HARMONY THE WATCHWORD AMONG DOUGLAS COUNTY REPUBLICANS

Full Text of the Speeches Delivered at the Mass Meeting Held at Washington Hall Friday Evening.

Following is the full stenographic report of the speeches delivered at the republican mass meeting at Washington hall on Friday evening, in the order of the speakers:

H. A. Foster.

Fellow Republicans and Gentlemen: You all know what we are called together for. This is a harmony meeting, a sort of a love feast in the republican party. This movement was started by the McKinley club some months ago, and we have worked along that line, and this is the first general meeting we have had. I now call this meeting to order and ask Senator Millard to take charge of it and act as chairman.

Senator Millard.

Gentlemen and Fellow Republicans: I assume that you have all read the call that has been published two or three days, and as we are all anxious to come together, I take it that the gentlemen who are present are inclined to stand with us and try and see if we cannot bring ourselves together so that at the coming election there will be no difference among republicans. (Applause.)

I have been a republican for many years and voted a great many times for men who were on the ticket that were really not acceptable to me, but I have made up my mind after many years that the only thing for a republican to do is to vote the ticket from beginning to end, and I hope the gentlemen in this meeting will all feel the necessity of coming together and seeing if we cannot make a success at the coming election. We all know how easy it is to pull apart and sometimes how hard it is to get together, but this is one time when we should combine and try and carry the election at the coming November. We should try and get together so that at the coming election we can get together, not only in county and city, but in the state and nation, and that next year we will not only elect the president and vice president, but also the congressman, our governor and all the state officers, also the legislative ticket, as we expect to elect a United States senator at that time. I feel the necessity and importance, and hope you feel that we can get together and make success sure, not only at this coming election, but all future elections. (Applause.)

Robert Cowell.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Republicans: It affords me great pleasure to stand before this audience tonight, because I feel it augurs well for the success of our party, both for this year and next. I am in no sense a speaker and least of all a public speaker. I take it that I have been called upon to say a few words tonight because I have attended every meeting, I believe, that has been held in this city in the interest of harmony. These meetings were first held in the Millard hotel in this city. There were a few gentlemen from both factions in the party. I hate to use that word and hope after tonight we will never again hear of two factions in the republican party. (Applause.)

At the instance of the McKinley club a number of gentlemen were asked to meet in the Millard hotel with a view, if possible, to wiping out differences, real or imaginary, which seemed to exist in the party. We labored week after week and seemed to accomplish little. I began to feel it was love's labor lost, but, I say it to the credit of the McKinley club, which is composed of young men, that they did not feel as I felt, and they still kept up the good work. Since that time we have had a number of meetings, on an average of two a week. These meetings have been attended actively by those who were supposed to be affiliated with what was known during the last election as the machine wing of the party.

At first blush, the average man who is not in sympathy with the "machine" would be liable to conclude that these gentlemen were getting together at these meetings for the purpose of putting up a job on the party. Fortunately for us, at a number of our meetings certain gentlemen attended who were associated with the other wing of the party. I was also glad to see them there, because they, better than we, could impress their friends with the purpose and objects of these meetings. These people were called together with a view to first harmonizing themselves. For, I want to say to you, gentlemen, that some differences had apparently arisen in our own wing. We first wanted to find out whether there was an earnest desire on the part of our people for harmony, whether they were desirous to hold out the olive branch to the other side or to go it alone. I have never attended meetings where there seemed to be fuller and freer expression. I never attended meetings where there seemed to be fairer or more kindly disposed sentiments apparently felt and expressed and I want to say to you, gentlemen, that if any of these prominent men associated with the "machine" faction have something hid up their sleeve I have been unable to discover it.

We have arrived, among ourselves, at what I think is a fair conclusion. There is a disposition on our side to meet the other side more than half way. To give them liberal and fair representation on the ticket, in the hope that they will join with us and that we will present a united party when we go to the polls and get for the republicans such offices as we think they are rightfully entitled to have. The meetings that I have attended remind me a great deal of the experience meetings that I was in the habit of attending when a boy. When I first went into trade I was connected with the Methodist persuasion and we were in the habit of holding experience meetings, so as to prepare for revivals. To night I hope we will have a genuine old-fashioned Methodist revival. (A voice: "Amen." Cheers and laughter).

I do hope that if there have been any differences in the past, and there must have been some differences, that they will be forgotten and that we will go from this hall as republicans and not as republicans of the "machine" or "anti-machine." I thank you. (Applause.)

Byron E. Burbank.

