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# THE OFFICIAL BALLOT

## All Voting Must be Done Under one Party Head.

The Hughes Slump.  
(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)  
Has the Hughes campaign reached the beginning of the end? It would seem so.

Republican reports and Democratic reports agree that the swing is all toward President Wilson. The President grows stronger and stronger as public sentiment becomes more articulate. Mr. Hughes becomes weaker and weaker.

There is no mystery about the decline and prospective fall of the Hughes candidacy. It lacked the one element without which no candidacy has a right to succeed—the element of good faith. Mr. Hughes has not been sincere with the American people. He has not been honest with the American people. He has not been on the level. He has not been the Charles E. Hughes whom they had idealized as a man who met every political issue and every political situation squarely without fear or hesitation.

Mr. Hughes began his campaign with a carefully prepared program of dodging and evasion. In the midst of the greatest crisis known to modern civilization he determined to have no policies of his own, but to seek to consolidate all the moxie opposition to the President.

To do that he could not afford to have policies of his own, for there was no policy on which such a following could be united. What suited Wall Street would not suit the West. What suited the Germans would not suit the pro-British and pro-French. What suited the jingoes would not suit the pacifists. What suited the Old Guard would not suit the Progressives. What suited Roosevelt would not suit Taft. So Mr. Hughes resolved to attack everything that President Wilson has done, but to say nothing about his plans and purposes. He was nominated in the dark and he thought he could be elected in the dark. Whether or not he has discovered his mistake, the Republican managers have discovered it.

Instead of consolidating all the antagonistic elements that were opposed to the President, Mr. Hughes has awakened their suspicions as to his own intentions. They have come to see that he cannot be playing fair with all of them, and that he may not be playing fair with any of them.

There have been campaigns when that kind of politics might succeed; but this is no ordinary year. Mr. Hughes has been trilling with the destiny of the nation when the future of the republic is hanging in the balance. In commonplace times it would make little difference whether Woodrow Wilson or Charles E. Hughes was President of the United States; but these are not commonplace times.

Now that there has been an opportunity for the sober second thought, the American people are balancing the books. On the one side is the definite record of President Wilson and his administration. On the other side is nothing except conjecture, speculation, rumormongering and destructive criticism. Naturally the voters are turning to the President. How could it be otherwise? They know him. They know what he will do. They can trust him. They cannot afford to trust any man who will not tell them what he would do as President, and that is the position in which Mr. Hughes has placed himself.

That is why the Hughes campaign has so suddenly slumped, and that is why the Hughes managers must make their last desperate appeal to the power of money.

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