

ment of expenditures omits the pregnant fact that congress authorized the use of one and a half billion dollars in the hands of various departments and bureaus, which otherwise would have been converted into the treasury, and which should be added to the Republican total of expenditures.

HIGH COST OF LIVING

"The high cost of living and the depreciation of bond values in this country are primarily due to war itself, to the necessary governmental expenditures for the destructive purposes of war, to private extravagance, to the world shortage of capital, to the inflation of foreign currencies and credits and in large degree, to conscienceless profiteering.

"The Republican party is responsible for the failure to restore peace and peace conditions in Europe, which is a principal cause of post-armistice inflation the world over. It has denied the demand of the president for necessary legislation to deal with secondary and local causes. The sound policies pursued by the treasury and the federal reserve system have limited in this country, though they could not prevent, the inflation which was world-wide. Elected upon specific promises to curtail public expenditures and not to bring the country back to a status of effective economy, the Republican party in congress wasted time and energy for more than a year in vain and extravagant investigations, costing the taxpayers great sums of money while revealing nothing beyond the incapacity of Republican politicians to cope with the problems. Demanding that the president, from his place at the peace table, call the congress into extraordinary session for imperative purposes of readjustment the congress when convened spent thirteen months in partisan pursuits failing to repeal a single war statute which harrassed business or to initiate a single constructive measure to help business. It busied itself making a pre-election record of pretended thrift having not one particle of substantial existence in fact. It raged against profiteers and the high cost of living without enacting a single statute to make the former afraid or doing a single act to the latter within limitations.

"The simple truth is that the high cost of living can only be remedied by increased production, strict governmental economy and a relentless pursuit of those who take advantage of post war conditions and are demanding and receiving outrageous profits.

"We pledge the Democratic party to a policy of strict economy in government expenditures and to the enactment and enforcement of such legislation as may be required to bring profiteers before the bar of criminal justice.

THE TARIFF

"We reaffirm the traditional policy of the Democratic party in favor of a tariff for revenue only and confirm the policy of basing tariff revisions upon the intelligent research of a non-partisan commission rather than upon the demands of selfish interests, temporarily held in abeyance.

BUDGET

"In the interest of economy and good administration, we favor the creation of an effective budget system that will function in accord with the principles of the constitution. The reform should reach both the executive and legislative aspects of the question. The supervision and preparation of the budget should be vested in the secretary of the treasury as the representative of the president. The budget as such, should not be increased by the congress except by a two-thirds vote, each house, however, being free to exercise its constitutional privilege of making appropriations through independent bills. The appropriation bills should be considered by single committees of the house and senate. The audit system should be consolidated and its powers expanded so as to pass upon the wisdom of, as well as the authority for, expenditures.

"A budget bill was passed in the closing days of the second session of the Sixty-sixth congress, which, invalidated by plain constitutional defects and defaced by consideration of patronage, the president was obliged to veto. The house amended the bill to meet the executive objection. We condemn the Republican senate for adjourning without passing the amended measure, when by devoting an hour or two more to this urgent

public business a budget system could have been provided.

SENATE RULES

"We favor such alteration of the rules of procedure of the senate of the United States as will permit the prompt transaction of the nation's legislative business.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

"To the great agricultural interests of the country the Democratic party does not find it necessary to make promises. It already is rich in its record of things actually accomplished. For nearly half a century of Republican rule not a sentence was written into the federal statutes affording one dollar of bank credits to the farming interests of America. In the first term of this Democratic administration the National Bank act was so altered as to authorize loans of five years maturity on improved farm lands. Later was established a system of farm loan banks, from which the borrowing already exceeds \$300,000,000 and under which the interest rate to farmers has been so materially reduced as to drive out of business the farm loan sharks who formally subsisted by extortion upon the great agricultural interests of the country.

"Thus it was a Democratic congress in the administration of a Democratic president which enabled the farmers of America for the first time to obtain credit upon reasonable terms and insured their opportunity for the future development of the nation's agricultural resources. Tied up in supreme court proceedings, in a suit by hostile interests, the federal farm loan system, originally opposed by the Republican candidate for the presidency, appealed in vain to a Republican congress for adequate financial assistance to tide over the interim between the beginning and the ending of the current year, awaiting a final decision of the highest court on the validity of the contested act. We pledge prompt and consistent support of sound and effective measures to sustain, amplify and perfect the rural credits statutes and thus to check and reduce the growth and course of farm tenancy.

