

"The Constitutionals"

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO UPHOLD
CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

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"COPY OF A RELEASE TO ALL DAILY, RELIGIOUS,
AGRICULTURE AND LABOR PUBLICATIONS."

From the adoption of our Constitution until the outbreak of the World War, every change in government the world over was away from autocracy and more and more toward Democratic self-rule by the people. Since the World War, the tides have been running against Democracy, and every change has been away from Democracy toward permanent one man rule. No country is immune from these forces.

Recently, before a sub-committee of the Senate, the resolutions introduced by Senators Edward R. Burke and Styles Bridges to limit by Constitutional Amendment the tenure of the President have been discussed by a body of witnesses representative of all walks of life - by Democrats, by Republicans, by men and women typifying a wide variety of groups and viewpoints. They were unanimous in recommending the adoption of a Constitutional Amendment.

Many of the statements in these proceedings, in future history, will be looked upon as having the significance, in a crisis, of many of the Federalist Papers and of the report of the Judiciary Committee at the time when the Supreme Court enlargement bill was under consideration.

Enclosed herewith are the highlights of the telling points made by these witnesses, which we offer for use in your publication - serially, if you wish; as boxes; or as a daily feature; or, if you prefer, as a letter to the editor from the individuals who made them. Also enclosed are two supplementary statements from two eminent personages who were not witnesses -- Rabbi Weiss and Booth Tarkington.

By direction of the Committee,


Glen Hancock,
Assistant Sec'y

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EDITOR: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

1. A STATEMENT BY *Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman, former President of Cornell University and former U. S. Minister to Germany.*

I have never altered the opinion I formed of Hitler since I first read "Mein Kampf." I conceive of him as a man of infinite self-confidence, a born political agitator and the world's greatest propagandist. The example of Hitler rising to supreme power by political means and methods and by many years of agitation and propaganda demonstrates what may be possible in the United States. Let us assume that a man has reached the Presidency and is driven by an all-consuming ambition to aim at continuance in that office beyond the two terms which custom and tradition and the advice and practice of Washington and Jefferson have invested with the character and force of a provision of the Constitution. Would attainment of that goal be possible for him? In my opinion it would be. He would have possibly eight years, certainly four, to make his preparations. The fact of his position in the presidential office and the further fact of his unquestioned leadership in his party would invest him with sufficient influence for the purpose.

The defenders of the third term declare that an emergency now exists in our national affairs. Well the framers of the Constitution and the founders of the Republic encountered difficulties and faced dangers, yet Washington set the precedent of refusing a third term and Jefferson followed it. In the face of all these facts and warnings surely this is no time to break down the traditions and restraints and limitations on the Presidential term of office. If there is an emergency in the United States today, it is no greater than those emergencies which the people and the government have met and happily surmounted in the past. Yet we are now told that this emergency makes it necessary to extend the tenure of office beyond eight years. That proposal, however, according to Washington and Jefferson would itself create the greatest of all emergencies and the most fatal of all disasters.

NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

2. A STATEMENT BY *Vance C. McCormick, Harrisburg Publisher, former Chairman National Democratic Committee.*

The third term is more than "just another tradition". The third term has been opposed by the American people for a century and a half. It was opposed by the early fathers for the same reason it is opposed today — the fear of perpetuation of one-man government. The principle of limited terms in public office is recognized in the Constitution of 34 states.

An ambitious president, able to force his nomination for a third term and being elected, could not be trusted to stop then. His own desire for power or his perfectly sincere belief that he and his policies were indispensable for the welfare of the nation unquestionably might seek a fourth term and a fifth if age and health permitted.

It is regrettable that the third term issue has arisen at a time when its seriousness may be befogged by the tension of a world crisis. The net result of such a crisis might be less devastating to this nation and its way of life than the violation of an approved tradition like the third term with its encouragement of the very sort of one-man or totalitarian government under which Europe is suffering today.

