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BIRTHDAY

The American Liberty League is one year old this month. During that brief period the League has grown until its membership reaches into every state in the Union. By the time the League's second birthday rolls around one year hence the country will be in the midst of a political campaign which may determine our future form of government and the fate of those principles under which the nation has grown and prospered. By that time it is essential -- and on the basis of progress so far made it may be expected -- that the League shall be a potent force to assist the American people in making the proper decision.

THE ISSUE

It has become so clear that it no longer requires argument that the so-called New Deal cannot continue under the Constitution of the United States. Having failed in their attempt at nullification by indirection, advocates of the New Deal scheme of things have been forced to adopt the more forthright procedure of seeking to change the Constitution.

That this may be the next major move is clearly indicated by President Roosevelt himself. Following the Supreme Court's decision in the so-called Schechter case invalidating NRA codes, the President made a lengthy speech to Washington newspaper correspondents which, if it had any meaning at all, foreshadowed an attempt to change the Constitution in such manner as to give the Federal government undisputed control over the private business affairs of every citizen of this nation. The impression that this is what is in the President's mind has been strengthened by subsequent utterances of members of his Cabinet and other prominent officials of the administration.

Even more sinister are the implications in the President's recent letter to Representative Hill of Washington with reference to the Guffey Coal Control Bill. Advocating enactment of this bill, the President in his letter to Mr. Hill urged that members of Congress should not let doubts as to the constitutionality of the measure "however reasonable" deter them from voting for the bill.

This attitude can have only one meaning, namely, a desire to take away from the Supreme Court its constitutional authority to hold invalid such acts of Congress as may be in conflict with the Constitution. To do this would be to destroy the foundation stone upon which the structure of constitutional liberty rests.

WHAT THE ISSUE MEANS

It is important that the American people shall realize the logical consequences of the theories advocated by the present administration. These consequences were summarized in a recent radio speech by Mr. Shouse (Document No. 55) as follows: