

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

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HON. RICHARD W. AUSTIN

MAKES FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR RENOMINATION TO CONGRESS IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY TO BE HELD AUGUST 1, 1918
DECLARES HE WILL REMAIN AT HIS POST OF DUTY IN WASHINGTON AND TRUST THE SUCCESS OF HIS CANDIDACY WITH THE LOYAL PATRIOTIC
CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT, SHORT REVIEW OF HIS SUCCESSFUL CAREER, MAKES STRONG APPEAL TO VOTERS OF THIS DISTRICT

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT:—

I take this method of announcing my candidacy for renomination for congress in the republican primary August 1st, 1918. While I assume that the republicans throughout the district have understood that I would be a candidate for renomination in the republican primary, I have deferred in making this formal announcement because of the recent patriotic campaigns that have been engaging the thoughts and attention of the American people in the interest of the Third Liberty Loan to finance the great war and the Red Cross campaign for funds to aid them in their mission of mercy to save the soldiers and sailors, both at home and in foreign fields, believing that it would be unpatriotic to undertake to engage the attention of the loyal patriotic republicans of the Second Congressional district by making an announcement for renomination and precipitating a political campaign when their thoughts and attention were given over to such patriotic duties.

The President of the United States the commander-in-chief of our army and navy in this great struggle to save our country from the domination of Prussianism, has asked congress to remain in session and cooperate with him in winning this great war. I therefore feel that it is my patriotic duty to my country and to the loyal patriotic people of my district to remain at my post of duty to serve my country and my people just as much as it is the duty of our soldiers in arms to serve as they are doing—patriotically in the trenches in foreign fields of war while the battles are on.

I cannot be a slacker when entrusted by my people with this responsible duty and it remains with the good citizens of the Second Congressional District of Tennessee to say whether or not I am right in taking this stand to remain at my post of duty.

I cannot believe that a constituency made up of such patriots as compose the Second Congressional District will fail to stand by and support a public official who stands by his post of duty and serves them faithfully. I am strongly impressed that the highest duty that any man can discharge at this time in the terrible struggle to save our country, is to do everything in his power to help and save our boys who are fighting so bravely to save this country of ours. Next in importance in winning this great war, to the boys who are gathering into our camps for duty and the soldiers who are fighting in the trenches, is the congress of the United States. Our boys cannot win it without their assistance—our commander-in-chief has no power except those given him by the congress of the United States so I reiterate that I could not be true to my oath of office, to my country nor to the people of my district unless I remain at my post in serving you.

However, if the house of representatives should take a brief recess after discharging the duties entrusted to them and make it possible or honorable for me to do so between now and the August primary, it will give me pleasure to come home and meet my people and so far as time will permit, go on the stump and give an account of my congressional labors during that time I have served you and what I have done in aiding legislation in the interest of our boys on the firing line.

I put my trust in the loyal, just and patriotic people of the district.

They will wisely decide the question, whether it be in the interest of their loved ones in the Army and Navy and the interest of the nation, during these serious days, to turn out of Congress a man who has been on guard day and night; who has supported every war measure; who is familiar with war activities; with ten years of legislative training; the friendship and good will of practically every Member of the Lower House of Congress, and a majority of the Senate, and substitute a man without a day's legislative experience, without an intimate knowledge of the present duties and responsibilities of a Member of Congress, which are more difficult, trying and numerous than ever before in the history of the republic for a man who has for weeks been traveling over the district, opposing my support of vital, necessary military measures, the failure of which would have made the winning of the war impossible,—

military legislation recommended and endorsed, by the Commander-in-Chief Secretary of War, General Staff, Col. Roosevelt, Ex-President Taft, Governor Hughes, Knoxville Journal and Tribune, The Knoxville Sentinel, and practically all of the newspapers of the Second Congressional District.

RETIRING LOYAL CONGRESSMEN

So far, primary elections have been held in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Oregon and North Carolina, and my information is every member of congress in these states has been renominated. What the thinking, loyal and patriotic people have done in the four named States will be repeated in the rest of the states where the member or Senator has stood for the raising of a sufficient army to whip the Kaiser. The true and tried Second District of Tennessee will not be an exception.

Of the 435 members of the present Congress, every one who has constantly remained at his post of duty and supported the government will be renominated. Only shirkers and slackers and those who have absented themselves, neglected their duties, or failed to be in Washington to aid in every possible way the country in its hour of need and danger, should be left at home, retired from Congress.