The issue is clear. Do the people want to abandon the American way of life for the sake of this so-called "experience" which has proved so costly to the country? The democratic way of living needs to be guarded vigilantly in America. One of the best ways to protect it is to approve the resolution limiting the presidential term to two terms, which would repudiate the third term issue, thus settling the fundamental question for all time.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

3. A STATEMENT BY *Most Reverend Joseph Schrembs of Cleveland, Ohio, Archbishop of the Catholic Church.*

I feel deeply that two terms of 4 years each should constitute the limit of tenure of office. I cannot bring myself to believe that any crisis would arise that would warrant a deviation from the established practice that goes back unbroken to our first President, George Washington, nor can I bring myself to believe that our country at any time has been so bereft of competent statesmen and leaders of thought that we are compelled to admit that there is only one man fitted to continue in the Presidency of the United States.

NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

4. A STATEMENT BY *Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, of Boston, Mass., Lineal descendent of Thomas Jefferson and Under Secretary of the Treasury in the first Roosevelt administration.*

Our Founders recognized clearly the underlying principles of free government. They recognized that decentralization of government power and rotation in office resulted in democracy, whereas centralized power and no rotation of office resulted in dictatorship. They believed that our Constitution granted the Federal Government only limited powers - authority over foreign affairs, power to coin money, power to establish a post office and improve transportation facilities while to the States severally were left all those authorities affecting the individual citizen. Furthermore, the authority of the Federal Government was divided into three branches, each independent of one another and a check on one another - the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary. With such complete distribution of powers established there was not inserted in the Constitution itself a limit to the term of service of the President, but the danger was seen and the necessary principle established by the custom of only two terms for President.

Let us look at the power of the executive today. He wields the power of the leader of the dominant party over Congress, and insists on his own judges. He is personally dictator of our currency. He dispenses four billions of dollars annually where he desires, while locally elected representatives of the people beg at his door, and many millions of citizens welcome his largess. He is the employer of the greatest horde of office holders ever known. These and other powers have been abused and will be used for a man's own reelection. Such personal power is dangerous and if continued will destroy self government. It should not be placed or continued in one man.

As we look around the world, we see, just as our founders did in their day, centralized self-perpetuating power destroying free government and the rights of man. In our own country we see centralization of all power mounting rapidly and dangerously in the executive branch. The signs are pointing along the usual path to dictatorship.

Surely we should bar the continuance of the same man in the office of President.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

5. A STATEMENT BY *Ignatius M. Wilkinson, Dean, School of Law, Fordham University.*

I favor at this time submission to the people of a proposed constitutional amendment limiting in some reasonable way the eligibility of the President of the United States for reelection. My reasons are two-fold. First, continuance of our Republican forms of government as set forth in the Constitution requires some such limitation. Second, events have demonstrated that it is no longer safe or possible to rely on tradition and the unwritten limitations which heretofore have been deemed sufficient. We may grant that there may be no danger today such as Jefferson apprehended to the substitution in this country of a monarchy for a republic. But we need only look about us in the world today to realize that kings have been succeeded by something worse, by the totalitarian state and absolute dictators of the type that are blotting out all our heritage of western civilization.

While we still have a fair degree of physical isolation in this country - three thousand miles of storm-tossed Atlantic on one side and 6,000 miles of the misnamed but nonetheless storm-tossed Pacific - there is no isolation in the realm of ideas. The danger in our country today to the democratic institutions is not to my mind that the proletariat - if I may borrow a European term which unfortunately has filtered across the Atlantic to our shores - led by some bewhiskered revolutionary will seize the government, nor yet that some man on horseback will appear and suddenly and by violence impose on us a dictatorship of the Fascist type. It is rather that while preserving the forms of constitutional democracy and republican government in this country we shall in fact lose the substance of them gradually.

Now that the issue has been squarely raised in our day for the first time in our history it is well to remember that eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty and that we must safeguard our institutions for all time by substituting for the two-term tradition a binding constitutional limitation. Let us close the gap in the Constitution and close the door for all time to the real possibility of life tenure in the Presidential office with its inevitable trend to dictatorship.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

6. *A STATEMENT BY Theodore Graebner, Professor of Philosophy, Concordia (Lutheran) Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.*