Fellow Republicans and Fellow Citizens: Had I chosen the time and the occasion when this meeting could have assembled for this purpose, I would have selected the time immediately following the coming convention. However, being one of the numerous republicans in this community, I could not well refrain from signing the call that was presented to me for the purpose of assembling here this evening in order that we might bring about, if possible, a better condition of harmony in the rank and file of the republican party of this city and county. We are all satisfied with each and every nomination and endorsement that has been made for the filling of offices to be filled in this county, in this legislative district, in the state and in the nation. We do not believe it can be safely said by any republican in either wing of the republican party in this county that the judicial ticket will not receive the unanimous support of all republicans in this judicial district. (Applause.)

I believe that I speak with full assurance and with fidelity to the republican party when I say that each and every republican in this city does honor to the man and honor to his vote when he casts his vote for Judge Barnes for judge of the supreme court of this state. He is a distinguished gentleman, a learned lawyer, and honest, and these three things put him in the best possible condition for the working out of the destinies of the people through our tribunals. It cannot be said by anyone who is acquainted with the judicial ticket nominated for this Fourth judicial district that these men are not eminently qualified for the positions to which they have been nominated, or that they do not possess in remarkable degree integrity in themselves and the confidence of the people. And this, further, that they have a state pride, and that state pride has been expressed in our choice of a candidate for vice president of the United States—Hon. John L. Webster (great applause) our man. As we have associated with him from day to day, from year to year, and he has gone in among us, we have somewhat forgotten the colossal standing of this, our friend and citizen and neighbor. Those who have been viewing him from a distance are better able to see and to measure his status as an American citizen, as a lawyer and as a jurist, than any of us who have been closely connected with him. And we shall take this opportunity of rallying to him and doing everything that we can that he may attain this last distinguished honor which the state has so kindly given him.

So much for the work of the conventions that have already assembled. We are now on the eve of the primary election. A set of rules has been put in force by the so-called anti-machine wing of the republican party in this county which are eminently fair and which give to every republican in this county a free and untrammeled choice. (Applause.) I for one stand for those rules. I stand for the fair and legitimate interpretation of them, and the carrying into full force and effect according to their spirit and effect. I do not stand here to defend for one moment any system by which that choice will be eliminated and the purposes of the rules defeated. What is the natural result, then, of the present situation? All the candidates who can be voted for in the coming primary election are now before the people. While I have my own political and personal friends among those people, no matter whether my men are nominated by the coming convention, or those who have affiliated with the opposite wing to the one with which I have been connected, I shall support that ticket from top to botton. (Applause.)

I believe that political parties are best controlled by majority rule. I believe that the foundation upon which the social compact is built is made from the very best of our republican form of government—the right of the majority to rule is best worked out by the action of the majority of our people in republican conventions assembled. So that when the convention has adjourned I am willing to take those nominees, make them my personal and political friends, and do everything in my power to elect them at the coming election. (Applause.)

This call, I take it, was made in good faith. We so understood it when we came here and joined in this meeting; yet this evening, after having taken this in the best possible good faith, I opened the columns of The Omaha Bee and read from the editorial page an editorial, written, I presume, by the manager, editor and proprietor of the Omaha Daily News (Laughter)—one who signed this call with me and with others—who signed this call—on which there must be placed a peculiar construction, whatever may be the occasion of this.

When I was a boy we used to hunt rabbits. Frequently some of us used to start to congregate together and build fences, and they used to start in a V shape, and at the end we had a trap, and we used to get rabbits as well as we could run them into that V shaped trap, and get sometimes a good many, sometimes not many; and as I read this article in The Evening Bee I wondered if this was a rabbit trap. (Applause) And I want to read it now to you for your consideration, and whatever I have to say here this evening is said in perfect good faith and with perfect fairness, and with the desire that our republican ticket shall be elected. (Applause. From the audience: "This is to catch votes, and not rabbits" Loud applause.) This editorial—you will bear with me, as it is short:

THE LINE OF DEMARKATION.

The rank and file of the republicans of Douglas county earnestly desire the obliteration of factional difficulties that have for many years divided the party in this country and enabled the democratic minority to occupy nearly all the important political positions within the gift of the people. In striving for conciliation and harmony the party must, however, not sacrifice the public interest or jeopardize the success of its nominees in the impending campaign by ignoring the two essential prerequisites—competency and honesty—as passports to public and favor and public office.

I endose that sentence. Here is the trouble:

Harmony does not necessarily mean that every member of the party stands pledged to the support of men disqualified for the positions of honor and trust by indefensible records or disqualified for the duties that would devolve upon them by lack of capacity. Here is the line of demarkation. To solidify and unify the party in support of an unscratched ticket the candidates on the ticket must be clean, honest and capable. Hackneyed pledges of supporting yellow dogs that are tagged with a convention label will not insure their election. Nominations of unfit candidates tend to drag down the whole ticket and cause the defeat of candidates who otherwise would be sure of election.

