Noted Lawyer and Expert on Foreign Affairs

Voting for Smith

William B. Hale, recently president of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, contributes open letter

Winnetka, October 24, 1928

TO THE WINNETKA SMITH-FOR-PRESIDENT CLUB AND CITIZENS OF WINNETKA:

My reasons for supporting Governor Smith for President have been requested. They are as follows:

It is important at this time to choose as President of the United States a man who will restore the confidence of the people in political leadership. For this purpose I shall vote for Governor Smith.

The oil and other scandals in the Republican Party may be minimized as much as possible and attached so far as possible to particular individuals and not to the whole party. It nevertheless remains clear that on account of such scandals the people have lost confidence in the Republican Party and in the Government itself.

Under these circumstances we have the opportunity of voting for Governor Smith who has had an unusual career as a political leader and who now is in a position where he dominates and controls his entire party.

It is probably unnecessary to attempt any proof of these facts. They are universally admitted.

It is well known, for example, that when Mr. Smith ran for Governor of New York in 1924 his nomination was opposed by the leaders of Tammany Hall. Their candidate was William Randolph Hearst. They went to the convention with sufficient delegates to control the nomination. Without any delegates Governor Smith appeared in Albany. He announced his candidacy. The delegates outside of New York swung to his support. The Tammany control broke down. Governor Smith's nomination became inevitable solely because of his great hold upon the people of the State.

The Tammany leaders then proposed a compromise. They desired party harmony. They suggested that Mr. Hearst be nominated for United States Senator on the same ticket with Smith as nominee for Governor. But Mr. Smith refused to run on such a ticket. His positive refusal led immediately to the defeat of the Tammany leaders and they accepted his complete control of the convention.

Another instance of his moral courage occurred when he was nominated recently for the Presidency. At that time his eminence as the chief political leader of the National Democratic Party was so obvious that his nomination was assured when the convention sat. But the platform adopted with reference to prohibition was not satisfactory to him. He accepted the nomination only upon his own revised statement of the party program on this issue, and in the face of the opposition of the "solid south." No mere business experience would have made it possible for him to do so.

In addition to these things many other similar instances of popular support in New York State have repeatedly demonstrated his position as political leader in New York, not only of his own party and of the people, but of the Republican majority in the State Legislature. His moral and intellectual prominence have been recognized in no uncertain terms by all of the leading Republicans of New York, among whom Elihu Root is perhaps the most outspoken.

As compared with the importance of this personal quality of leadership the issues of the campaign are less significant. But every issue on which he has spoken demonstrates again his fearlessness and moral courage.

With respect to prohibition his intellectual honesty is apparent. He recognizes the evils which have arisen. He asserts his intention to enforce the law to the best of his ability. He also proposes definite changes which, if adopted, would decrease the difficulty of prohibition enforcement and would restore a decentralized control consistent with the traditions of American policy.

There is no greater evidence of the low estate of our political organization than is found in the enforcement of our prohibition laws. It is universally recognized that no government can control a detailed violation of these laws; but special evils have arisen through the great importation of liquor from Canada, which must be due to a corrupt ring involving those high up in political positions. A mere change of party would inevitably break this control, thus giving an opportunity to any changed administration, which will not exist if the Republican Party remains in power. It is my belief that with this opportunity Governor Smith as President would actually prevent many of these targer violations of the law.

With respect to the control of national resources great doubt exists as to whether or not the influence of the so-called "Power Trust" in the Republican Party will not inevitably lead to abuses and ultimate serious losses to the people in the absence of a dominant political leader in the office of President.

Here again the detail with respect to the methods and policies that are to be adopted is less important than the attitude and power and prestige of the President himself. One can have no hesitancy in trusting these matters to a man who can speak clearly on all these subjects and take advice from the people at large.

We need feel no concern with respect to a continuation of prosperity. Governor Smith is not a radical. He proposes nothing which is dangerous to business. He is supported all over the United States by men of large business interests. He believes in letting business interests take care of themselves. He is not an advocate of the building up of any bureaucratic control of business or the centralization of power. Moreover the prosperity which we enjoy is not, as I see it, due to anything which the Republican Party has done. Their principal contribution has been in refraining from doing anything injurious to business. Since the Great War prosperity has been restored in Europe. This was not the work of the Republican Party. It has been the natural development everywhere arising from the industry and ability of the people when they had opportunity to return to their usual occupations. But if, for sentimental reasons, a return of Democratic power should incidentally deflate the stock market and thus restore normal interest rates for the extension of legitimate business, I for one would not object.

In Foreign Affairs the accomplishments of the Republican Party must not be overlooked. Mr. Hughes in his treaty for the reduction of armaments, and Mr. Kellogg in his treaty for the outlawry of war, deserve commendation. But what we need most of all is popular understanding of all foreign problems and the consequent ratification by the Senate of important treaties. In these things the Republican Administration has not been successful. No great progress can be made in the difficult problem of further reduction of armaments which must soon be undertaken unless a President is in the White House who frankly and fearlessly explains his purposes and obtains much greater popular support than either President Harding or President Coolidge has ever achieved.

Finally a two party Government is essential to the successful continuance of the American system. Neither party can safely remain too long in power. Opposition becomes feeble or disappears entirely if this is so. It has become more or less a tradition that eight years in effice is sufficient for a party as well as for a president. To adhere to this tradition and to return the Democratic Party to power under the leadership of Governor Smith would restore confidence in democracy and obtain popular support for the Government as a whole.

