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GUILTY

President Roosevelt during his theatrical appearance before Congress to deliver what was ironically described as a Message on the State of the Nation, entered a plea of guilty on one of the most important counts in the indictment against his administration by those interested in maintaining constitutional government in the United States. He said:

".....we have built up new instruments of public power. In the hands of a people's government this power is wholesome and proper."

Stated in another way, Mr. Roosevelt announced that under his administration the Federal Government has seized, or attempted to seize, powers which would be unsafe in hands other than his. That is precisely the criticism which has been leveled against him and his administration by many intelligent persons and organizations of citizens, including prominently the American Liberty League. Leaving aside for the moment the question of the safety with which such powers may be entrusted to Mr. Roosevelt and the collateral question of his infallibility, concerning which there may be some room for legitimate dispute, the President has stated bluntly the underlying principle of the New Deal, which is perhaps the most objectionable and dangerous of all.

"A people's government" is a term that has been used consistently by modern dictators. It is a disguise that attempts to lull into a feeling of security the apprehensions of the masses. The theory behind it is the age-long theory that monarchs rule by Divine Right and that the King can do no wrong.

To proclaim to the American people that their government is unsafe in the hands of any save those who have been willing to destroy many of its basic tenets and to ignore the Constitution upon which it is founded is an insult to the Nation and a desecration of its sacred principles. The campaign speech of Mr. Roosevelt, delivered from the rostrum of the House of Representatives, went forth on the night of Friday, January 3d. Three days later, January 6th, the Supreme Court by a sweeping decision outlawed one of those "new instruments of public power" to which Mr. Roosevelt referred. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, commonly known as the AAA, was sent down the road to oblivion on the heels of the late unlamented National Recovery Administration or NRA. But the battle is not yet won. The same persons who drafted these acts and induced their passage by a complaisant Congress still hold official power. They are checked temporarily but the future must be watched and guarded with absolute vigilance if the basic concept of the American Government is to be preserved.