Now, I would like to ask at this time of the distinguished editor of The Omaha Bee, who carries the conscience of his paper with him, whether or not that editorial, written upon the eve of this meeting, participated in, I believe, by the men who are here present in the best of good faith, was intended, or does not, or purports to mean, or can be construed to mean, that after our republican county convention has adjourned if he sees fit to scratch any man on that ticket he feels at perfect liberty to do so. And I shall expect when he comes on he will say something in regard to the meaning of those words in the editorial which I have just read. (Applause. Voice from audience: "Good.")

Irrespective, however, of any position which he may take in the columns of his paper, or personally—irrespective of the position which any republican may take, either for or against any set of candidates, I myself stand for the candidates that are nominated and shall stand for and support the ticket that is nominated in the coming election. It is not right to say that with a full 2,000 majority we should leave the best offices in the gift of the people in the charge and control of the democratic party. There is nothing in the whole history of the democratic party which warrants them in assuming charge of the discharge of a single trust which the people have to give and which can be given to the republican party. We do not quarrel with the personnel or the individuals, but the republican party is fairly in the majority. With its vote solidly and honestly cast every office in the gift of the people in this community will find a safe officer in the ranks of the republican party. (Applause.)

The republican party has had too long and too honorable a career to be sidetracked in a metropolitan city like Omaha for the feeling of any one or any dozen or any hundred republicans that stay in our community. This so-called factional feeling in this city, that, when the convention has adjourned, leaves the nominees of the convention open to be stricken down is despicable in every respect and can not be justified from any standpoint. (Applause.) So that here in this meeting of republicans, having for its fundamental purpose the harmonizing of the different elements in the party, if every man will carry into full force and effect that which I presume he will pledge himself to do this evening, and use his influence to that end, the republican ticket will be elected in this city, in this county and in this state by a very large majority.

So, I thank you, gentlemen, for your consideration. (Applause.)

Mayor Moores.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Republicans: You must not expect me to make any extended remarks tonight, because I am not physically able to do so, but I want to confine myself to that great and glorious word harmony, with a big H. Brother Burbank said that if he had a choice of when harmony would take effect it would be after the next convention. If I had any choice when harmony should take effect it would have been about last April, right in this hall. (Applause and laughter.) I have always been for the republican ticket after the nominations. In '95 I was foolish enough to run for a third term as clerk of the district court—and I got it in the neck! I didn't sulk, but I went out and did what I could to help my opponent, Albyn Frank, and I went out of politics. I supposed that I was out of politics. A year went by and the boys remembered my republicanism and that I was always for the ticket after the nomination, and they gave me the nomination for mayor. I was elected. Three years rolled around, and I was nominated again, and I was elected. Three years roll along, and without harmony I was nominated and elected. (Applause.) Now I am ready to bury the hatchet. I am ready to accept any republican nominated at the coming convention, no matter how much sugar I have got to put in the pill to get it down, I will swallow it (applause), I presume.

What is the use of our throwing away all of the best offices in the county just because we do not want the other fellow to play in our back yard? It is all foolishness. Let us get together, and, as it is said, "beat the common enemy." I have got to be very careful in what I say about the common enemy, because it has been a mighty good enemy to me. (Applause.) But, as Grant said, "Let us have peace, if we have got to fight for it." (Applause.) Gentlemen, I can't talk any more. I feel feeble, but I will tell you one thing: You will always know where Frank is—he is always with the ticket, after it is nominated, and don't forget it. I will be with you this time. Thank you. (Much applause.)

The Chairman: There is no question where the mayor is. He certainly is going to be with us. (Applause.)

A. W. Jefferis.

Fellow Citizens: I for one love and revere the history of the republican party. I for one owe allegiance and believe in the great principles of our party. I love to think that back in the years of '50 the backwoodsmen came forth in Illinois and took up the cause of republicanism. Abraham Lincoln loved his fellow men. He believed in a government of the people, by the people and for the people. He voiced the sentiments of the men of that period and they rallied around him and he became the first great leader of the republican party. From his day to this the republican party has been a great agency in the freedom of government that has affected not only this nation, but all nations of the world. Abraham Lincoln and the republican party believed in human rights and in human liberty, and under their leadership the shackles of 4,000,000 of slaves were broken and the ballot was handed to them. The republican party has at all times kept in touch with the thought and the sentiment of the people and for that reason it has been the great party of progress. The republican party has been a great factor in the dissemination of intelligence. It has fostered schools, endowed universities and laid the broad primary work for the young American training and education that they may cope with the questions of the world, and one of the great teachings of the great universities is independence of action.

