceptance was to be "with the explicit understanding that they were given and received with no thought of any more obligation on the part of the national committee or of the national administration than is implied in the statement that every man shall receive a square deal, no more and no less, and that this I shall guarantee him in any event, to the best of my ability." If they subscribe for the purpose of securing such national welfare, and with no thought of personal favors to them, why they are acting as is entirely proper. I continued, "In returning the money to them (any contributors), I wish it made clear that there is not the slightest personal feeling against them, and that they can count upon being treated exactly as well by the administration, exactly as fairly as if we had accepted the contributions. They shall not suffer in any way because we refused them, just as they

would not have gained in any way if we had accepted them." No member of the national committee has ever directly or indirectly suggested to me that I should either do or leave undone anything whatever because any one has contributed or had failed to contribute.

Doubts Bryan's Sincerity

These are the facts. Now for your proposal. You have yourself furnished its condemnation. You have quoted the subscriptions furnished to Governor Hughes as giving reasons to distrust Governor Hughes' attitude toward corporations, and I am obliged to say that this can not be sincere on your part, for you know well what the governor's attitude has been throughout his term. You quote the subscription of Mr. Harriman to my campaign, although you knew well that it did not interfere with any action taken by me as against Mr. Harriman, and ask if it would not have affected the campaign if known. Thereby you have furnished an excellent reason for refusing to meet your proposal, for you make it evident that to adopt your proposal would give to every man who cared merely for partisan success the chance, by precisely the argument you have now made, to create to more purpose the false impression that you are now seeking to create. Mr. Taft's reputation, Mr. Taft's acts on the bench and in the executive service show that he could not be swayed in any shape or way by any consideration save the public interest and that the fact of any man's contributing or failing to contribute would in any way influence my action, any more than it has influenced my action, or the action of Governor Hughes. I emphatically approve of the publication of campaign expenses after the election, whether provided by law or not. You have shown by this letter of yours that if the contributions to Mr. Hughes' campaign fund had been made public before election you and those who act with you would have striven to give the false impression that Mr. Hughes was unfit to be trusted with the position of governor, and you have shown by this letter of yours that if Mr. Harriman's contribution to the campaign fund of 1904 (and incidentally I may mention that I am informed that this particular contribution was not used for the national campaign, but in the New York state campaign), had been known before the election, you and your supporters would have endeavored to use the fact of its having been made as an insincere and untruthful argument to show that I could not be trusted to deal out exact justice to Mr. Harriman. No stronger argument against your proposition has yet been advanced than this that you have thus unconsciously advanced.

(Here follows the references to Governor Haskell.)

I believe in radical reform; and the movement for such reform can be successful if it frowns on the demagogue as it does on the corruptionist; if it shows itself as far removed from government by a mob as from government by a plutocracy. Of all corruption the most far-reaching for evil is that which hides itself behind the mask of furious demagoguery, seeking to arouse and to pandar to the basest passions of mankind. No better exemplification of this type of corruption could be found than in the case of Mr. Haskell.

You have uttered no word of condemnation of Haskellism, as we thus see it. That you consciously sought to bring it about, I do not believe. That it was the natural result of the effort to apply in practice your teachings I have no question. Yours truly, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Hon. William J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.



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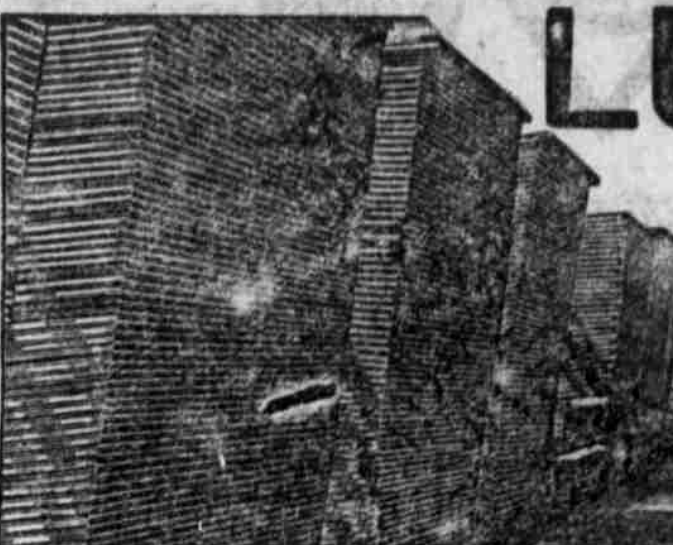
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