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THE FOG DISPELLED

The problem of dispelling the fog over Washington -- which has been a matter of concern to apologists for the New Deal -- was solved on January 25th. The address of former Governor Alfred E. Smith at the Liberty League dinner provided the solution.

As a result of Governor Smith's speech, the nation is no longer in doubt as to the issue confronting it -- a choice between government by a centralized, irresponsible, visionary and extravagant bureaucracy or by the orderly and constitutional processes under the protection of which the United States has prospered far beyond any other nation in the history of the world.

The League meeting and the addresses delivered by Governor Smith and others served to focus national attention upon the principles for which the American Liberty League has been contending since its organization. Now that the issue has been clarified, the verdict of the people may be awaited with confidence -- provided those who believe in government by law, administrated by men conscious of the meaning of an oath of office, are not again caught napping.

Since the January 25th meeting, national headquarters of the League have been all but swamped by expressions of approbation, applications for membership and substantial contributions from those anxious to assist in the work the League has undertaken.

Editorial reaction has been overwhelmingly favorable to the League. Such disagreement as there has been has come almost exclusively from those tied to the New Deal by political self-interest and willing to put patronage favors or subsidies from the public treasury ahead of patriotism.

The most convincing evidence of the public reaction against the New Deal stimulated by the League meeting, and particularly by Governor Smith's speech, has been supplied by the New Deal itself. No answer worthy of the name has been even offered. Senator Robinson of Arkansas, Roosevelt leader of the Senate, read a scolding reply over the radio in such a halting manner as to suggest that either his heart was not in the job or he was unfamiliar with the manuscript. Democratic National Chairman Farley, recuperating in Florida from the exertion incident to the \$50 a plate Jackson Day dinner -- with the \$45 dollar a plate rake-off to his campaign fund -- addressed another dinner at \$10 a plate and took occasion to criticize the League because it had presumed to call upon the administration to remember the oaths of office taken by public officials. That was about all of the attempted answer by the New Deal.

There was not so much as an attempt at a reply from the one man in the United States who more than any other should be interested in making an adequate reply, if that be possible.