Still, at the present time the younger generation of the United States is not at liberty, is not willing, to follow everything, no matter where it may lead them. We want something to say. Every republican ticket must necessarily go before the bar of public opinion, and if it is going before the bar of public opinion and expects the public to support the republican party, to rally to the support of its standard bearers, each one of those republicans must be consulted in the making up of the ticket. (Applause.)

Individuality is going to establish itself more in the next fifty years than it has in the past. We see it in Wisconsin, we see it in Illinois and Indiana and other states—in Minnesota, and likewise in Iowa. Feeling that that is the spirit that is actuating the spirit of the American people, believing that that is the cause which has caused the defeat of the republican party in Douglas county in the past—the two factions in the party, the rank and file, have come to the conclusion that they have nothing to say, and therefore are not bound by what they do. The rules have been adopted by the central committee and placed before the free citizens of this county.

I have confidence in the members of the republican party. I feel that they know in their own minds who they want, and that they will register that decree when they have a chance at this coming primary election. All I hope and trust is and what I believe will produce absolute harmony and successful election this fall of the entire republican ticket, is that those affiliating with the anti-machine wing and those identified with the machine republicans will keep their hands off the slate in this convention and let the people make their choice. (Applause, loud and prolonged.)

I would like to see it tried, and I would like every one tonight to take that thought close to his home, and remember that the republican party of Douglas county does not sit upon the platform here. (Turning to gentlemen seated on platform. Applause.) Let us remember that around the firesides throughout this city, South Omaha and the country, in the heart and mind and soul, all have some objective place for good, courageous men of the republican party. Let us listen to them and follow them. (Applause.)

W. J. Connell.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Republicans of Omaha: As Grover Cleveland once said, "We are confronted with a condition, and not a theory." While it is true we have this grand old republican party, which my friend who just took his seat so splendidly eulogized; while it is true we have these great, grand, glorious leaders of the past and present; while it is true that Omaha can roll up, where the party stands united, a majority of at least 1,500 for the republican ticket, and while it is true that the county of Douglas can do equally as well, we look across to the left, to that fine building on the eminence, and find it filled with democrats. (Voice, "Who done it?") Who put them there? Cross-purposes among republicans is what did it. If we stood united, it would never have occurred. That applies to the county court house. It applies as well in a measure to the city hall. The city hall is in part filled with democrats, and what caused that? The disloyalty of the republicans. Now, then, what we ought to do is to quit fighting among ourselves and present a solid and united front to the enemy, and then we will elect our entire ticket. (Applause.)

If we are going to have harmony, we must not disagree too much. I cannot help disagreeing a little with my friend Burbank along the same line as regards the matter of the time of holding harmony meetings. I agree with Mayor Moores on that point. It is an easy thing to be in favor of harmony and elect a ticket, if you or your friends happen to be on that ticket, but if the other fellow wins out, it is quite another question. What we ought to do is to do as we are doing tonight. To get together and talk these matters over. Settle these past differences, if we can, and go and elect the ticket that will be nominated at the next convention, as will certainly be the result if we only present a solid front to the enemy. (A voice: "The gophers will do it if the machine will." Laughter.)

It is suggested that we have a judicial ticket. As I understand it, it is not in order to canvas candidates that are to come before the conventions. I think it is proper, however, for me to refer to our distinguished citizen, Hon. John L. Webster, the next vice president of the United States. (Applause.)

I think it is all right to refer to the splendid judicial ticket that we have nominated and bespeak for it the united support of the republican party. I am glad to hear everyone who has preceded me express their desires to do that. What have we on the other side? We have a sort of mixed-up combination, that is, neither one thing or the other. Neither fish, flesh or fowl. I have a great deal of admiration for a good, clean democrat. I have a good deal of admiration for a true-blue republican, but not for the man, who claims to be a republican, who will accept a democratic nomination and run on that ticket for the purpose of beating a republican. (Loud applause.) With regard to that, I feel a good deal as the Irishman did that went into the restaurant and asked the waiter for something to eat. The waiter brought a plate of hash and set it down in front of him. The son of the Emerald Isle, daintily turned it over with his fork, and said: "What is that?" "That is hash," said the waiter. "Take it away," said the Irishman, "and let them that chewed it ate it." So I say, let them that put up that mongrel ticket elect it. Let that little coterie of lawyers who undertook to dictate to the people of Douglas county, let them, if they can, elect that ticket. Let us present a solid front and work up this feeling of harmony. It is a very nice thing, and an easy thing for my friend Moores to get up here and talk for harmony. It is a little easier for him than for some of the rest of us. (Laughter.)

