

## A Plea for the Status Quo

**S**PEAKING recently in Chicago, the Democratic Party's candidate for the Presidency sought to make light of the pledge made, in the Republican Party's platform that indorsement by the voters would assure to the people of the United States a continuation of those political and economic policies which have prevailed during the last seven years or more. In his address in New York last night, Herbert Hoover, the Republican nominee, stated or restated the argument in support of the platform pledge so convincingly and so circumstantially that the impression might be gained that he had failed to discover the subtle humor attempted by his political opponent.

To Mr. Hoover, and to millions of the American people, it does not seem a matter of jest that it is seriously contemplated to abandon the proved policies of the present Administration simply that an opportunity may be given to experiment with the theories which are being urged as substitutes. He made it clear in his New York address that there is no justification for the belief that the people demand a change simply that they may take a chance in the hope of bettering their economic and social conditions. Probably at no previous time in the history of the United States was there less inducement to indulge in political experimentation. Mr. Hoover comes near summing the whole up in a single sentence when he says: "We have in this short period (seven and a half years) decreased the fear of poverty, the fear of unemployment, the fear of old age; and these are the fears that are the greatest calamities of human kind."

Addressing a vast audience of voters identified, either directly or indirectly, with industry and commerce, Mr. Hoover took pains to state with clearness and definiteness the processes which will be continued to maintain the status quo. He enumerated some of the benefits which have inured as a direct result of the administrative and legislative program followed by the Government of which he has been a part. He proved, it would seem, to the satisfaction of many, that no really revolutionary methods must be resorted to if it is desired to proceed along the path which has been traveled in recent years. He did not find it necessary to apologize for his party because it seeks to guarantee another four years of American prosperity.

A popular battle cry in former political campaigns, upon which varying charges were rung by orators in the camp of the "opposition," was "Turn the rascals out!" This is not often heard this year. One is left to speculate as to the reason. Perhaps if the cry were sounded some one might inquire just why that subject should be mentioned. Those who heard or have read Mr. Hoover's latest speech will hardly gain the impression that there is need of a resort to any such heroic method.

The thoughtful person who must decide his own course between now and November 6 will, in reaching his conclusion, give due consideration to the plain precept expounded by Mr. Hoover in stating his own and his party's position in defense of individual initiative in business and industry as opposed to political or governmental bureaucracy. "It is a false liberalism," he says, "that interprets itself into the government operation of commercial business. . . . Liberalism is a force truly of the spirit, a force proceeding from the deep realization that economic freedom cannot be sacrificed if political freedom is to be preserved."