

IN THESE two amazing years nothing, I think, has been more amazing than this—that thoughtful men, Democrats as well as Republicans, are seriously alarmed at the reforms introduced, many of them in the name of recovery, and that, like myself, they honestly believe that an almost unseen revolution has been attempted. Thank God it is not yet completed—and will not be so long as meetings like this can be held without fear of punishment.

Let us by all means discuss proposed remedies for our troubles. Let us improve our political machine wherever possible. Let us amend the Constitution if, after full discussion, this proves desirable and the amendment promises genuine benefits to the country as a whole. But let us refuse to accept meekly the undermining of the structure of the American democratic system by those who follow the false gods of planned economy. I do not question the sincerity of their desire to make over the form of our government so that it may the easier control our economic activities. But I question their wisdom and I challenge their right to attempt these reforms subtly and even covertly. Let the people know frankly whither the New Deal is tending and none of us need doubt what the people will do.

I always remember a chance remark of the late Theodore Roosevelt to a group of us youngsters during the Bull Moose campaign. Something came up about the soundness of popular judgment and T. R. remarked that one of the things that had struck him most forcibly in his political career was how inevitably the American people, once they had all the facts in a case before them, decided it rightly. It was only when they had only part of the facts before them, or when under emotional stress they were forced into some hasty decision, that they decided wrongly. I, for one, have no hesitation in accepting the verdict of the American people about these issues—provided all the facts are laid before them. It is the duty—and the privilege—of such a meeting as this to help marshal the facts for the people.

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## Two Amazing Years

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Speech of

**NICHOLAS ROOSEVELT**

Of the Editorial Staff of the  
New York Herald Tribune

*in*

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