At the first harmony meeting there was present Mr. Hunter, Mr. Bruning and myself. I want to say these two gentlemen, and perhaps it will not be charged up as being egotistical to say I joined them in the expression, regardless of what has happened in the past, we were each and all in favor of working up a sentiment for peace among the republicans of Douglas county without regard to whether its candidates were machine or anti-machine men. We should work up, cultivate and bring about results that we are all looking for. I recognize the right of republicans to differ among themselves, up to a certain point. Up to the point of the meeting and action of the convention. Then we should all be republicans and stand by the nominees of our party. The nominees as determined by that convention. I may favor a certain party for sheriff; you may favor some one else. That is all right to work up a sentiment for that man and make a combination, or slate, if you can, in order to bring about the nomination of your man, the man whom you regard as the most worthy and capable, and those you most desire to see fill the office, but when the convention has spoken and the candidates before that convention have become the nominees of the republican party, then they should receive our united support, and if we will only work along those lines we will see good results.

I am glad to see such a large representative republican gathering here tonight. Not republicans of one faction or republicans of another faction. We must be one and recognize no faction. We have the anti-machine, which is really another name for a machine. We all know that you cannot reach party success or success in any line, a church or anything else, without machine. You have to have some organization, and when you have organization, that organization is nothing more than a machine, but the machine shall not be arbitary, but should work to the end of electing the republican ticket, after the convention has acted, and I come to this meeting, for the purpose of working up that sentiment in that direction. (Applause.)

H. C. Brome.

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Republicans and Gentlemen: This is the first harmony meeting I have attended. I have not had the pleasure of attending any of the preliminary meetings, and I do not know just what has occurred at those meetings. I came here tonight and I am here now, on the supposition, and with the understanding, that this meeting was called for the purpose of promoting the interest of the republican party in Douglas county, and if possible secure the election of the county candidates this fall. I suppose I have been invited to say something, because I have been somewhat actively identified with what is known as the anti-machine wing of the republican party. (Applause.)

I hope in what I may say that I will say nothing that is at all out of keeping with what I understand to be the primary object and purpose of this meeting, and the advancement of the republican party and the election of its candidates. I have this to say, however, if there are any republicans in the city of Omaha, and Douglas county, who ought to be in favor of harmony, it is the wing of the party that is denominated the anti-machine. We are about to determine who the candidates of the party shall be, by a method that we from the beginning have insisted was right and proper. We are about to determine who our candidates shall be by going to the individual voters and letting them express their opinion. (Applause.)

We have complained heretofore, and we have suggested that factions existed in the party. Criminations and recriminations have occurred because it was possible for a purchasable delegation, in a certain region, to be traded in a convention for certain candidates. (Applause, a voice "Good.")

We have complained of such things. We have said that they were wrong. We have said that they did not tend to build up the republican party and make young men respect it and want to be numbered among its membership. We have got rid of that system and adopted one that calls the individual member of the party into the place where he may exercise his judgment and say who he wants. And, certainly, if there is anybody that ought to pledge support to the nominees of the convention, made up in that way, the anti-machine wing of the republican party in Douglas county ought to do it. I think I speak for that wing. I think I speak for the united voters of that wing of the party, when I say to you, here tonight, that when the primaries are over, and the candidates are selected, it will not make the slightest difference whether they are men who have been heretofore known as machine men or not, if they are the choice of the republican voters at the primaries, they will have the united support of the anti-machine voters. (Loud applause.)

A word more with respect to this matter. The anti-machine members of the republican party do not arrogate to themselves the right to say whether a candidate is honest or reputable. They leave that to the voter, where it belongs, because it is not possible to suppose that the majority of the republicans of Douglas county, untrammeled in any way, except by the exercise of their will and judgment will go to the polls and vote for dishonest and unfit men, and they cannot do it this year, we will all agree, because you can take the list of candidates whose names are filed, and there is not a dishonest or disreputable one of the whole primary ticket to be voted for. (Applause.)

There is not the slightest excuse for any member of the republican party to complain of the action of the people, the members of the party, the privates in the ranks, at the primary election. I desire to say for the anti-machine republicans, that whatever has happened in the past, and nothing has happened in the past that we are here to apologize for (applause,) whatever may have happened in the past and whatever may happen in the future, we are in good faith at this meeting, in favor of harmony and pledge ourselves to support the ticket that shall be nominated at the primaries regardless of who it may be. (Loud applause.)

E. J. Cornish.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Republicans: When the call is for harmony I always attune my voice to sing. (Applause.) I object a little bit to being classified, because I do not know of a single faction in the republican party that I have not fought with when some other faction was fighting against the republican ticket. (Applause.) But, as I recollect, the last time I had the honor and pleasure of appearing in this hall I seemed to be almost the only stump speaker, outside of the candidates, that they could find for the republican ticket. I feel that the old play expressed it when it said: "When they had agreed upon the stage, their unanimity is wonderful."

