

THE THIRD TERM *

A Voice: How about a third term?

Mr. Roosevelt: I will answer that, and I will answer it by quoting the words of Mr. Taft's father about a third term. I am quoting from the Cincinnati *Enquirer* of April 22d, 1880, when Judge Taft, the father of President Taft, headed a Third Term Grant Club. He headed it in order to beat an Ohio man named Sherman for the presidency. And in his speech, reported in that day's issue of the paper, Judge Taft spoke as follows:

"I am not afraid of imperialism." They called it "imperialism" then instead of "dictatorship." "There is nothing in the argument of imperialism." Let my friend listen to the next sentence: "I don't say but what I would have it in the Constitution that no man shall be his own immediate successor to that office, for the man in power exercises authority over Federal appointees. But, when a man is out of office and has no power but that which comes from the respect in which he has been held for what he is and what he has done, there is no danger."

And then comes a list of the organizers of the Grant Club. The first one is Mr. Taft's father, Alphonso Taft, and down among the list of members comes the name of a bright young representative of the family, Charles P. Taft. The whole Taft family was in that movement.

And now I will appeal from the son to the father, and I ask you to accept the sound common sense which the

* Reply to a heckler at Lima, Ohio, May 16, 1912.

father spoke in 1880, as to the ridiculous folly of raising any talk about a third term when the term is not consecutive, and the man out of power has no earthly means of influencing a single office-holder, a single privileged representative of the privileged class. I haven't in this contest a single office-holder with me; ninety-nine per cent of the professional politicians are against me. Every newspaper that can be directly or indirectly controlled by the interests is against me. Ninety-nine per cent of all the big corporations that profit by improper privilege are against me. I have got nobody with me at all except the people.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POPULAR RULE

ESSAYS, ADDRESSES, AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS
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