TEN YEAR'S WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

As to my work in Congress, I leave that to the official records, to my constituents, and to the republicans and Democrats whom I have associated with and served with continuously in Congress during the past ten years.

If they say I have not been a faithful, hard-working and successful representative, I will voluntarily quit the race.

Appropriations exceeding more than a million dollars have been secured during the period for Government activities in the Second District for postoffice buildings, river and road work, a mine rescue station, pensions, forest reservations, restocking streams with fish, war contracts, Tennessee marble for Government buildings, increased pay for rural carriers, appointments, etc.

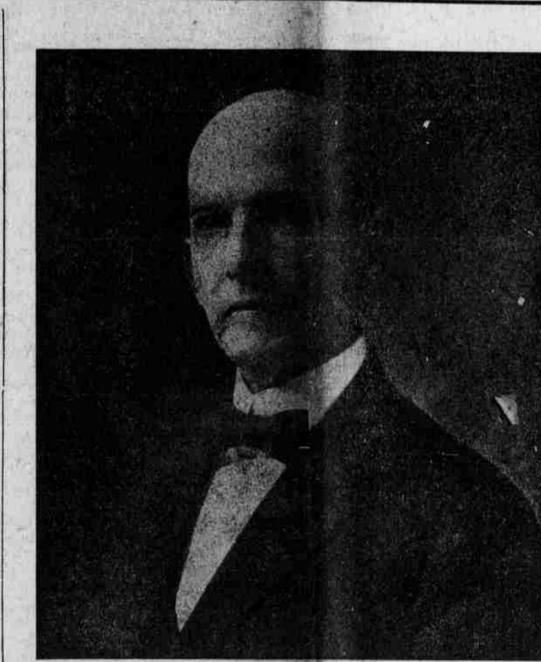
I have letters of thanks from officials for the work I did in securing needed winter supplies for our Tennessee soldiers in Camp Sevier, and the following extract is taken from a speech of Representative Little, of Kansas, in the House of Representatives:

"The soldiers of the Republic who go to carry the American flag over the German trenches owe a debt of gratitude to the Hon. Richard W. Austin, of Tennessee, that time cannot stale nor custom wither in a thousand years. He brought in the amendment here that gave them a pay that no soldiers in the world ever received before. His name will shine luminous in the dark watches of the night over the American camps for a century, while these 'great leaders', with records as yet unmade, and these expert statesmen, with their pruning knives, who seek to snatch from the fighting man's fingers DICK AUSTIN'S magnificent gift, are unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

In addition to my official work in connection with the above, I believe that President Davis, of the Aluminum Co. of America, will give me credit for having a hand in locating the great aluminum plant in Blount county in the Second District,—the largest plant of the kind in the world with over 3500 on its present payroll, to be increased to 10,000. I doubt not that this company has already expended over \$2,000,000 in the district.

I have been thanked, commended and endorsed, repeatedly in letters and resolutions by civic, business, patriotic and labor organizations for my speeches, votes and work in Congress.

My record for achievement and for faithful attendance has been such that Judge Dana Harmon, a Congressional candidate in the First District, is using it as a model, after making a careful search of the Con-



CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

The voters have a right to know from my opponent wherein he is better qualified or equipped to efficiently serve the district and Nation in these critical times than myself, let him challenge the wisdom of my votes and work in Congress, or condemn any of my many utterances in that body on public questions affecting the interest of the people and the welfare of the nation.

LABOR RECORD.

My vote and work in congress on all questions affecting labor has been in the interest of the laboring man and as an evidence of that fact I have in my possession endorsements from various labor organizations as well as a strong letter from Samuel Gompers president of the American Federation of Labor, commending and endorsing my course in congress on all legislation affecting labor.

In addition I advocated—each time the same was up for passage—the Burnett bill, restricting foreign illiterate and irresponsible immigration to our country, to come in competition with our own free American laboring men and helped to pass the same over the President's veto.

STOOD BY THE FARMERS

I have stood by and advocated the passage of every bill in congress, introduced to aid the farmers and better their conditions, in the way of appropriation for experimental agents, government roads, and in every other way supported legislation that has had for its object the betterment of agricultural conditions of the country.

THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE.