As a matter of fact, gentlemen, we have had considerable trouble in this county and I am not certain that it is all over. (Pleasantry.) But I notice that we have reached a point where the rank and file of republicans are tired of knifing and it must be stopped. (Applause.) I have enough confidence in the ability and shrewdness of politicians and know that they all see the writing on the wall. (Laughter.) President Roosevelt is practically assured of the nomination for president. For him to state who he desires to be a candidate for vice president would be impolitic and unfair, but he has said that the candidate for vice president should come from the west, and that is the one thing that gives us great hope that our distinguished citizen will be the next vice president of the United States. (Applause.)

That remark of President Roosevelt is considered fit and proper, because as one of the leaders, or the great leader of the republican party, he is giving advice and recognizing localities somewhat in selecting the man who is to run with him for that important position. In the memorable Chicago convention when Roscoe Conkling marshaled the forces, and Grant, after the contest in that convention, and Garfield was nominated for president, the friends of General Garfield nominated Chester A. Arthur for vice president, because they deemed it good policy to say to the minority in that convention that their services were desired, that their efforts in behalf of the party would be appreciated.

We have adopted in this city a new form of primary. Thus, all of us who believe in a popular government must believe that the effect of this system of selecting candidates will be that good men will be selected, but we must remember that we are not all politicians. A politician is trained, from the cradle, to get up in a convention, after his competitor has succeeded, thanking his friends for the support and pledging himself to the ticket. We usually have, as my friend Burbank said, such a friendly, harmonious meeting at the end of the convention. It was only at the last convention that when that time came, one-half of the convention was not there. (Applause.) The politician knows what is the proper thing to do, and they do it, but it behooves us all who are here present to remember that the great body of voters of the republican party are not trained in that manner.

How many people here know all of the candidates before the coming primary? I venture the statement that there is not a single candidate that we will vote for who has 2,000 acquaintances in the city whom he can call by name. The people have to vote for these candidates on their reputation and on the statements that are made for or against them by others. I expect for myself to prepare a slate of my own and I expect to go forth and try and elect my friends as the men whom I desire to see nominated. That is a part of the duty of the politician. It is a pleasure to me. I have done it for years and shall continue to do so, but I feel that every politician, every man active in the affairs of the party, owes a duty to himself and party at this time to control and allay phejudice rather than to create it; to build up a sentiment that we owe a duty which we should perform. I have had for myself a simple rule that has always guided me satisfactorily when tempted to estray. That rule is that when I participate in the primary of a party I agree to give my successful opponent the same cordial support that I would have expected from him and his friends had my favorite candidate succeeded. (Applause.) It is a matter of agreement. It is a matter of good faith, and if we could only begin here, at this harmony meeting, to spread sentiment through the city that is what every honorable man should do who participates in our primaries; that it is a duty, an implied contract that he should fulfill, then we would do much to bring about harmony.

We should take into consideration some other things. When we have had the convention system, we have considered what the country precincts wanted. We considered what South Omaha wanted. We considered the different needs of the city and we have made our candidates so as to strengthen the party in all quarters. We have given nationalities representation upon the ticket, not because a foreign born citizen as such is entitled to nomination, but because the foreigner takes a certain pride in any of their countrymen who is honored by the public at large, and that when we honor a member of their nationality by nominating him to some important office we increase his influence, so that he can be more useful to the party. We have always considered these things in conventions, but there is danger that the great body of republicans will not consider these matters, unless all stump speakers from now on until election try to teach the public, if you will pardon my assumption that a stump speaker can teach anybody anything. They should endeavor to teach the public, that the locality of the candidates, the interest that is back of them, the men that they will be induced to support by placing certain candidates on the ticket, the occupation, whether laborer or business man, so that the ticket will not be composed of any one class of men. All these should be considered at the time the republican casts his ballot. That should be a matter of argument in the various club meetings that may be held.

In that same connection comes the factions. I was in the last convention. After there was left but one-half of the convention, the majority remained to nominate, two of the principal offices and four of the candidates for council, were named from the opposition faction that had left the hall. This was done because it was a matter of policy, to show, no matter how much the dissatisfaction might be, that the republicans, the responsible wing that was left, was willing to recognize factions in the interest of harmony. (Applause.) That may have resulted disastrously to Mr. Connell and a few others at that time, but the principle was right and will win, and the fact that we have such a large representative gathering as we have tonight of influential republican managers shows that we are getting together. There should be no secret organization with a view of knifing the ticket and defeating the candidates and injuring the party. This sentiment is growing, as it should have grown years ago, and in this next election we will have a united party, and the victory to which we are entitled. I thank you.

