A Third Party

While William Howard Taft supported some progressive causes, he did not support enough to satisfy the man who had been President before him, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt challenged Taft for the Republican nomination in 1912, and when Theodore Roosevelt was denied that nomination, he decided to run for President on his own. A new party was launched, the Progressive party. Roosevelt accepted the nomination and entered the battle with energy. When asked how he felt, he said, "I feel as strong as a bull moose."

Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

THE LATEST ARRIVAL AT THE POLITICAL ZOO
Analyzing the Cartoon

1. Who or what is the creature that dominates the cartoon?

2. What do the animals in the background represent?

3. How does the cartoonist use caricature to identify the creature in the cartoon’s foreground?

4. What is the meaning of the comment that the elephant is making to the donkey?

CRITICAL THINKING

5. Drawing Conclusions What role do you think the popularity of political cartoons has played in making us aware of the symbols of political parties?

6. Evaluating Information What characteristics of the bull moose made it a good symbol for the new political party?

7. Analyzing Information What is the meaning of the message that appears on the side of the barrel?