I am opposed as an educator to every form of regimentation of schools by Federal control. I regard as the first condition of the preservation of any democratic scheme of government or life, the freedom of education from any nationally centralized authority. More than that, I hold freedom of education to be the cornerstone of all other liberties, including that of religion, and I tremble at the thought of a chief executive's power so swollen through the accumulated influence of two terms in office that he might have the power to dictate to the states the goals of popular education. There are in Congress now several bills which if made into law can have no other effect than to place the entire public school system of our country from kindergarten to university under Federal control. Huge amounts of subsidies are proposed, obtained either by taxation or by further increase of the national debt, and where such subsidies are accepted, the control of public schools by community and state is given up. With federalized control of youth training, it is very evident that a President dedicated to certain principles of political economy could make these principles take the place of our democratic way of life within the same brief spell that witnessed the development of those huge societies of modern enslavement, the Fascism of Italy, the so-called Communism of Russia, and the Nazi enslavement of the German people. Through the control exercised by the administration in power it will be possible for the President within less than a decade to train up an entirely new body of voters imbued with that particular economic or political philosophy which he believes to be the guarantee for a more abundant life. With a regimented society in which the complete control of industry and of labor have passed into the hands of a group of collectivist philosophers clothed with unlimited power, there is an end to freedom of education, and any threat to that freedom is a threat to our free American institutions.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

7. A STATEMENT BY *Dr. Joseph I. Sizoo, Minister of St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, New York City*

The continuation of one person in the office of President for two or three or four terms, no matter how effective and worthy that person may be, is bound in the long run to affect and alter our political way of life.

To ask one man to assume responsibilities which should be assumed by all men is not good for the country. The consequences are not hard to imagine. It leads straight into a benevolent patriarchy and that into dictatorship. When we think more of one leader than of the followers something goes out of the fiber of a nation. It is time we shift the emphasis from the President to the people, not because the President is unworthy, but because the people will lose their self-reliance and importance.

Through the years of our history the leaders of the Nation have always warned against the peril of a president being maintained in office too long. They knew that power is the most difficult to handle, and once possessing it is even more difficult to relinquish. It is so easy when once it has been given to rationalize its continuance. No one can read American history from the day that the Constitution was first debated until our modern times without being impressed that the re-election of a president longer than the prescribed period of the Father of our country was considered not only hazardous, but undesirable. If we value tradition and if the yesterdays of our national life mean anything to us we should be sobered by the judgments of the past. Our peril in this hour is that we shall be too casual with tradition.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

8. A STATEMENT BY WILLIAM E. MASTERSON, Professor of Law, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

The two-term precedent was left to the wisdom of statesmen who were to launch the new ship of state and to the unwritten law. Washington set this precedent, and Jefferson established it, at a time when the country was faced with the severest dangers.

Jefferson espoused a two-term limitation, lest "the indulgence and attachments of the people will keep a man in the chair after he becomes a dotard, that re-election through life shall become habitual, and election for life follow that." Jackson said that with a limit to a single term of four or six years "our liberties would possess an additional safeguard."

Both Democratic and Republican National Conventions and many state conventions have for over half a century condemned a third term. The lower house of Congress declared, in 1875, and the Senate, in 1928, that "the precedent...has become by universal concurrence a part of our republican system of government, and that any departure from the time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic, and fraught with peril to our free institutions."

One departure from the two-term precedent would thus launch us upon uncharted seas, pave the way for a life tenure, and engender fears and misgivings as to the Nation's future course. It would be the opening wedge of monarchy, as Jefferson foresaw. This wedge might eventually cleave the heart of democracy.

This nation is stronger and more resourceful than pessimists would have us believe. The salvation of this nation is not in the keeping of any one man, but in the strength and character of its people. Changed conditions do not justify a third term. Jefferson said that "no pretext" should ever be permitted to dispense with the tradition, "because there will never be a time when such difficulties will not exist, and furnish a plausible pretext for dispensation." Adherence to this principle has not only survived national crises and constantly changing conditions for 150 years, but it has enabled us to conquer these conditions and to maintain our democratic way of life.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

9. *A STATEMENT BY Bennett E. Siegelstein, New York Attorney and former Assemblyman New York State.*

The object of this non-partisan organization is to prevent that type of control which now prevails in some European countries. Several powerful dictators have arisen since the close of the war, and we have seen these dictators reach the zenith of their power by the gradual absorption of governmental control.