W. A. Saunders.

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Republicans and Citizens: This is one of the most harmonious meetings that I have attended. If this was a debate some would speak in favor of harmony and some against harmony, but it is so harmonious tonight that there is no dissenting opinion. It is like the subject which was brought up in a debating society that broke up that society. The question was: "Resolved, That we are in favor of good government." It broke up the society for the reason that there was no negative. So with us, we are all in favor of harmony. That is a popular subject upon which we can all speak. If we had had harmony for the last three or four years the democrats would not fill the city hall and the court house and other county positions. The republican party is always magnanimous. It is always willing to concede to the democrats certain privileges. I think we will agree that they may fill the county jail. (Applause.)

Down in one of the southern states before the war, a close fisted, tight old planter, had in his possession and claimed to own certain slaves, but he did not half feed them. They were uneasy, restless and fighting among themselves and disconcerted. He called Uncle Mose up and said, "Uncle Mose, I am getting tired of this fighting and this dissension, this quarreling among you. I want this to stop. What I want is more harmony." The old colored gentleman said that "what we want is more hominy, more hominy." This is what the anti-machine people want. They have not been recognized in a political sense. They want more hominy, in the way of recognition. I think according to the recognition among the speakers that it is the intention and desire that harmony shall prevail throughout the entire county. The republican party is the party of harmony, and made up of intelligent people, people who know how to vote and know their respective candidates and who are competent to judge without the assistance of any one. I do not know of any one of the candidates who are dishonest and who would not make a good officer if nominated. We all may have our choice. I have mine and you yours. But what we want now is simply that we have no distinction after the convention, after the nominations are made. There has been no remedy suggested as to how harmony should be obtained. I do not know that I am able to tell you, but perhaps I might make one or two suggestions. I would suggest, as stated by one of the previous speakers, that there be no slate put up. Let each individual republican vote as he chooses for the several offices. (Applause.)

I suggest further, whether it be one faction or the other, that there be no coercion of any kind for the purpose of preventing them from being voted for at the coming primaries. Let every man have a chance. These rules were adopted by the republican party for the purpose of giving each individual republican an opportunity to express his choice as he sees fit for the several offices. Let us not at this time attempt to nullify these rules by attempting to get will together and put up a slate. Let us be republicans and stand shoulder to shoulder and present a solid phalanx to the enemy. We have a majority in this county of ever 1,000, and let the democrats have nearly all the best offices. Let the antis treat the machine fair and the machine people treat the antis fair. There should be honesty in politics, in business and in social circles. Some people say this man is an honest man in business, but you cannot trust him in politics. The kind of men we want are men who are honest in business and politics, and men whom we can rely upon. You gentlemen here who are posted and know the several candidates and know the duties that devolve upon them have sufficient intelligence to vote your sentiments for the proper party to fill the respective offices.

John L. Kennedy.

Mr. Chairman, and Everyone Seeking Harmony: I was thinking as I sat here how blessed it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, especially as they have not done it for a long time. When I came to the hall tonight, I looked at the list of speakers and asked what I was expected to represent, the machine or anti-machine forces. I was assured that I was expected to speak my sentiments—that they simply used me to fill in. I think, however, that most of you who know me know that I will speak my sentiments regardless of the purpose for which I was placed on the list. (Applause.)

I believe in the necessity for a machine. I have never known a great party, I have never known a great movement, to run without a machine. Looking to the local machine, I have never had the pleasure of riding on it, but I have been run over by it. (Laughter.) It is not the machine I object to, but I want to see the machine in Douglas county big enough and broad enough to carry the entire republican party. (Applause.) So long as the make-up of the body politic is as it is we will have the different elements to satisfy. As Mr. Cornish suggested, you have to do it with the different nationalities in making up the ticket. I remember once—in a county convention it was—I was present as a delegate. It was in the days of Mike Lee—you all remember Mike— (From the audience, "Mike ain't dead yet.") Every place upon the ticket had been filled but one. We had a German, we had an Irishman, we had a Bohemian, we had a Pole. We had every nationality on earth but one. Finally Mike got up and said, "Mr. Chairman, we are making a mistake. We are wakenin' the ticket. There is one element of the republican party that is not represented, and that is the American." (Applause and laughter.)

