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Edited version of Henry A. Wallace's announcement to run as a third party candidate in the 1948 presidential campaign.

"Stand Up and Be Counted"
by
Henry Wallace

I am convinced the time has come for an independent presidential candidacy.

Our workers fear the instability of present employment. As their real wages fall, with rising prices, they suffer a steadily declining standard of living and they also feel the burden of new debt.

Our mothers and their sons in school fear the onrushing program of compulsory military training which will take a year out of the lives of American boys.

Our businessmen fear the instability of their markets. Thousands of small independent producers are feeling the squeeze of giant monopolies. Our farmers fear their prosperity will soon end.

Today we live under a one-party rule. In peacetime one-party rule is a real threat to our democracy. The bipartisan bloc represents only a small minority of powerful interests. My reason in striking out for independent action is to give Americans their democratic right to choose.

I have always advocated trucks, not tanks; plows, not guns. I have advocated international planning through scientific technicians to increase the productivity of the world.

Our foreign-aid program must be free of political meddling, and this requires international administration through the United Nations. With its record of circumventing the United Nations, we cannot expect the present bipartisan leadership to fight for this principle.

We have tried to awaken established parties to the urgent necessity of taking action to prevent inflation.

The fact is that the directing of this country does not at present belong to the people, but to a relative handful of wealthy men. The foundation of the government, as presently constituted, is not the general welfare, but the special privilege of industrial and financial giants. These giants control both parties. That is why the average weekly wage of American workers-- \$49—has shrunk until it buys no more than \$29.50 bought in 1939. That is why corporation profits have pyramided to \$17.5 billion, as contrasted with \$5 billion in 1939.

Both major parties serve faithfully the few who own so much at the expense of the many.

Neither party puts up any effective fight against racial and religious discrimination. Neither party defends the First Amendment. Both stand mute while freedom of speech and thought are under attack.

Millions of voters will stay at home if they have only a choice between evils in the major contest for the presidency. It seems to be generally agreed, among those who speak of the lesser evil, that the Republicans are the greater evil, the Democrats the lesser. Personally, I have yet to be convinced that the welfare of the American people can be served by voting for any degree of evil.

I welcome the support of all people who sincerely believe you get peace by preparing for peace rather than for war. I want the peoples of the world to know that there is another America than that which attempts to dominate their politics and dictate their economics.

There is talk that an independent candidacy is doomed to failure because of financing. As sure as I am that the two major parties are controlled by big-money interests, I know that we shall get millions of dollars donated by housewives, stenographers, professional people, workers and shop stewards, and others who will work with devotion big money can't buy.

We shall keep our eyes on the future and remain confident that in November the American people will stand up and be counted.