

Theodore Roosevelt's New Nationalism Speech Osawatomie, Kansas August 31, 1910



...One of the chief factors in progress is the destruction of special privilege. The essence of any struggle for healthy liberty has always been, and must always be, to take from some one man or class of men the right to enjoy power, or wealth, or position, or immunity, which has not been earned by service to his or their fellows. That is what you fought for in the Civil War, and that is what we strive for now.

...I stand for the square deal. But when I say that I am for the square deal, I mean not merely that I stand for fair play under the present rules of the games, but that I

stand for having those rules changed so as to work for a more substantial equality of opportunity and of reward for equally good service.

...Now, this means that our government, national and State, must be freed from the sinister influence or control of special interests. Exactly as the special interests of cotton and slavery threatened our political integrity before the Civil War, so now the great special business interests too often control and corrupt the men and methods of government for their own profit. We must drive the special interests out of politics....The Constitution guarantees protections to property, and we must make that promise good. But it does not give the right of suffrage to any corporation. The true friend of property, the true conservative, is he who insists that property shall be the servant and not the master of the commonwealth; who insists that the creature of man's making shall be the servant and not the master of the man who made it. The citizens of the United States must effectively control the mighty commercial forces which they have themselves called into being.

The American people are right in demanding that New Nationalism, without which we cannot hope to deal with new problems. The New Nationalism puts the national need before sectional or personal advantage.... This New Nationalism regards the executive power as the steward of the public welfare. It demands of the judiciary that it shall be interested primarily in human welfare rather than in property, just as it demands that the representative body shall represent all the people rather than any one class or section of the people....

ROOSEVELT PLEADS FOR REMOVAL OF SPECIAL INTEREST CONTROL

IN SPEECH AT OSAWATOMIE CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND REVISION OF COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

Declares This to be the Only Way of Avoiding Panicky Conditions—Means, He Says, That Citizens of the Country Must Curb Influence of Large Commercial Forces—Argues For Publicity of Corporate Affairs, and Holding Directors Responsible For Law's Violations.

Osawatomie—Insurgent Kansas, from Governor to farmer, gathered in its thousands to welcome Col. Theodore Roosevelt when he arrived here Wednesday morning. He was accompanied by Gifford Pinchot, James R. Garfield, and others. Governor Stubbs and his staff joined the party at Osage City. Upon arrival here the Colonel was taken to see the cabin in which John Brown once lived.

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