The good people of the Second Congressional District of Tennessee whom I have had the honor to represent in Congress, have a right to know wherein I have neglected or failed in any respect to represent them faithfully and efficiently. I have not only given them my entire time but the public record in congress shows how I have voted on every question that has come up affecting my people as well as national legislation and I stand by the record in asking for my renomination at the hands of the republicans of my district. I challenge any one to point out wherein I have failed to do my full duty to my people and my country.

ANSWER TO TAYLOR CHARGES.

Now as to the statement of my opponent's announcement, that I am not a tax-payer, haven't a home in the district, nor a voter and my family resides in Washington,—

I pay annually real estate tax in Knoxville amounting to \$50.00 and this year an income tax of \$319.00, have purchased four homes in Knox county; at Beverly, on Fifth Avenue, Church Avenue and Hill Avenue in Knoxville. My last vote cast in Knoxville was at the last election

held in the state and was for Hughes and Cooper and Overall and the rest of the worthy candidates. This was in the campaign when Mr. Taylor had charge as Chairman of the Republican State Committee, with the result that the democrats increased their majority in the state by several thousand. I voted in Knox county before my opponent was born, and have only missed casting my ballot in the last ten years when congress was in session and emergency matters immediately pending and the year I was desperately ill in the Philadelphia hospital. My family resides in Washington during the sessions of congress and on adjournment returns with me to the district to remain until congress reconvenes.

This is true of every congressman who remains in congress during the sessions of congress, to look after the interest of his constituents. Congress has been in almost continuous session since my first election. In addition to the regular sessions, President Taft had two long extra sessions and President Wilson three extra sessions. I believe it my duty to keep my pledge to the people, to stick to my post, and do my full duty to comply with my oath of office by remaining in Washington during the sessions of congress. Yet the keeping of my promise made to the people and the observance of my oath of office is given as a reason why I should be retired from Congress.

TAYLOR'S "ROTATION" ARGUMENT.

Now as to the "rotation" in office. There are ninety members in the House who have served in Congress from 10 to 44 years; 10 for 22 years; 7 for 20 years; 8 for 18 years; 14 for 16 years; 20 for 14 years; 25 for 12 years; 22 for 10 years; 2 for 34 years; 2 for 26 years and one (Uncle Joe Cannon) for 44 years.

In the upper House of Congress 21 senators out of 98 have served from 10 to 28 years and many of these had service in the House before entering the Senate. The men who do not remain any length of time in congress are those who fail to make good, don't remain at their post of duty, absent themselves with their families, who kill time loafing at home when congress is in session and thus overlook and neglect the interests of their constituents, who are absent, watching and building up political machines at home at the expense of the people's interest in Congress and before the Executive Department of the Government.

No farmer discharges a capable and satisfactory superintendent or laborer to make a place for a green, inexperienced and untried man just to "rotate." The same is true of a manufacturing plant, a coal mine or a jobbing house. During this world war we are wisely retaining and securing men for the various activities on account of their knowledge, experience and fitness for the particular work in hand. This is just as true in connection with the

important and far reaching work before congress and in the departments which have grown and expanded enormously since we entered the war. But my opponent only believes in "rotation in office" as it applies to his own case. For ten years two of my able predecessors represented the Second District and no one ever heard Mr. Taylor say that he believed in "rotation" and in retiring these trained and experienced men from congress.

TAYLOR'S RECORD ON SUPPORTING NATIVES.

As to the narrow appeal that he ought to be nominated because he is a native of Tennessee, I was a resident and voter in the Second District before Mr. Taylor saw the light of day, and married in Tennessee the year after his birth.

When Judge Gibson voluntarily retired from congress, my opponent did not attempt to get out a native candidate to succeed him. He aided in leading the fight for a native of Virginia.

I deeply regret that a man aspiring to a seat in the American congress, the greatest law-making body in the world, to represent the district so long, ably and faithfully represented by such leaders as Messrs. Maynard, Thornburgh, Judge Houk, Gibson and Hale, finds it necessary or pleasing to his taste to resort to such arguments against his opponent, who is giving his entire time, strength of mind, body and heart, working under great pressure day in and day out, here at the very center of the war work and activities of our government.

A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE VINDICATION.

In addition to many statements in my opponent's circulars and cards there recently appeared an article seeking to question my honesty, and integrity in connection with the work of the Republican National Congressional Committee and the payment of commissions to Messrs. John W. Conner and W. N. Hudiburg.