"Not only did the Democratic party put into effect a great farm loan system of land mortgage banks, but it passed the Smith-Lever agricultural extension act, carrying to every farmer in every section of the country, through the medium of trained experts and by demonstration farms, the practical knowledge acquired by the federal agricultural department in all things relating to agriculture, horticulture and animal life; it established the bureau of markets, the bureau of farm management and passed the cotton futures act, the grain grades bill, the co-operative farm administration act and the federal warehouse act.

"The Democratic party has vastly improved the rural mail system and has built up the parcel post system to such an extent as to render its activities and its practical service indispensable to the farming community. It was this wise encouragement and this effective concern of the Democratic party for the farmers of the United States that enabled this great interest to render such essential service in feeding the armies of America and the allied nations of the war and succoring starving populations since armistice day.

"Meanwhile the Republican leaders at Washington have failed utterly to propose one single measure to make rural life more tolerable. They have signalized their fifteen months of congressional power by urging schemes which would strip the farms of labor by assailing the principles of the farm loan system and seeking to destroy the great nitrogen plant at Musci Shoals upon which government has expended \$70,000,000 to supply American farmers with fertilizers at reasonable cost; by ruthlessly crippling nearly every branch of agricultural endeavor, literally crippling the productive mediums through which the people must be fed.

"We favor such legislation as will confirm to the primary producers of the nation the right of collective bargaining and the right of co-operative handling and marketing of the products of the workshop and the farm and such legislation as will facilitate the exportation of our farm products.

"We favor comprehensive studies of farm production costs and the uncensored publication of facts found in such studies.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

"The Democratic party is now, as ever, the firm friend of honest labor and the promoter of

progressive industry. It established the department of labor at Washington and a Democratic president called to his official council board the first practical workingman who ever held a cabinet portfolio. Under this administration have been established employment bureaus to bring the man and the job together; have been peaceably determined many bitter disputes between capital and labor; we repassed the child labor act, the workingman's compensation act, (the extension of which we advocated so as to include laborers engaged in loading and unloading ships and in interstate commerce); the eight-hour law, the act for vocational training and a code of other wholesome laws affecting the liberties and bettering the conditions of the laboring classes. In the department of labor the Democratic administration established a woman's bureau, which a Republican congress destroyed by withholding appropriations.

"Labor is not a commodity; it is human. Those who labor have rights and the national security and safety depend upon a just recognition of those rights and the conservation of the strength of the workers and their families in the interest of sound-hearted and sound-headed men, women and children. Laws regulating hours of labor and conditions under which labor is performed, when passed in recognition of the conditions under which life must be lived to attain the highest development and happiness, are just assertions of the national interest in the welfare of the people. At the same time, the nation depends upon the products of labor; a cessation of production means loss and, if long continued, disaster. The whole people, therefore, have a right to insist that justice shall be done to those who work, and in turn that those whose labor creates the necessities upon which the life of the nation depends must recognize the reciprocal obligation between the worker and the state. They should participate in the formulation of sound laws and regulations governing the conditions under which labor is performed, recognize and obey the laws so formulated and seek their amendment when necessary by the processes ordinarily addressed to the laws and regulations affecting the other relations of life.

"Labor as well as capital is entitled to adequate compensation. Each has the indefeasable right of organization, of collective bargaining and of speaking through representatives of their selection. Neither class, however, should at any time nor in any circumstances take action that will put in jeopardy the public welfare. Resort to strikes and lockouts which endanger the health or lives of the people is an unsatisfactory device for determining disputes, and the Democratic party pledges itself to contrive, if possible, and put into effective operation a fair and comprehensive method of composing differences of this nature.

"In private industrial disputes, we are opposed to compulsory arbitration as a method plausible in theory but a failure in fact. With respect to government service, we hold distinctly that the rights of the people are paramount to the right to strike. However, we profess scrupulous regard for the conditions of public employment and pledge the Democratic party to instant inquiry into the pay of government employes and equally speedy regulations designed to bring salaries to a just and proper level.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

"We endorse the proposed Nineteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States granting equal suffrage to women. We congratulate the legislatures of thirty-five states which have already ratified said amendment and we urge the Democratic governors and legislatures of Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida and such states as have not yet ratified the federal suffrage amendment to unite in an effort to complete the process of ratification and secure the thirty-sixth state in time for all the women of the United States to participate in the fall election. We commend the effective advocacy of the measure by President Wilson.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

"We urge co-operation with the states for the protection of child life through infancy and maternity care; the prohibition of child labor and adequate appropriations for the children's bureau and the woman's bureau in the department of labor. Co-operative federal assistance to the states is immediately required for the re-