

Campaign speech, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1948.
President's Secretary's Files, Truman Papers.

Original



JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Oct. 23, 1948

10-23-48

JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



*Miss Julia Marietta
22nd Cong Dist
Field Rep & Org. amalgamated Clothing Workers.*

I'm highly pleased to be back in Johnstown today;
and to have this opportunity to talk with you about
the issues of this campaign.

I'm especially glad to be in Buz Wagner's home town.
Buz Wagner was a great hero and a great American.
are
All of us ~~can be~~ proud of him.

The people of Johnstown have reason also to
be proud of one of Buz Wagner's fighting comrades -
Colonel Bob Coffey. He will make a fine Congressman
26th
from this District, and I hope you give him a record
total of votes on November second.



The great issue in this campaign is whether this country is going to be governed in the interest of all the people, or in the interest of Big Business and special privilege.

I have been criticized during this campaign for talking plainly to people about the issues, but that's the way I do business.

I won't talk ~~high-level~~ platitudes that ~~don't~~ mean ~~anything~~. *nothing*

That's all the people are getting from the Republican candidate.

G.O.P. these days means just one thing:
"Grand Old Platitudes".



As President of the United States,

I am worried about a lot of things - the same things

that ~~you~~ worry ^{you.} ~~about.~~

One of these ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{movies} high prices.

Prices are so high now that they are cutting into ^{the} people's savings.

It is a terrible thing when a family has to dip into its savings

to pay the grocery bill - savings which ~~it~~ ^{been} had set aside

for old age, to educate the children, or for the down payment

on a home.

I have done my best to get the ^{ant, everything} Republican ^{80th} Congress

to do something about high prices.

I called the ^{80th} Congress back into special session twice

and asked for legislation to control high prices.

But the Republican leaders refused to do anything.

And if a Republican Congress is re-elected this year,
the same men will be in power again and they still won't
do anything!



I'll tell you why they won't do anything.

They won't do anything because their Big Business Bosses
won't let them.

Big Business is making too much money out of ~~inflation~~ *these exorbitant prices*.

Back during the war, we had inflationary pressures
just as great as we have today. But a Democratic Administration
and a Democratic Congress established price controls.

Because of that, prices were held down -

they stayed on an even keel right through the war.

When the war ended, Big Business decided
to torpedo price controls.



They wanted to take over the wartime savings of the American people. So the National Association of Manufacturers spent Three Million Dollars to fool the American people into believing that price control was a bad thing.

The Republicans in Congress led the fight to end ~~C.P.A.~~ and, after they had ^{ended} ~~killed~~ it, they boasted about what they had done.

You know what has happened since.

Prices have gone up thirty cents on ^{the} every dollar.

Food has increased in price almost fifty cents on ^{the} every dollar.

We have had to spend our wartime savings paying the grocery bill.

Wages have lagged way behind prices,

increasing just twenty cents on ^{the} every dollar.

Since price increases haven't gone into wages, where has the money gone?



It has gone just where Big Business and the
Republican Party planned for it to go - into higher profits.

Corporation profits after taxes have increased
cents on the dollar
seventy ~~percent~~ since price control was killed.

Don't think Big Business doesn't appreciate all that
the Republican Party has done for it.

Don't think Big Business doesn't appreciate
the fat profits that the Republican Party has laid in its lap
by killing price control.

During this past summer, up to August thirty-first,
officers and directors of the country's largest corporations
immense sums
contributed half a million dollars to the Republican election
campaign funds.

Contributions since then have not yet been published.



Thousands of Dollars came from the railroad industry.

The Railroad Executives no doubt appreciate the fact that the Republicans passed the Bulwinkle Bill over my veto. Now they don't have to worry about the anti-trust laws any more.

Thousands of Dollars came from the steel industry to show their appreciation for the seventy-five percent increase in steel profits since the end of O.P.A.

A quarter of a million dollars came from the big bankers. No doubt that's just a small token of appreciation for the eight billion dollar increase in corporation profits since price control was killed.

These contributions are not just appreciation for past favors.

West Va. Rep. tax etc



Big Business is trying to make perfectly sure that there will not be any price control with a Republican President and a Republican Congress.

But if you people here in Johnstown and the millions like you, all over the United States, come out and vote on Election Day, we will get a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress.

Then we can bring prices down.

Then we can bring prices down to where your weekly pay envelope will not only keep your family going for the week, but you will be able to put something aside for all the fine things you hoped to buy after the war and haven't been able to buy.



Then we will have a Government working for the people.

We will have Federal aid to education.

We will have slum clearance, and half a million
new public low-rent houses.

We will have at least a seventy-five cent minimum wage.

We will have extended social security for every
working man and woman in the United States.

We will have health insurance to help pay the doctor bills
of every American family.

These are what we need for a prosperous country.

A vast majority of the American people are in favor of
every single one of these.

But Big Business is opposed to them.



We will never get them with a Republican President
and a Republican Congress.

Duty as voter.

If you and millions of American voters like you
go to the polls a week from Tuesday and vote the straight
Democratic ticket, we can go forward together
to build a richer and stronger and better Nation
for all the American people.
