

THIRD TERM A PERIL, WILLKIE DECLARES

He Holds It Would Continue Powers of a Group and Menace Democracy

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RUSHVILLE, Ind., Sept. 11—

Characterizing the third term as one of the most important issues of the campaign, Wendell L. Willkie said this afternoon that he would probably make his anti-third term speech at Amarillo next Tuesday. It will be Constitution Day in Texas when the Republican nominee visits the city and he regards it as an appropriate day in which to attack the growth of centralized power in the office of President.

Mr. Willkie's discussion of the third-term issue came during what started to be an interview with Frank E. Gannett, Rochester newspaper publisher who was a candidate for the Presidential nomination. Mr. Gannett, who had luncheon with Mr. Willkie, had declared that he regarded the third term as a leading issue.

"The third term is one of the great issues of the campaign," Mr. Willkie said. "It is not only the third term but the continuation of a group with great power, which is destructive of democracy. It is not only the re-election of Franklin Roosevelt but the continuation of a group in power and that power should be broken.

Hits 'Indispensability' Idea

"I know of no argument for the indispensability of a man for a third term as President that could not be applied to a fourth term or a fifth term."

"Do you think that indispensability feeds upon itself?" a reporter asked.

Mr. Willkie replied with a quotation from Shakespeare, a remark of Iago to Othello:

"O, beware, my lord, of jealousy. It is the green-eyed monster which doth make the meat it feeds on."

With Mr. Willkie taking part in the interview, Mr. Gannett was asked what he regarded as the principal issue of the campaign.

"I think the most important issue is to get rid of the New Deal," he replied.

"All of it?" a reporter asked.

"We can't get rid of all the New Deal," Mr. Gannett replied. "I approve many of the things it has done, but we must get rid of the concentration of power in Washington that tends toward a totalitarian state and dictatorship. That comprises, of course, the third term.

"I am afraid that, if President Roosevelt is re-elected for a third term, it will be impossible to return to our two-party system. If the President is returned his power will be increased and he will have the appointment of a complete Supreme Court."

Mr. Willkie interrupted to reply to the argument that President Roosevelt should be re-elected because of his experience. This argument, Mr. Willkie remarked, would apply with even more force for the election of a President for a fourth or fifth term.

"A President who had served three terms would have had more experience than a President who had served two terms," he said. "After a man had served three terms he would have still more experience. The most experienced ruler the world ever had was Louis XIV who had the longest reign."

Questioned about the outlook in New York State, Mr. Gannett said that he was very hopeful that Mr.

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Willkie would carry the State which he described as debatable ground.

"There is a great deal of enthusiasm for Mr. Willkie up-State," he said. "I have received reports from the editors of my newspapers and I believe we will roll up a majority up-State that will overcome the majority for Roosevelt in New York City."

"How large will that have to be?" he was asked.

"I think about 650,000 or 700,000," was the reply.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Willkie announced that he would motor tomorrow morning to Indianapolis to meet Senator Charles L. McNary, Republican nominee for vice president, and Representative Joseph W. Martin Jr., national chairman, and Governor Harold E. Stassen, of Minnesota, at the municipal airport there at 11:30. Mr. Willkie wishes to confer with his running mate, the party chairman and Governor Stassen, who is one of his most trusted advisers, before starting on his trip to the Far West tomorrow night. After the conference on campaign plans and strategy, Senator McNary and Mr. Martin will fly back to Washington to resume their duties in Congress.

Informed that Mayor La Guardia would announce his stand in the campaign on a radio speech tomorrow night, presumably in support of President Roosevelt, Mr. Willkie asked if the New York City Mayor would repeat what he had said about Edward J. Flynn, the new Democratic National Chairman, during the city campaigns.

Again Opposes Draft Delay

Mr. Willkie was asked if he had read the statement by Representative Hamilton Fish, sponsor of the amendment to delay the draft sixty days, that Mr. Willkie could not have read the amendment and that the opposition of the Presidential

candidate would make him (Mr. Fish) work even harder to keep the amendment in the bill. Mr. Willkie said that he had not read Mr. Fish's statement.

"That wouldn't alter my view," he said. "He's entitled to his opinion and so am I.

"I think we should have selective service at once. I have spoken on that point twice since my acceptance speech. I would have assigned additional reasons for my position in my statement yesterday but that would have been repetition."

Mr. Willkie made public letters of endorsement from Joe Wilke of Peoria, business representative of Boilermakers Local 60, and Sheet Steel Workers Local 1 and H. J. Klinger of Cincinnati, representative of Boilermakers Local 105.

Callers during the day were Luke E. Hart of St. Louis, Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus, who offered his support, and Hassil Schenck, president of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation.

Formation of a Negro citizens' non-partisan committee for Mr. Willkie, headed by William Pickens, manager of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was announced at the Willkie headquarters. Other members of the committee are Claude A. Barrett of Chicago, editor of The Associated Negro Press, and Charles Wesley, Professor of History at Howard University.

A statement described the election of Mr. Willkie as of "super-importance" for the preservation of American democracy and liberty and as offering promise of better conditions for the Negro people.