SUGGESTED PROGRAM

For The

MINORITY PARTY

In The

SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Prepared

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Date: January 8th, 1941

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PROGRAM For The MINORITY PARTY

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INTRODUCTORY

This memorandum is the result of a study made by us at the request of Women Investors IN America, Inc., because of the grave concern expressed by its members, subscribers and friends relative to existing conditions and their bearing upon the future of the Republic.

This study was extended to include not only the membership, subscribers and friends of the organization, but additional representative cross-sections of our national life so as to obtain as wide-spread a concensus of opinion as possible on the subject matter.

Following are the suggestions resulting from our study and analysis:

This nation was founded upon - and has grown to world leadership - under the free enterprise

system. That system owes its survival and advancement principally to our Constitutionally guaranteed form of government - a Republic.

It is that form of government - with its guarantees of equal opportunity and protection for the rights of ALL - MINORITY as well as majority - that permits and fosters a free and spirited competition between producers, enabling each to vie with the other in giving the consumer a better product at lower cost.

The Republic can only hope to survive and advance under a system of free and spirited competition between political parties.

Just as businessmen compete with each other in their efforts to win consumer support - so too must political parties endeavor to win public support by each striving to offer a better program of governmental administration and policies at lower cost.

The merchant who seeks business only through attacking and deriding his competitor's product, may seem to enjoy prosperity for a while.

But, consumers have learned through hard experience that such business-seeking tactics invariably mean the producer's product is of an inferior and unsatisfactory grade - whereupon they cease to do

business with him - and he retires into financial bankruptcy for lack of consumer support.

The same evidently holds true of political parties. A program based primarily upon attack, derision or attempted amendment of an opposing party's program will not win continued public support.

It now should be apparent to any student of political history that continuance of such tactics - combined with repeated failure to offer a "better product" - can only mean that eventually such a party will decline into political bankruptcy for lack of voter support - thereby leaving the field but to one party.

However, the Republic's very continuance is predicated upon a strongly competitive and virile two-party system.

Therefore, if free government - as we have known it - is to survive and continue to advance in this country, it must be under a competitive two-party system.

That is - each party ACTUALLY must compete with the other for public support through offering its own program of governmental administration and policies.

It may be assumed the Majority Party will offer its proposed program of governmental administration and

policies to the new Congress at an early date. It may also be assumed that such a program will be offered more or less in piece-meal - with certain pieces of vitally important legislation presented within the month and attempts made to pass such legislation with little opportunity for proper study and analysis.

Therefore, the Minority Party should be prepared to offer a complete counter proposal in each instance--rather than assume a position of merely attacking that offered by the Majority and proposing certain amendments thereto.

In order to do this, the Minority Party should begin NOW to develop its own program through its own committee hearings. It is generally recognized throughout the country that such steps should have been taken weeks ago. However, since Minority leadership did not see fit to make provision for such action, it now must be accelerated in order to allow the Minority Party to catch up with the preparatory work that has been going on in various government departments and agencies during that period.

That is, as suggested below, Minority members of the various committees - within whose province the different subjects enumerated fall - should start NOW to work out individual committee programs.

These committee programs should include public hearings to which would be invited outstanding authorities on the subjects under consideration - as well as representatives of the various government departments and agencies interested.

The activities of these committees should be coordinated and shaped into a complete program by a special committee designated for that purpose by the Minority membership of both Houses of the Congress.

It may be maintained that such a proposal is new and a departure from traditional Congressional procedure.

It is not deemed necessary to point out here what has been - and is - happening to traditions in this country.

It may be further maintained that representatives of various government departments and agencies may refuse to appear before such Minority committees.

In this case, it should be remembered that ALL the people contribute - through taxes - to the support of such representatives and that refusal to appear before and cooperate with such Minority committees should properly be termed a revolt by such representatives against the will of the people who employ them.

In order that an over-all program of governmental administration and policies be prepared by the Minority Party - so that it may really fulfill its duty to the Republic and the People - it is suggested the following activities be instituted by it at once - along the general lines set forth below:

SUGGESTED PROGRAM

AGRICULTURE: The Committees dealing with this topic should develop a program that would:

1: Tend to increase the national consumption of farm products to the end that so-called farm surpluses will decrease, thereby increasing general farm income. Particular attention should be given to the possibilities of farm chemurgy.

2: Consider the possibility of Government taking over existing farm surpluses, classing them as National Defense materials and allocating them - as needed - to the Army and Navy for their use and consumption.

