

windows, it could have easily operated as one.

Hill was a registered Democrat, but he took umbrage at Bryan's tirades against the rich and his calls for a silver-backed economy. He felt that the Democratic Party was caving to the pressure of a few fringe agrarian radicals, and in an act of revenge, he invested a staggering amount of money into McKinley's campaign. Hill came out strong for McKinley and was determined to bring other wealthy elites into the fold. Hill's closed-door conversations led to astronomical private donations, but that wasn't enough. Business owners also sought to convert their employees and, after a few failures, ultimately resorted to strong-arming. Miller elaborates,

Q ...The McCormick Machine companies notified employees that they would shut down if Bryan won. Big insurance companies in New York and Connecticut dispatched local agents to individual farmers in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois to tantalize them with five-

year low-interest loan extensions if McKinley prevailed. Other large companies employed 'contin-
gent deals' to aid their candidate, placing orders with manufacturers under the proviso that they would be cancelled if McKinley lost...It marked a historic shift in the role of business in American politics.¹²

After the polls closed on November 3rd, crowds frantically congregated in front of newspaper offices, onto main avenues, and into large sports arenas to hear the results come in live. Republican voters hollered as the southern states' electoral delegates—ones Bryan assumed he would win—went to McKinley. Even though McKinley won only 51% of the popular vote, the Electoral College settled the election by a wider margin. McKinley gained 271 delegates versus Bryan's 176.

In his inauguration speech, McKinley declared that "the credit of the Government, the integrity of its currency, and the inviolability of its obligations must be preserved. This was the