

## Tammany Wins Again

What's wrong with "good" government?

Tammany Hall, which Mayor LaGuardia's reform movement and District Attorney Dewey's scandal-revealing investigations were supposed to have permanently buried, bounded back from its grave last month. Not one anti-Tammany candidate was elected, not even to a minor office.

Why do people cast their votes for a political party whose record for corruption in office is proverbial? Maybe there is something not so good in "good" government. Or is the answer to be found in the perversity of human nature?

The inescapable fact is that reform movements do not improve economic conditions—and the ballot box is the place where this fact is recorded. If a reform movement succeeds in cleaning out a festering political condition in the community, that community becomes a more desirable place to live in. Therefore, land values go up, and only the rent collectors profit by the change.

Tammany's political successes are due to the cunning realization that economic pressure determines the direction of votes. A ton of coal in an empty bin, an unemployed son aided in getting a job, some indigent citizen slipped into the relief rolls, shoes given for the baby, or a wayward daughter kept out of jail—and the family's vote is "in the bag." Does the reform government

offer them half as much? It shows them figures on how much it has reduced the city budget, or describes the rascals who have been thrown out of office. The answer is: Keep the rascals in, they help us.

Tammany, at least, gives immediate relief. If attitudes could speak: "Who cares about the ultimate payoff? What's this bunk about the decline of civilization? Never found much civilization in my little world! And the intellectual stuffed shirts who seek in political changes some economic improvement? They seem to be getting theirs out of this civilization."