WILLIAM B. HALE

More Tickets on Hand for Symphony Programs

Newcomers to the north shore are advised by officers of the New Trier Orchestral association that season tickets are still available for the Little Symphony concerts to be given at New Trier auditorium this winter under sponsorship of the association.

The Little Symphony concerts, conducted by George Dasch, are made possible solely by subscription. Some of those who had previously subscribed found it inconvenient to take advantage of this season's concert series, thus leaving several season tickets available for those who have only recently come to the north shore and for that reason are not supplied with tickets.

The seventh season of these concerts begins Monday evening, November 12. The series includes five concerts. Soloists of world reputation are secured for these occasions.

Applications for season tickets may be made to Mrs. B. K. Smith, 547 Orchard lane, Winnetka, secretary, or Harry L. Street, 592 Sheridan road, Winnetka, treasurer.

Women Discuss Merits of Opposing Candidates

About fifty north shore women were present at the Hubbard Woods Republican headquarters Wednesday morning to hear Mrs. Florence Bennett Peterson, president of the Woman's Hooverfor-President club, talk on the candidacy of Herbert Hoover. Mrs. Peterson gave an analysis of the office of the President, pointing out during her talk that mining, lumber, and agriculture were the primary industries of this country, and that it was most important to have as chief executive a man who had been engaged in one of these occupations.

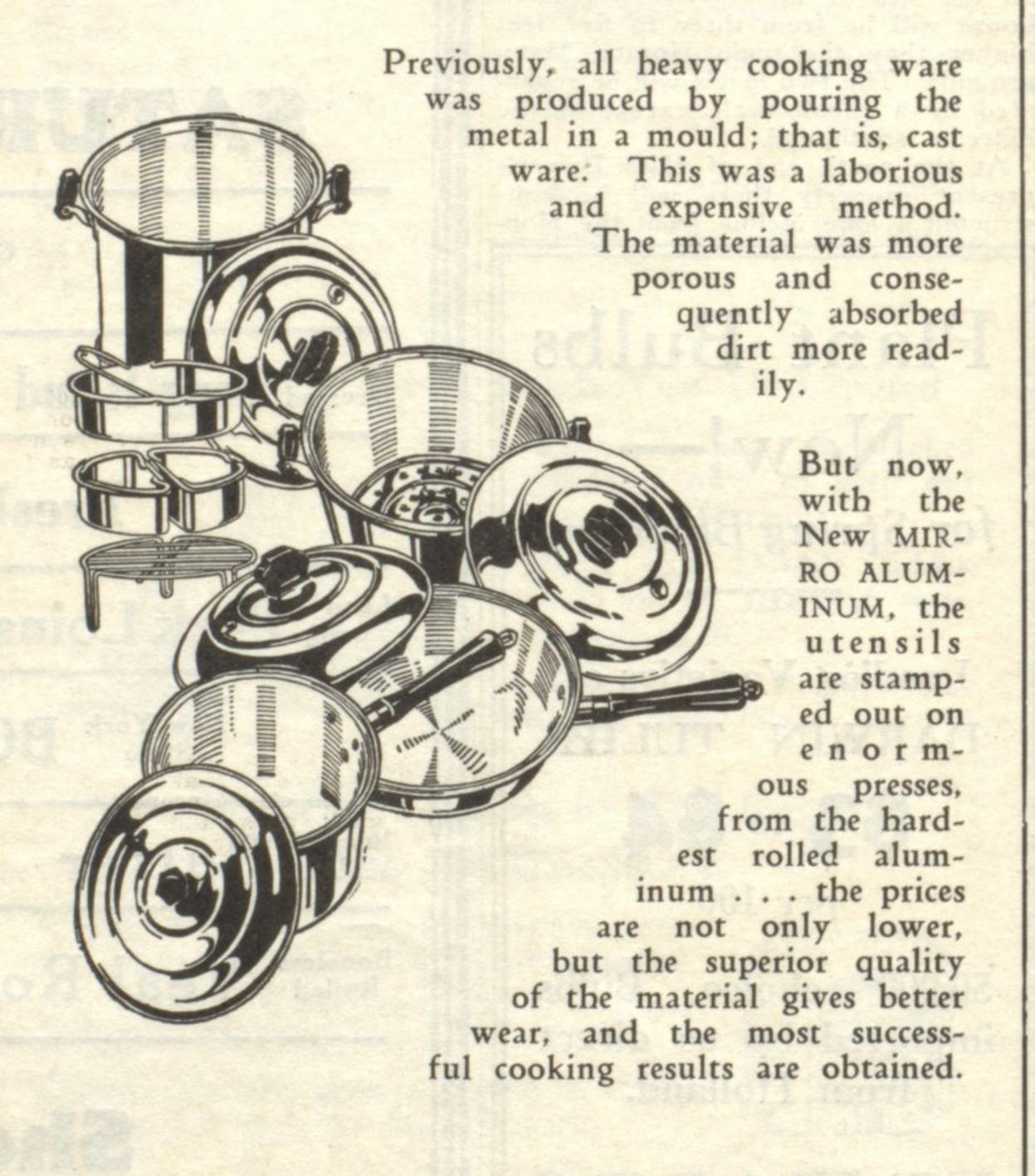
She also said that to serve the best interests of all classes the Presidential candidate should have been identified with the economic development of the country.

An interesting discussion of the relative merits of the two candidates of the two major parties followed.

Miss Katherine Dillon, 814 Prospect avenue, is flying to Champaign today for the Illinois-Northwestern football game. She is the guest of Miss Ruth W. Walgreen and will fly in the Walgreen's new plane. Miss Edith Dillon is spending the week-end in Milwau-kee.

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