The President, elected for a third term, may seek a fourth term. In time a man with a powerful political machine behind him, and intoxicated with power, might be ambitious enough to endeavor to stay in office for the rest of his life. There are enough people drunk with power abroad, without intoxicating some of our own good officials.

The Father of our Country refused to accept a third term, and his decision was prompted by the desire to maintain a truly democratic form of government in this country and to avoid either one-man rule or that of a dictator.

Let America be a beacon to light the world in the path of true democracy. To do so we must primarily uphold our beloved Constitution and the traditions of our forefathers. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Father of our Country in continuing the Government which has stood the test of time and will, if we support it with much might and main, survive when autocrats and dictators have long been forgotten.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

10. A STATEMENT BY *Mrs. Mabel Jones West, Birmingham, Ala., great-grand niece of Alexander H. Stevens, vice president under Jefferson Davis and president of the Alabama Women's Democratic Club.*

I speak for Democrats. For men and women who love freedom and who know that the hour has struck, that we must rise and show that we are capable of self government else lose forever the privilege of governing ourselves.

I come from a section of the country which nearly eighty years ago set down their opposition to a third term for any president. They made it not a tradition but part of the Constitution of the Confederate States. I quote you from that Constitution: "The executive power shall be placed in a President of the Confederate States of America. He and the vice president shall hold their offices for the term of six years; but the President shall not be re-eligible." Thus, you see, the South would not have a third term for any President. It made it impossible even in wartime for a president to succeed himself. There were eleven states in the Confederacy. Today the Constitutions of nine of those states uphold that principle and limit tenure of office.

It is not strange, therefore, that the Democrats of the South are especially concerned at the threatened violation of what they have always considered an important principle of free government.

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NO. THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

11. A STATEMENT BY *Frederic R. Coudert, New York lawyer and
Trustee of Columbia University*

Jefferson was, indeed, right when he wished to include the non-reeligibility to the Presidency with the first Ten Amendments or Bill of Rights of the Constitution. His foresight in this can be seen today even more clearly than in his own generation.

In a time when representative government is everywhere yielding to militarism and Caesarism, our institutions must be safeguarded in every possible way. The complete failure of nearly every democracy in the world, aside from that on England and the United States, is the terrifying event of our time. That fact, whether it be the result of Fascism or Bolshevism, is a situation which we cannot ignore. It is the cause of our mighty military preparedness.

If the third term unwritten law is to be maintained inviolate, as Americans have believed for a century and a quarter, then it should become a part of our written Constitution. Man is a small thing without institutions, and this great tradition is one of fundamental American faith. It is threatened today at a moment when we are mobilizing all our resources to fight against the forces of irresponsible dictatorial power. To aid in the maintenance of our institutions in the struggle against those forces which created such dictatorships must be the main concern of the American people.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

12. *A STATEMENT BY Oswald Garrison Villard, liberal author and journalist. Former editor-in-chief of The Nation.*

More than forty years of experience in political journalism in the United States as editor of a New York daily newspaper and of a weekly journal of liberal opinion, have convinced me of the absolute necessity of limiting by constitutional amendment the term of the President of the United States. With democracy collapsing everywhere, with the totalitarian ideas spreading rapidly and to a considerable degree in the United States, it is a primary consideration with me that the attempt to violate the no-third-term tradition shall be rebuked at the polls since otherwise the road to a dictatorship is open. Nothing in my judgment would do more to free a President from undue and often unconscious pressure, both from within himself and without, than fixing one term and one only for the incumbent of the Presidency.

We must make it impossible for any living man or any future holder of the office to dare to assume that any situation can arise in which he alone can safeguard the State and the welfare of the people. By the limitation of the office we shall truly exalt it, and what is more important exalt the republican ideal and set an example to the world of a changing leadership which can never have been so needed as it is today.

NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

13. A STATEMENT BY *Edward T. Lee, Dean of The John Marshall Law School, Chicago.*

Patriotism would seem to have required observance by the President of the example set by our first President, George Washington, and by his successors, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, and Wilson and his Republican successors, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Calvin Coolidge.

