

I don't really know what to say to you folks tonight. As far as I have ever been able to tell, whenever a politician makes a speech there are only about two things he can say. He can make a lot of promises, doing his best to convince you that if you will just elect him all your troubles will be over, your crops will grow faster, the skys will always be blue, and your wife will come back to you. Or he can spend his time, and yours, telling you what a wonderful fellow he is.

Now that kind of leaves us without much to talk about, because I haven't got a lot of promises to make. I am not going to promise that your taxes will be lower in 1943. I am not going to promise that your pensions will be higher in 1943. I am not going to promise that you will be subject to less regulation, that you will have to work any less, or that you will be paid any more. And if you'll stick with me for just a minute, I'll tell you why I won't promise those things.

Our Federal Government is making demands upon us that are greater than most of us ever dreamed of before. Let me tell you--what you already know--that in the immediate future those demands will be doubled, and doubled again. Your problem, and my problem, is to see to it that those demands are satisfied--that no single thing which should be done will be left undone.

Yet there is a limit beyond which we, as a people, cannot go. There is a limit to the taxation which we can stand. There is a limit to the regulation we can stand. We are reaching--have reached in many cases--a point at which, as our federal government asks us to give and do more, our state government must ask us to give and do less.

That may sound to you a good deal like a promise. It isn't!

a principle! It's the principle upon which, if you see fit to elect me, I'm going to work.

It is my conviction that in the legislature of 1943 our constant and earnest endeavor must be to fit state taxation and regulation into the federal picture. Between now and then Washington will be painting a picture upon the canvas of our daily lives. Here and there on that picture they are going to leave a few places where they won't touch at all, or where they will touch only lightly. It is up to us to fit our state needs into those blank spaces.

At the present time we are receiving a substantial income from the 7¢ state gasoline tax, even though gasoline sales have steadily dropped. That is a pretty good tax. I am not in favor of reducing it. But suppose the Federal government decides to increase its tax from 1¢ to 8¢. Such a thing is possible. Who can tell in these times? I would then be open to persuasion that the state government should at least reduce its gasoline tax.

It is not my intention to leave you with the idea that I am in favor of reducing the gas tax. I do not mean to tell you that I am in favor of raising or lowering any tax. What I do want to impress upon you is that my conduct in the 1943 legislature, if you should elect me, will not be guided by promises that I now might blindly, ignorantly and deceitfully make, but by what seems to me, in 1943, to be for the best interest of Florida and Marion County, always bearing in mind what the federal government does and what you tell me you want.

That deals with one side of government--the taxation--money coming in. Let us devote our attention, for just a moment, to the other side--expenditures--money going out.

In the latter part of 1939 I went to Tallahassee to get a job. After trying for a month I was offered three jobs in one day. These three jobs paid different salaries, and I took the job that paid the least money. I took a job in the Comptroller's office because it offered me a chance to do the thing I had gone there to do.

At first they put me to work in the basement, operating a machine. But after a little while they made me an auditor. My job was to see to it that the accounts of the Comptroller were always in balance with those of the Treasurer. Every month, through my hands, there passed every check paid by the State of Florida, except school teacher's checks. As months passed I learned from memory the salary of almost every employee of the State of Florida. I could tell you, at a moment's notice, how much money was spent for traveling expenses, new cars, printing, office equipment, and legal fees, and to whom those sums were paid. There was no secret of state finances recorded on books that was not laid bare before my eyes.

In 1940, having learned all it was my purpose to learn, I gave up my job. On the same day, a representative of the Attorney General's office offered me a job as assistant attorney general, but I refused. A few days later he wired me again--I still have that wire--asking me to take the job. Instead I returned here to my home to make a place among the people I was born among and had grown up with.

All these things I tell you, not to boast, but in the hope that you will believe that there stands before you a young man whose most earnest desire is to serve you, and who is prepared to serve you well. I have been educated in business and law. I have all the experience my years allow me, and I know the dollars and cents of your government. Mr. Potter

makes much of the fact that he is an independent business man, and has been one for 14 years. I have never been anything else. In 1933 at the University of Florida I was operating a dining room serving 120 meals three times a day, for \$3.50 per week. We gave those boys all the potatoes and hamburger they could eat.

You will hear many tales and many promises of voting against taxes, but you know and I know that the only way to reduce taxes is to reduce expenses. I know what the expenses are, who receives them and who pays them, and until you put into office a man who knows the facts and has the ability and guts to act upon them, your taxes will never be lowered.

This, then, is my platform: This, then, is my promise, and the only promise I have to make: When, by your permission, I go to the legislature in 1943, I will do the very best that I can.