

by Harrison E. Spangler

What is the newly revived Republican Party fighting for?

We have just put this question to the recently elected Chairman of the G. O. P.'s National Committee. Here is his clear-cut reply to millions who have said the party's victories in November were merely negative—a protest against the New Deal and the conduct of the war. This important article defines the new objectives of a real opposition party.—The Editor

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★ IT IS with sincere appreciation of the serious responsibilities that will rest upon the shoulders of the Chairman of the Republican National Committee that I have assumed that position. In common with all patriotic citizens, I am an American before I am a member of a political party; and the welfare of our country must be the first and only objective in these days of world-wide conflict.

No political party, and especially a political party opposed in numerous important domestic issues to the administration now in office, may conduct itself as mere political expediency shall suggest. It must weigh every question and every action to determine whether a certain course of action, a certain statement, a certain agitation of public opinion be for the benefit of the United States of America as a nation, or whether it be merely to advance the fortunes of a political party.

If a course of action be for the common good, it must be followed with vigor; if it be merely partisan, it must be

set to one side, tabled, forgotten. Politics as politics must be adjourned until we have won the war in which we are engaged, and until, after victory, we have achieved a peace which shall assure tranquillity, happiness, prosperity, and security to all the world.

In the November elections the Republican Party made gains that were highly significant. Its representation in the House of Representatives was increased to a point where it fell only a little short of a majority; and in the Senate its gains were notable. Many Republican governors won sweeping majorities, and throughout the nation a multitude of local officials were elected.

That the Democratic Party, which has been preponderantly in power for ten years—and has been diligent to perpetuate itself in power by means of patronage and propaganda—should have suffered this notable reverse at the hands of the voters, constitutes a political phenomenon deserving of scrutiny. Upheavals of this sort do not come about by chance nor by political maneuvering. There

must be deep, underlying causes which move the people to go to the polls and to vote against the party in power. And this is especially significant in time of war.

It would be simple to dismiss the inquiry with a generality and to say that the voters were unhappy about the conduct of the war; were appalled by Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, and by lack of immediate and telling victories over our enemies. It may even be true that this was the principal cause of dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party. But had this feeling of apprehension not been supplemented by other, and important, fears and resentments it would have been insufficient to have brought about so sweeping a vote of protest and of rebuke.

The Republican Party would not have received its enormous vote of confidence if that party did not stand for certain principles which the people wished to maintain, and if it did not stand against certain theories and actions which the people feared and wished to halt. It would not have succeeded as it did if the Democratic Party were not the protago-