

THE NOME DAILY NUGGET

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TWO GOOD PARTIES.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

It would seem that what we need in America today is not more political parties, but better. Our democratic system owes its success chiefly to the existence of two virile parties, although third-party movements have at times been important for the development of ideas and programs eventually taken over by the major parties.

The political party in a country such as ours has three prime functions. One is to provide the mechanism for discussion of public issues and the formulation of platforms. Another is to select nominees for public office and try to elect them. A third is to provide the discipline necessary to insure execution of policies and orderly performance of governmental functions, especially in the legislative process.

For our party system to carry on these functions, we need two vigorous groups. If both are reasonably strong, we always have a party in power strong enough to determine and enforce major policies, and another party in opposition virile enough to subject every move of Government to close scrutiny and courageous enough to make an issue of any policy that seems undesirable.

This, of course, means that there should be important differences in the two parties. When either party fails to champion the interests of an important segment of the population and becomes a mere shadow of the other party, as did the Liberal Party in England, it is destined to decay. With this in mind, it is clear that Republican strategy this year and next ought to involve a conservative orientation. Should the G.O.P. swing about to win the Middle Western farm population, as now seems unlikely, it certainly would fail to give adequate expression to the mounting of anti-New Deal sentiment in the business community. The main contours of Democratic policy are already determined of course, by the character of Mr. Roosevelt's policies.

From this point of view, the coming Presidential campaign seems to promise a more informing and beneficial alignment on great public questions than we have had for many years. It remains to be seen, however, whether the G.O.P. will clarify its platform sufficiently. It cannot be blind to the fact that we have moved beyond the ideas and conditions of the 1920's, and that no effort could restore the individualism of that epoch. Yet it must offer a retreat from rash experimentation, or it will have no reason for existence.

In any event, there is no place on the political stage for a nationwide third-party movement. The two major parties are far enough apart on major issues so that there is no point where a new party can take hold. It is when the major parties become too much alike that the chances of a third party become interesting.

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK?

By Edson R. Waite, Shawnee, Oklahoma

In the heart of the average man this venture into higher taxes is a mystery. It brings on little ills and frets. The multitude of taxes upsets the mind and one is worried as to how to pay them and what they are used for. Many of the taxes seem to be caused by dreams of the New Dealers.

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