When these charges first appeared over a year ago, in a newspaper, I demanded an immediate investigation. Congressman Graham of Pennsylvania, Esch of Wisconsin, Fess of Ohio, Steenerson of Minnesota and Tilson of Connecticut, five able, impartial and distinguished members of the House, made a thorough investigation of these sensational charges, and unanimously reported:

"Your committee finds that Mr. Austin's connection with the whole matter under investigation has been an entirely honorable and justifiable one, and that there is nothing in the history of these transactions, when sifted and examined carefully, to reflect in the slightest degree upon his personal honor or his management of the affairs of the Financial Committee of which he was chairman under the present Congressional Committee."

This investigating committee reported that I had "carried out in good faith a contract made with Messrs. Conner and Hudiburg prior to my election as chairman of the financial committee." The committee commended Conner and Hudiburg and their work and found that after deducting their expenses they made 7 per cent on their total collections.

After my complete vindication by the Committee, a joint caucus of the Republican Senators and members of the House unanimously re-elected me Tennessee's member of the Republican National Congressional Committee and without opposition, I was made a member of the executive committee and continued for a second term as Chairman of the Financial Committee.

GOOD ADVICE OFFERED TAYLOR.

In conclusion, I offer the following advice to my opponent:

If you are in earnest in your desire to render your country the highest possible good, you are a young man, tender your services to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy and join the countless thousands of young men of your age,

from Tennessee and elsewhere, including three members of Congress volunteer privates, now in France, fighting to save the Republic. After such patriotic service, return to the brave and just people of the Second District and they will suitably reward you. While I cannot get into the military service of the country because of my age, I am giving my only son to the great navy of this country and at this time he is on the high seas. Before my opponent made his formal announcement, he wrote me offering to fight, provided he was given a commission as Colonel and allowed to raise a regiment.

The war department under the existing law, could not meet his wishes. There is no necessity to endanger the success of some of the Republican County candidates or a demand on the part of the people of the Second District for a new inexperienced congressman, but there is an urgent demand and need for fighting men. You have had military, not legislative training. You were an officer in the National Guard Company in LaFollette prior to the declaration of war. You have offered to fight if the government would make you a colonel. Show your courage, your love of country, your patriotism, and help save the Republic, not by seeking a colonel's commission, but by volunteering to fight for your country now regardless of rank, big pay, or a high commission.

AN APPEAL TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

There has not been a time since my first election to congress by the good and patriotic people of my district, that I have not felt grateful to them for their confidence and honor conferred upon me. I esteem it a distinguished honor to represent a district in congress that has been represented in the past by such a long line of distinguished men and a people who are noted all over this great country for their intelligence, loyalty and patriotism in every crisis and emergency in our country's history.

It has given me pleasure on every occasion that I have had to address the house of representatives in congress, to make known to the peoples of the United States the character of the people I represent as well as the vast resources—developed and undeveloped—in this the best congressional district in the United States.

If you shall honor me with a renomination and I confidently believe you will do so, I shall continue to represent the people with that same faithfulness and earnestness of purpose that I have done in the past.

I realize and appreciate the tremendous responsibilities that are now resting upon a member of congress and will last for some time to come, on account of the world-wide war that involves the life and destiny of our own great country. The duties in looking after our vast army of boys that are daily leaving for the front and the enormous supplies both in the way of foodstuffs, ammunition, shipbuilding, as well as strengthening our great navy is almost beyond comprehension, and just in proportion as the congress of the United States comprehends and meets these vast demands will this great war be a success.

Having had an experience in congress during the last four years that our allies have been fighting the central powers of Europe and more than one year since our own great country was forced into the war, I feel that I am best fitted to represent this district in congress for its coming term. I cannot believe that the loyal, patriotic people of the Second Congressional district will fail to appreciate these great responsibilities and confidently believe that while I am remaining in Washington true to my trust in trying to protect you and your boys, and your family and to help save our country, that you will do the right thing as you understand it in this matter.

When I shall have been re-elected I shall do everything in my power to aid our boys in going over the top and bring to a speedy victory this horrible war and make secure the blessed freedom of our fair land and country and save it from the domination of kaiserism.

Your Obedient Servant,
R. W. AUSTIN.
Washington, D. C.,
June 10th, 1918.