This would include preparing a program for processing the aforementioned surpluses and transporting them for immediate warehousing at points nearest both processing facilities and cantonments.

3: Prepare and recommend specific legislation which the Minority Party believes will achieve

the above-mentioned objectives, as well as bring about the much-needed revamping of existing farm legislation.

APPROPRIATIONS: Committees within whose province this subject falls, should undertake preparation of appropriation schedules for the various departments and agencies of government, with a view of eliminating existing waste, overlapping, unnecessary expense, payroll, etc., and bringing about a general reduction of government operating overhead.

EDUCATION: It is evident there is today a great lack of skilled labor in this country.

Committees assigned this subject should prepare a program that will provide opportunities for citizens to learn various trades and crafts in which shortages now exist - making use of local school facilities and employing, in so far as possible, war veterans as instructors.

These Committees also should institute measures designed to eliminate the teaching of un-American doctrines and un-Constitutional ideas and theories in all schools supported in whole or in part by taxpayers' money.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: A thorough analysis of our present foreign relations and policies and their effect upon our national life and economy should be undertaken immediately by these Committees. Such an analysis

should produce specific recommendations for:

1: Defining our present and future foreign policy so as to enable National Defense planners to plan intelligently, efficiently and economically.

2: Measures designed to guide our future activities in world affairs so as to assure our not becoming involved in any foreign wars.

3: Collecting debts owed us from the World War. This may be done by:

A: Arranging for direct payments either in cash or in "kind" - providing all "kind" payments do not compete with similar products produced here.

B: Seizure of collateral of debtor nations in this country and applying that collateral to the war debts they owe us.

C: Acquiring territories or possessions now owned by such debtor nations in the Western Hemisphere.

This would eliminate all opportunity of instilling fear into our people that such territories or possessions may - at some future time - be seized by an enemy and used as "invasion bases" against us.

It is recognized there may be some question as to the real value of such territories and possessions. Therefore - if this method

is employed - it should be stipulated that any surplus accruing from such transactions should remain in this country to be used by the debtor nation in the purchase of materials produced here.

These Committees also should institute at once an analysis of the mistakes we made 24 and 25 years ago that resulted in our involvement in the World War. They further should analize and publicize propaganda methods employed by various belligerents in that war to bring about such involvement.

LABOR: Committees assigned this subject should undertake at once a complete revision of existing labor laws so vitally necessary both to general economic recovery and acceleration of the National Defense program.

Such revisions should provide for a termination of racketeering and tribute-collection in the labor fields and should further provide assurance to independent workers of their right to obtain employment - particularly on National Defense jobs - without forced payment of tribute.

MERCHANT MARINE: A first class Merchant Marine is of vital importance to our trade in peace and our Navy in war. It is recognized the best Navy in the world - without an efficient and sufficient merchant marine service available to operate as its supply line - is in a hopeless position against an inferior Navy

with such a service.

Therefore the Committees within whose province this subject falls, should ascertain at once the exact sea-going strength and condition of our existing Merchant Marine and determine the needs of a two-ocean Navy relative to such a service. They should then prepare legislation providing for such expansion as they find necessary, with a viewpoint of developing the best, largest and most efficient service of this type in the world.

MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS: Under existing circumstances, it is believed that Committees dealing with these subjects should work jointly to determine:

1: The present exact status of our National Defense program.

2: The steps necessary to assure the public an efficient development and administration of a genuine National Defense program and further to assure an avoidance of mistakes made in this field during the World War.

In keeping with the above, these Committees should give particular attention to the results of Congressional investigations into World War planning and spending.

Particular attention should be given to any similarity of organization setup and personnel between that of 23 years ago and today.

3: The advisability of establishing a permanent Bureau of National Defense - an independent agency of the government responsible entirely and directly to the Congress in keeping with Constitutional provisions relative to National Defense planning.

(We prepared a study on the above Bureau)
(early last year for Women Investors IN)
(America, Inc., and copies may be obtained)
(by addressing that orgnaization.)

MINES AND MINING: There already is much evidence to show that we are now dependent upon imports for certain materials vitally necessary to the National Defense program.

There also is evidence to show that much - if not all - of such materials could be mined and processed in this country.

Therefore, Committees dealing with these subjects should seek to determine our undeveloped potentialities in these fields and propose specific steps for their immediate development.

This should be done not only for National Defense purposes, but also to create new industries in this country, thereby increasing employment and investment opportunities and raising the national income.