The founders of our government planned for three independent powers, legislative, executive, and judicial and never intended that a president should dominate Congress or the Supreme Court and certainly not both at the same time.

The no third term slogan does not depend upon tradition nor upon precedent but upon a principle of our unwritten law. When the Confederate States adopted a constitution, the president was to hold office for six years and then be ineligible for re-election. There was certainly no tradition or precedent for their action at that time. There was no tradition when Washington decided to retire after two terms and Jefferson and the others likewise. The no third term issue rests upon a principle similar to that governing presidential electors. Although under the Constitution an elector is at liberty to vote for whomever he pleases, it is a part of our unwritten law that he shall vote for the nominee of the party that placed him on the ballot. So the opposition to a third term has become a part of our unwritten law and is not based upon tradition or precedent but upon the sound premise that a long continuance in power makes men arrogant and is likely to produce corruption in office.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

**14. A STATEMENT BY *REV. JOHN LA FARGE, Associate Editor,
America, National Catholic Weekly***

...If the position is to be taken that no one person is indispensable for the nation's highest office, even in times of great crisis or emergency, then it is evident that among the people themselves there should be a high and continued sense of duty and ability to produce the type of person who can assume that high responsibility and carry on the office where the last incumbent has left off.

In other words, the assertion of the non-re-eligibility of the Chief Executive is a challenge to the people themselves to exert the wisdom and the power which naturally belongs to them. It is the test of our popular fiber, a measure of the degree to which the people, as a people, are now able and willing to take an active and intelligent part in the government of their own affairs.

Much is said at the present time of the dangers that arise from the ambitions of domineering men. But the danger from the domineering individual is trifling as compared with the danger that arises from the sloth, the opportunism, the apathy of the great masses of the people towards the conduct of their own government.

NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

15. A STATEMENT BY *J. W. Creighton, President Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska*

The United States Government is based on the principle of sharing responsibility through participation. Three branches of government form inter related checks, but executive lacks some obtaining for other two. Tenure is the most effective check on the executive. This is possible through public opinion held firmly against abuse of renomination through patronage and reelection through expenditure of public funds for political promotion.

Arguments for limitation are as follows:-

1. The Washington tradition as supported by Jefferson and other great presidents should be observed.
2. Because the psychological effect on both our own people and those abroad would be tragic we must prevent the third term. People are fearful for the very existence of democracy; we must avoid every appearance of break-down.
3. Indifference grows through long control by one regime. To guard against such lethargy we must make rotation possible.
4. The two-party system is our most effective way to implement rotation. Unlimited tenure would destroy the party in power because independent leadership would be choked. It would destroy the party out of power through denial of the responsibility and opportunity of participation in actual government.
5. The indispensable man idea is absurd.
6. Unlimited time leads inevitably toward unlimited power. Such is the natural trend with an executive. Dictatorship is abhorrent.
7. The President of the United States is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. Our new trend in military preparedness with hundreds of thousands of young men open to manipulation through training environment makes one man rule dangerous. Whoever controls the army of a modern state can control the state.

The above statements are made by a life long Democrat.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

16. A STATEMENT BY *Gleason L. Archer, President Suffolk University, Boston, Mass.*

The vast powers vested in the Chief Executive by our Constitution were vitally necessary to the successful functioning of a government of checks and balances. The framers of the Constitution in 1787 were so fearful that some President, ambitious for a life tenure, might abuse this power to intrench himself in office that they adopted a proviso limiting a president to a single term of six years. Only when it became certain that General Washington would head the new government and establish precedents did they vote to adopt the four year term with re-election privilege.

Washington kept faith with his colleagues. He could have served for life yet he retired from office at the end of his second term. Thomas Jefferson could have served for life, yet he refused to break the precedent established by Washington. He even advocated a constitutional amendment to prevent a president from running for a third term. Madison, Monroe and Jackson, Democrats, followed the lead of Jefferson.

A great Democrat, Grover Cleveland not only followed the traditional faith of his party but conscious of the pressure of ambition and political expediency warned the nation against its dangers. He pictured a possible usurper, entrenched in power and supported "by a horde of officeholders, with zeal born of benefits received and fostered by hope of favors yet to come," as capable of overturning constitutional government.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

17. A STATEMENT BY Hawthorne Daniel, editor and author.

Only by continuing in office for a period longer than any President has heretofore served can any man succeed in building up about himself a political machine through which he could become a dictator.

