THE CARLISLE MERCURY
Established 1867
Entered at the Carlisle Postoffice as second class matter

In Memory of
WARREN R. FISHER
Editor 1912-1937

Mrs. Warren Fisher, Publisher
Gibson Prather, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year (in advance) ---------- $2.00

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1942

The Platform Isn't Sound.

In Republican newspapers and among Republican politicians, where there is discussion of the coming Congressional elections you hear various estimates of how their party will fare in the voting. These estimates run all the way from a gain of say ten or a dozen seats in the House of Representatives to perhaps twice that number by those who make any pretension of her by those who make any pretension of conservation and go on from there to a claim of actually overturning the Democratic majority for stability to lose.

Since these claims are made it seems not unreasonable to ask on what basis they come to these optimistic conclusions. In order to make them valid or to have even a semblance of probability there should be something in the record of the party or the individual candidates which would contain an appeal to the voters of the entire country. Human nature as a rule tends to resist change to let well enough alone, and to accept something new and different only after having seen it demonstrated that it was better. Consequently it is up to the advocate of change to show by actual performance or be sufficiently convincing to promise that what they have to offer is superior to what they have and have been accustomed to.

On such a premise how are those Republican answerers able to justify their professed expectations? There is nothing in the record of the party or in the record of any of its conspicuous members present or any of its conspicuous members which reveals any feature of leadership, any positive policy or even any attractive and acceptable alternative to the course they condemn in the other party. Their only practice has been one of criticism and negation. Not only has the party as a whole had no program of its own to advance, but its members cannot even agree among themselves. In the absence of leadership such candidate has abandoned any attempt to adopt a national viewpoint and rises forth into the campaign happier by means of some local issue that will appeal to the voters of his district to get himself elected or reelected.

It is possible of course that this provincial plan of campaigning will be successful in some sections of the country. Probably almost any Republican Representative with a particularly attractive personality who has demonstrated his ability to serve his district, who has demonstrated his knowledge of the political events taking place in the world, may be successful because of some particular appeal to his neighborhood. The voters may even disapprove his attitude or lack of attitude on the war issue, but they may say that he is only one, he can't do any harm, let's give him another chance." Not very encouraging material on which to build the necessary edifice of the nation and the world war is now known to be necessary.

Taking the country as a whole, however, such trivial uncomprehending and disingenuous attitude is going to be fatal to the Republican party. It seems to them the necessity for their immediate, present affirmative, progressive policies. There is no room in their thinking for a program of junk them in favor of indecision and negation, or for the old reactionary policies which have been responsible for their own downfall. They are going to have a lot of lament for with their dear ghosts.

GOP Indicted For Lack of Preparedness in World's Most Critical Period.

Almost Sunday's indictment of one of the many issues in the campaign Woodrow Wilson's administration took the GOP obstructionists to task for their part in the world crisis