LAW REVISION: It is recognized there now are a number of laws on the Federal Statute books which in themselves - or

through their administration - are acting as brakes upon industrial recovery and expansion. Such recovery and expansion not only is vital to economic recovery - but also necessary if the National Defense program is to be efficiently and economically operated.

Therefore, the Committees assigned these duties should speedily determine the laws - or the administration thereof - which are impeding industrial recovery and expansion and make specific recommendations for either legislative amendment or repeal of such law or correction in administrative methods.

ROADS: If our armed forces are to follow general world armament trends, they must become highly mechanized. Such mechanization, without also providing nationwide networks of excellent roads, will be a waste of money.

These Committees should determine the new roads needed to provide for future peace and possible war needs and prepare a program of new road construction to meet such needs.

Due consideration to the toll-road system should be given in preparing the above program so as to provide roads without unnecessarily saddling all taxpayers with additional tax loads.

TAXES: It is recognized this subject is one usually avoided. But investigation reveals there are vast numbers of people in this country deeply concerned over taxes. These individuals are not limited to the extremely wealthy class - rather the real concern is found among the great middle class and small businessmen, who now realize they are the ones carrying the greater portion of the tax load - and that any increase in that load will fall on them unless scientific tax methods are employed in raising revenues.

Therefore, these Committees should immediately develop a program designed scientifically to overhaul the entire tax structure to:

1: Produce sufficient revenues to meet all regular government expenditures.

2: Provide special taxes to be allocated to a special fund in the Treasury, said special fund to be used ONLY for liquidating National Defense costs.

There is widespread opinion that at least the taxes levied for National Defense should be so clearly marked on all goods sold as to permit the consumer to know exactly how much is being paid individually for defense purposes.

There also is a steadily growing belief in all parts of the country that all goods and products

sold at retail should be clearly labeled so as to permit the consumer to know exactly how much taxes are included in the retail price.

It is recognized the above proposals may at first prove unpopular in certain legislative quarters. However, it is generally recognized that legislation along the above lines eventually may be forced by public opinion. We, therefore, believe the party that undertakes leadership in making such proposals stands to win widespread public approval and support.

SUMMATION: Much attention is being given today to the problems of foreign countries. Little - if any - is devoted to our own problems.

Yet - the evidence proves that many foreign governments have fallen victims of totalitarianism due to their failure to solve their own domestic problems while paying too much attention to the problems of others. France is an outstanding example in point.

We believe that our own problems of unemployment, low farm incomes and mounting farm surpluses, and the like must be given immediate attention or they too may engulf us.

The foregoing suggestions are intended to focus attention primarily upon our own problems and their solution. These suggestions are not intended as

criticism of past activities, but rather as constructive suggestions for a constructive program to solve our own problems and - thereby - preserve our Republic.

They should be considered only as general and not detailed. It is believed that discussions between members of the Minority - and between Minority committee members - should develop additional program suggestions and ideas.

It may be advisable for the Minority Party members to call a general party meeting for open discussion on program development. Such a move unquestionably would be in keeping with our old-fashioned "town hall" system of government and undoubtedly would meet with widespread public attention and approval.

An analysis of existing conditions establishes that we are at a crossroads in our history. We must soon decide whether we are going to retain our Constitutional form of government - a Republic - or discard it for some other form - probably one or another type of totalitarianism.

Analysis of data considered in preparing this memorandum convinces us a vast majority of the people wish to see our original form of Constitutional government preserved. They are cognizant of the vital need for a truly competitive two-

party system if we are to revive the Republic.

They fully realize the question of survival of the competitive two-party system rests entirely with the Minority Party and its leadership. They believe this nation can only avoid the chaos now prevalent in Europe and elsewhere by that Party and its leadership immediately assuming its Constitutional obligations and duties - and fulfilling them.

On the other hand, the general concensus of opinions obtained and analyzed in preparing this memorandum is that if the Minority Party and its leadership does fail to become a really competitive party along lines suggested herein - or similar thereto - then we are in extreme danger of following the road travelled by most European nations today.

If that is permitted to happen here - then our Constitution will be completely destroyed.

That will mean the end of free enterprise, individual liberties and security of the home.

It also will mean the end of the Minority Party - for the competitive two-party system will be replaced by the regimented "unity" and "non-partisanship" of totalitarianism.

Even a cursory survey of the sentiments of the 22,000,000 who have placed their faith in the Minority Party reveals - that if this IS permitted to happen here - there will be a tendency to hold members of that party directly responsible for the resultant chaos that automatically follows the downfall of any form of government.