

# The Forgotten Man

In his eleven months as President, Lyndon Johnson has begun the process of transferring his personal loyalties from the modified Progressivism of the New Deal to the broader concerns of modern liberalism.

It is a transition he must help all of us to make.

For this is the real issue of the campaign: the conversion of the American people to a concern with contemporary problems and the construction, within a stable political system and without impairing its carefully constructed guarantees of personal and political freedom, of the institutions which will deal with them.

The public statements of both candidates in the past four months will not effect this conversion; the issue has been ignored. Neither will their current policies fully suffice for answers to the problems; no one has yet addressed himself to the proper questions.

And, if the incumbent wins, the outcome will not turn on his merits as President; Lyndon Johnson is the forgotten man of this campaign.

But the choice the voters make next Tuesday will nonetheless determine whether or not the conversion can ever be made and the solutions ever discovered, and, if Johnson does win, his merits will justify the victory.

If by temperament Johnson remains attracted to his old friends of the moderate

right, and if that temperament and his skill in their use lead him to venerate the traditions and institutions of American politics, he will be more and not less effective for it. For it is this temperament which will allow him to assume the leadership of the great majority of Americans who remain uncommitted as to doctrine, revere moderation as the highest political virtue and worship the American political system as a religion.

If by choice Johnson remains the Professional in politics and never acquires the personal and political style of his predecessor, it may enhance and not diminish his success as President. For it is the professional and not always the stylist who guards his chances, conserves his power, and quietly works his way with the Congress and the American people.

And if by nature Johnson remains most heavily dependent on his own instincts, they will undoubtedly serve him well. For his growth in office indicates that his instincts are as surely in touch with the substance of what is going on in this country as they have always been clearly in tune with the shadow reflected in the men we elect to public office. He may prove as skillful in dealing with his times as he has always proved skillful in handling his fellow legislators.

His is an instinct rare among politicians and rarer still among Presidents, but it is found in some degree in all of the best of them.—EJK