

The Elections

Only in the light they throw on the socio-economic situation are the results of the recent elections of interest to *The Freeman*. The purely political interpretation we leave to those who find delight and stimulation in torch parades.

Whatever the influence of local conditions or personalities, the obvious lesson to be drawn from the general vote against the "ins" is that the majority of the voters are dissatisfied with the results of their efforts. The ballot box registers the revolt of the people against existing conditions; the party in power is identified with these conditions.

The conditions which the people dislike, and for which the political incumbents are blamed, are, in this election at least, purely economic. The inability to get jobs, the revulsion against "relief," the faint realization that make-work programs do not result in human satisfactions—these were the primary reasons for throwing out of office the party in power. Perhaps the growing tax burden may have had some influence in the people's decision; we hope so. Some votes may have been cast in protest against the idea of bureaucracy and regimentation and planning. We doubt the importance of any such ideological vote in the decision. Essentially, the people voted against continued poverty.

They identified this continued poverty with the New Deal—against which politico-economic monstrosity they recorded a vigorous protest. Did they vote for the Republican Party? We are not cynical enough to believe it.

And so, our political shuffle-board goes back and forth, from one political faction to another, year after year, in a vain effort to find surcease from poverty. We ask the politicians, as ignorant as our professors of causes, to find a formula that will liquidate unemployment, raise wages, make for prosperity and economic security. It is hopeless. We the people, will have to

learn the cause, propound a cure, and tell the politicians what we want. They will give us only what we explicitly ask for, when we know what we want.

Out of the elections, however, comes one ray of hope for America. We have not yet become completely degenerate. Economic depression has not yet brought us to that low level where we will barter our conscience for "bread and games." The weasel words of promising demagoguery have not yet lulled us into slavery. We still have some fight left in us. Maybe there is time for us to learn what we should be fighting for before continuous poverty robs us of all vitality, and we elect a dictator and decide to live on the crumbs of political charity.