

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesC_F01*

Document: *Remarks in opposition to Zackary Taylor's Presidential Campaign (1848)*

Transcription:

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Mr. President – the last few years of my life having been spent in other than in political service I will not attempt to advise you on what I presume you are more familiar with than my self But in regard to the presidential candidates from long and close observation of the conduct of Gen. Taylor I appeal to your honor to your patriotism to your love of Country and preservation of its institutions not to support him for the presidency of our Republic.

The ~~Government~~ regulations provided for the government of the Armies of the United States ~~is with an absolute despotism~~ gives to the officer

[In light pencil]

Mr. President—Having spent the few years of my humble life in other than political service I frankly confess my inability to discuss at length the political topics which at present excites the public mind from the St. John to the Rio Grande—but common sense disconnected with sophistry has induced me to adopt the Democratic – as the most liberal in views and safest for the preservation of the institutions of our glorious republic in preference to the opposition or rough & ready Party

[Page 2 In light pencil]

Mr. President – Having spent the past few years of my humble life in other than political service – I frankly confess my inability to discuss the political topics which at present agitate the public mind ~~from the St. John to the Rio Grande~~ with any degree of precision or eloquence but common sense disconnected with sophistry, has induced me to adopt the Democratic as the most liberal policy and as the most conducive to the preservation of the institutions of our glorious Republic.

During the political campaign of 1844 I resided in Cincinnati Ohio where I had ample opportunity of hearing the most eminent men and brilliant orators discuss the principles of their respective parties— The Whig party then contended for the repeal of the subtreasury and consequent establishment of a National bank, the restriction of the veto power, opposition to the annexation of Texas, xc., and as their great champion and embodiment of their principles, the name of Henry Clay was placed before the people as the standard bearer of the Whig party.

On the other hand, the Democratic party advocated the repeal of the then existing Tariff – opposed the establishment of a national Bank – and change of the constitution in regard to the veto power – favored the annexation of Texas which was then nearly consummated. These and other minor questions were submitted to the people under the name of the nominee of the party, James K. Polk.

The result of the ensuing election is well known to us all – James K. Polk was elected President of the United States and the principles of the Democratic party adopted by the people in preference to those of their opponents – it then became the duty of us all



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to acquiesce in their choice and as far as in our power to support the administration which the freemen of the country had selected.

But let us ask the question did the leaders of the Whig party act as become republicans by ~~quickly~~ honorably submitting to the decision of the people [?] I answer no – they insulted the people by declaring they had acted fraudulently, ignorantly, xc. and that they the leaders of the great Whig party would oppose to the utmost of their power the passage of any bill which might originate with the administration – and they actually went so far after the declaration of war between our Government and Mexico as to give aid and comfort to the enemy – by denouncing our government, the war, and all engaged in its prosecution they ~~even offered the grossest [unclear]~~ to the volunteers – and did all in their power to prevent the ranks from being filled—why that infamous sheet the Louisville Journal - in visiting the arrival of a company of volunteers in that city - spoke of them as a gang of rowdies—bent on pillage and plunder. This has well nigh ended in the destruction of that office by the men who were so unfairly assailed – but that [unclear] and gentlemanly deportment so [unclear] bravery together with

prevented them from wreaking that vengeance which the circumstances otherwise required. It is useless for me to add to the already deep disgrace of the party – as there are gentlemen present of both parties with more information on the subject than I could procure.

I will now review the present campaign and see how the consistency of the parties stand at present — the Democrats have nominated a man whose long life has been devoted to the advancement of ~~Democratic~~ republican principles – whose life and [unclear section] in men and money for the prosecution of the late war.

Analysis: Wiggin

This document is in Thomas Welsh's handwriting. It appears to be a draft of remarks in favor of the Democratic Party, and in opposition to Gen. Zachary Taylor's bid for presidency in 1848, to be made at a meeting—possibly the large Democratic Party meeting in Columbia on September 30, 1848 of which Welsh was reported by the Columbia Spy (10/7/48) to be secretary.

Scope and Content:

Handwritten draft of remarks evidently written by Thomas Welsh in opposition to Zachary Taylor's 1848 presidential Campaign (Whig Party) and in favor of Senator Lewis Cass (Democratic Party). Remarks addressed to Mr. President and possibly delivered at a large Democratic Party meeting in Columbia on September 30, 1848 of which Welsh was reported to be secretary by the *Columbia Spy*, 7 October 1848.

