THE TRIBUNE’S PLATFORM FOR CHICAGO.

1. Cut taxes in half.
2. Pay the defaulted bonds.
3. Overcome crime.
4. Speed up railroad passenger service.
5. Make Chicago the first city in the world.

"The newspaper is an instrument developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and mould public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide."

THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

The President and Congress are exhibiting a spirit and a capacity for united and vigorous action which cannot but raise the morale of the whole country. Courageous leadership and the prompt demonstration by Congress of its willingness to support it makes a new hope throughout the nation. They inspire a new confidence not only in our government but in ourselves to deal decisively and successfully with our difficulties. This constitutes the first step in the restoration of prosperity.

The next step is to venture in the President’s plan to accomplish without shock or delay the necessary reductions in federal expenditure, essential to a balance of the budget, to the revival of public credit, to the relief of the people and to private enterprise from the drain of federal expenditure, and therefore to the release and mobilization of the vast resources of the nation for the work of restoration.

The abstract morality of living within one’s income has been conceded by all spendthrift governments, including our own of recent years. The instructions need not be repeated. The reasons for granting the President the power he demanded to demand government expenditures are so concrete and so urgent that he had to act as he did to

Finance corporation to restore a sufficient number of states as well as national banks to complete solvency. The government can invest in preferred stock in these banks and will invest enough in each case to leave no more doubts of their soundness. With enough of these lesser banks reconstituted, the business life of the country can go on. The movement of goods in and out of the cities can be balanced by a flow of money in the reverse direction.

To do so is reconstituting a sound currency banking system will take new money. If the Treasury has to dissipate its resources in paying a half billion dollars this year for non-service-connected disabilities, in addition to the billion of unearned pensions, it may find itself without enough money to reorganize the banking structure at a vital point. Even to the recipients of the debt to veterans the sacrifices of their monthly stipend are large in comparison with the state at issue. A veteran who can think that his pension of $10 a month is worth more than 800 years of business stagnation and its attendant misery and unemployment ought to be looked up as a Humbug.

The government has been spending billions wastefully. Now it has to retrench, not only because it cannot raise the amount it has been spending but also because it has far more important uses for such money as is available.

Let us be utterly candid. The veterans who suffered no injury in the last war but are receiving pension were enlisted in a struggle against a foe 3,500 miles and more away. They could have quelled in the face of the enemy such fighting—​and still their country would have been 3,500 miles away from immediate danger. Today they and their country are in peril as never before in our lifetime. The superb leadership of the new President will go far for naught if his plans are wrecked by the lack of means to carry them out. That is why the pensioners and the useless government jobs and bureaus must go.

Our government, in this hour of crisis, cannot spend a fourth and more of its income, close to a billion dollars a year, for veterans’ care. The best it can do, and this Mr. Roosevelt has pledged himself to adopt as his guiding principle, is the provision for those who were incapacitated in service and for the widows and orphans of the men who gave their lives for their country.

The issue is clear cut. Patriotism and self-interest both dictate substituting support of the position which the President has taken.

FOR MODIFICATION AND REPEAL.

Immediate modification of the Votoract act pledged by the Democratic party in convention is one of the prime responsibilities of this present Congress. In recognition of this pledge bills have already been introduced in the Senate. There should be early agreement upon one of these and its enactment.

The passage of a law permitting the sale of beer or wine in a hotel or restaurant or saloon, will in itself be a substantial contribution to the alleviation of the depression. It will create an important addition to the federal and state revenues, and therefore assist the stability of the budget, permit the reduction of taxes in many jurisdictions, and increase employment. It should also improve the mores.

The President, in his message to Congress, urges upon the states the states the earliest practicable ratification of the repeal amendment submitted by the late Congress. The same considerations which support the position of the President are also such that all states should ratify the amendment as soon as possible.