"Now," he says, "there is just one place left on the ticket, and I nominate Mr. Smith to that office. He was born in the United States. I believe that he stands well with the American people, and I think that he will add strength to the ticket if we put him on." (Applause.) Now, we hope that in the future of the republican party in this county and state it will not be necessary to harmonize elements or factions from this time on. But in that connection I want to say this much now: That if you expect to have harmony in the republican party, you have got to exercise the utmost good faith. Every republican, every element in the republican party, must exercise good faith towards fellow republicans, and if you do not do this, if you inject into the political situation in this county one element of bad faith, you will destroy the effort of all your attempt at harmony. If you do not at this time attempt to do something in the way of being fair to the candidates and representatives of the different elements of the party, the element which ignores these rights will be charged with bad faith. If we are going into this campaign with a united front, we have got to be fair to begin with. We have got to make the machine broad enough and big enough to take in all the candidates. (Applause.)

I take issue with the remark made by Mr. Connell tonight that we have met to settle our differences. We are here to bury our differences! (Applause.) You remember that in the heat of the first free silver campaign the question was how badly Mr. Bryan should be beaten, and we used to tell the story about the man who had an obnoxious mother-in-law, and she had gone away on a visit, and he suddenly received a telegram which read, "Your mother-in-law is dead. Shall we embalm, burn or bury?" He wired back, "Embalm, burn and bury. Take no chances." (Applause and laughter.) Now, that is the action which as republicans we ought to take tonight. Don't let us spend any more time talking about what has been—that is past. Let us talk about what we should be—that is before us. (Applause.) They say that the only benefit which we derive from the past is the experience for the future. Let us look back upon the past and profit by it in that light, and, for God's sake, let us stop talking about it! (Applause.)

I remember once when I was crossing the Atlantic I saw a very distinguished looking man leaning over the stern of the ship. He seemed to be enjoying the waves, but he suddenly turned and said to the men at his side: "Let us go to the bow of the boat. I don't care so much about where I have been—I want to know where I am going." (Applause.) That is what we want to know about the republican party in this county. Prejudice must have no place in our political campaigns in the future if we are going to have the best results. I do not care whether that prejudice is for the machine (so-called) or against it. Personalities from this time on should be tabooed, except only as they relate to the fitness of the candidates before the convention. (Applause.) We all have our own views. We may not all be satisfied with the result, but isn't it likely to be true that the majority of my party know more than I know, be I ever so great? (Applause.)

Principle—the principles of the party should control and regulate the management of the party. We are not a party without principles. We are fighting today an enemy so disorganized that it cannot find its own principles, and if it did it would not recognize them. When it came to the question of identification the witnesses would be innumerable on both sides of the controversy. The republican party stands for principles that will bear discussion. Let us turn our attention to them. Let us leave personalities out of the campaign, and we will have results that never have been achieved in this county and state. It means, if you carry this into effect, that you will have a higher degree of efficiency in public office, because, while I do not claim that all the brains are in the republican party, I do claim that the republican party furnishes the brain power that moves the destinies of the nation and the state. (Applause.) If the republican party cannot find men in it—officials who will administer the affairs of this county and this city in the highest degree of efficiency—then they are not to be found in the state or in the county.

Think of it! Talk about harmony! Do you know that there is one man in this city who can do more for harmony in the republican party than any other hundred men, and that is Mr. Edward Rosewater! (Applause.) There is not a man within the sound of my voice tonight who does not recognize his capacity, his untiring energy and his power— (applause)—who does not believe that if from this time on his great ability, his influence and his great paper will leave personalities out and stand for the principles and the nominees of the party, we will have a republican party in this city that will sweep everything before it. (Applause.) Talk about newspapers! Let The Omaha Bee expend its energies along strictly partisan lines and we will have no more free silver heresies and not very much democracy in this state. (Applause.)

We have in this coming campaign a president whose name is a power in this western country. Let us hold him up, and in holding him up we will hold up the highest interests of the American people. (Applause.) We have among us a candidate for vice president, Hon. John L. Webster. (Applause.) One of the greatest men the United States has known; one of the greatest men the nation is destined to know, and if we are successful in placing him upon the ticket for vice president of the United States. (Applause. So much applause that stenographer could not hear the speaker.)

If we do that, I do not propose to appear in any meeting apologizing for the nominees of my party. I wouldn't need to. Gentlemen, my time is up. I want simply to leave with you one other thought: The great republican party, which from its birth has given this nation all of the prosperity it has ever known, is today confronted with as many important questions as ever tested the wisdom of any government. The nation has entered on a new era. Innumerable problems relating to our new territories are to be solved. Let us not waste our time quarreling among ourselves, but let us get together and stand shoulder to shoulder, helping to solve these problems; helping to hold up the hands of one of the greatest presidents this nation has ever known. (Applause.) Let us contribute the energy, the wisdom that we have to the national cause.