We need have little fear of lack of ability in our presidents, for ability is not uncommon among Americans. We do need to fear lack of character, for character is a difficult attribute to judge. Those who occupy positions of power need restraint, and, human nature being what it is, sufficient restraint does not often come from within.

The terror that is loose in the world today has been brought about by too much power in the hands of rulers. And lest we in America find ourselves in a similar devil's cauldron, we had best set a check in the one all-important place from which our founding fathers omitted it.

The point has rarely been made more clearly than in the inaugural address of William Henry Harrison.

"It is the part of wisdom," he said, "for a republic to limit the service of that officer, at least, to whom she has entrusted the management of her foreign relations, the execution of her laws, and the command of her armies and navies, to a period so short as to prevent his forgetting that he is the accountable agent, and not the principal - the servant, not the master."

It is the law that must remain continuous, not the terms of those who enforce it.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

18. A STATEMENT BY *William Strite McDowell, Attorney, Detroit, Mich.*

When the Constitutional Convention was in session Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What was the best form of government for the united colonies" and replied:

"A Republic if you can keep it."

The question which we as a nation will have to decide in November, "Are we keeping it?"

The framers of our national charter learned from the pages of history that a pure democracy quickly gravitates into a violent mobocracy, where the rights of the few are trampled or destroyed by the temporary majority. Ambition is a pernicious thing in a republic.

A republican form of government is where a majority of the people who vote rule through their chosen representatives, with the act of so choosing recurring at regular intervals. These representatives must be properly restricted in their respective powers and duties.

The Constitution and first amendment meticulously circumscribed the powers of congress, but left the power of the President almost unbounded. The protection we have as to those rights are wholly dependent on the executive's will and to extend his power of so willing by re-elections, is to continue the jeopardy indefinitely. As commander-in-chief of the army and navy he has such a grant of power as no sovereign ruler can exceed, and personal rights under the first amendment may be suspended by him during his continuance in office.

According to present day practices of foreign rulers for unlimited terms, he may direct the armed forces of the United States into combat without waiting for declaration of war. It is only when the blank check appropriations are exhausted that he need to apply to Congress. Certainly a perpetual president was too abhorrent to the founders of our nation to ever be considered seriously, even though a vast majority might at one time demand it, thereby depriving themselves and their children of making a new choice as to who should be their chief.

America must grow! Why let it be bound for long and indefinite periods by persons repeatedly elected. Let us now limit the term of office as we have seen the great accumulation of power and influence of one administration may make or mar our course of living or mold it entirely unsuitable to the future day.

Do it now before the foundations of our republic are swept away by waves of present popular approval of some powerful and beloved leader, whether he is now with us or is yet to come.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

19. A STATEMENT BY *William Weiss, President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America*

The no-third-term tradition is more than a convenient political slogan. It strikes at the essence of the future of American democracy and freedom. Just as a breach of moral laws tends to break down respect for statutory laws, so the deliberate disregard of a sacred American tradition will, in my opinion, be a signal for permissive concentration of political power into the hands of one individual and the ruling group which will necessarily result in the disregard of other cherished and basic democratic principles.

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NO THIRD TERM FOR ANY PRESIDENT

20. A STATEMENT BY Booth Tarkington, Author

Egoism derived from the universal struggle to survive is the principal controlling force among human beings, and egoism loves power. Men holding offices that invest them with power will therefore be extremely inclined to continue themselves in office. In a democracy there is unfortunately an easy historical formula for the continuance in office of the Chief Executive. It is the formula for obtaining majority by distributing public monies among these voters who hold the balance of power and championing them oratorically. By the use of this formula, a Chief Executive upon whose term of office no legal limit is set might continue in power for life; power begets love of more power, unlimited continuance in power therefore tends to become unlimited increase of power and this combination is obviously fatal to either a conservative republic or a progressive democracy. Therefore, if we intend to preserve our fervent freedom and avoid a monarch we are compelled to set a legal limit to the President's term of office.