

WHY PRESIDENT WILSON URGES PREPAREDNESS

Extracts From President Wilson's Speeches On His Trip Last Week to the Middle West

From speech at Pittsburg, Jan. 29, where he addressed an audience of more than 4000:

"I believe in peace; I love peace; I would not be a true American if I did not love peace."

"But I know that peace costs something and that the only way in which you can maintain peace is by thoroughly enjoying the respect of everybody with whom you deal, and while therefore I can subscribe to every desire which those fine people have who are counselling us against assuming arms in our country, I must ask them to think a second time about the circumstances under which we are living. There are other counsellors, the source of whose counsel is passion. And with them I cannot agree. It is not wise, it is not possible, to guide National policy under the impulse of passion. I would be ashamed of the passion of fear, and I would try to put the passion of aggression entirely aside in advising my fellow-citizens what they should do as any great crisis of their National life. America does not desire anything that any other nation can give it except friendship and justice and right conduct."

"What is it that we want to defend? I do not think I have to answer that question for you. It is in your own thought. We want to defend the life of this Nation against any sort of interference. We want to maintain the equal rights of this Nation as against the actions of all other Nations, and we wish to maintain the peace and unity of the Western Hemisphere. Those are things to defend and in their defense sometimes our thought must take a great sweep even beyond our own borders."

"We want American character to display itself in what I may perhaps be allowed to call spiritual efficiency—clear disinterested thinking and fearless action along the right lines of thought," he said. "America is not anything, if it consists of each of us. It is something only if it consists of all of us; and it can consist of all of us only as our spirits are banded together in a common enterprise. That common enterprise is the enterprise of liberty and justice and right. And therefore I, for my part, have a great enthusiasm for rendering America spiritually efficient; and that conception lies at the basis of what seems very far removed from it, namely, the plans that have been proposed for the military efficiency of this Nation."

"These plans do not involve a great army, because that is not America's way of being efficient in respect of her physical force. We do not intend, we never intended, to have an army, a standing army, greater than is necessary for the ordinary uses of peace. But we want to have back of that army a people who can rally to its assistance in most efficacious fashion at any time they are called on to do so; but who in the meantime are not professional soldiers, who do not take the professional soldiers' point of view in respect of public affairs; whose thought is upon their daily task of peaceful industry; who know that the civilian takes precedence over the soldier in the United States."

"A plain gentleman in black—sometimes a very plain gentleman—presides over the military force of the Nation, and the thing is symbolic. We think first of peace, we think first of the civilian life, we think first of industry, we want the men who are going to defend the Nation to be informed in those pursuits of peace. But we want to have them know how, when occasion arises, to rally to the assistance of the professional soldiers of the country, and show the Nations of the world the mind of America. Such men will not defend war, such men will dread it as the people dread it. Such men will know that the happiness of their

families and the prosperity of their countryside and the wealth of their cities, and exchange upon which their life depends, is rooted and grounded in peace, and they will also know that upon occasion infinite sacrifices must be made of life and of wealth, and that there are things that are higher than the ordinary occupations of life, namely, the assertions of the ideals of right."

Calling attention to the fact that others may favor a plan different to the one which will be laid before Congress, the President said his mind was still open. He said he had proposed the country should be supplied with at least half a million men accustomed to handle arms and live in camps. As this is so small a force, compared with modern armies, he did not see how any man could speak as though it pointed to militarism. Such fears, he characterized as imaginary.

"We are not going to be estopped and daunted by ghosts and fancies," he explained. "We are proposing a very business-like thing, and I, for my part, believe that I am proposing a thoroughly business-like thing. For I am proposing something more than what is temporary. It is my conception that as the Government of the United States has done a great deal, though even yet probably not enough to promote agricultural education in this country, it ought to do a great deal to promote industrial education in this country, and that along with thorough-going industrial and vocational training, it is perfectly feasible to instruct the youth of the land in the mechanism and use of arms, in the sanitation of camps, in the more rudimentary principles and practices of modern warfare; and so not to bring about occasions such as we have sometimes brought about, when, upon a sudden danger, youngsters were summoned by the proclamation of the President out of every community, who came, crude and green and draw into the service of their country, infinitely willing, but also wholly unfitted for the great physical task which was ahead of them. No Nation can waste its youth like that."

"The test, ladies and gentlemen, of what we are proposing is not going to be the action of Congress; it is going to be the response of the country; it is going to be the volunteering of the men to take the training and the willingness of their employers to see to it that no obstacle is put in the way of their volunteering."

"It fills me with a very strange feeling sometimes, my fellow-citizens, when it seems to be implied that I am not a friend of peace. If these gentlemen could have sat with me reading the dispatches and handling the questions which arise every hour of the 24, they would have known how infinitely difficult it had been to maintain the peace, and they would have believed that I was the friend of peace. But I also know the difficulties, the real dangers, dangers not about things that I can handle, but about things that the other parties handle, and I cannot control them."

"It amazes me to hear men speak as if America stood alone in the world and could follow her own life as she pleased. We are in the midst of a world that we did not create and we cannot alter, and its whole atmosphere and physical conditions are the conditions of our own life also. And therefore, as your responsible servant, I must tell you that the dangers are infinite and constant. Therefore, I should feel that I was guilty of an unpardonable omission if I did not go out and tell my fellow countrymen that new circumstances had arisen which made it absolutely necessary that this country should prepare itself not for war, not for anything that smokes in the least of aggression, but for adequate National defense."

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vocal. I want you to let everybody who comes in earshot of you know that you are a partisan for the adequate preparation of the United States for National defense. I have come to ask you not merely to go home and say, 'The President seems to be a good fellow and to mean what he says.' I want you to go home determined that within the whole circle of our influence the President, not as a partisan, but as a representative of the National honor will be backed up by the whole force that is in you."

President Wilson, speaking as he said "solemnly," warned the Nation at Cleveland, O., that the time may come when he cannot both keep the United States out of war and maintain its honor. He declared that the country must be prepared to defend itself and prepared at once.

"America is not afraid of anybody," he said. "I know I reflect your feeling and the feeling of all of our citizens when I say the only thing I am afraid of is not being ready to perform my duty. I am afraid of the danger of not being able to express the chief character of this country with tremendous might and effectiveness whenever we are called upon to act in the field of the world's affairs."

"Let me tell you very solemnly you cannot postpone this thing," he declared. "I do not know what a single day may bring forth. I do not wish to leave you with the impression that I am thinking of some particular danger."

"I merely wish to tell you that we are daily treading amidst intricate dangers. The dangers that we are treading amongst are not of our own making and not under our control. I think no man in the United States knows what a single week, a single day may bring for them."

Again and again the President spoke of the Nation's honor. He declared the real man believes his honor is dearer than his life and a Nation's honor is dearer than its peace and comfort. He said it had been difficult to keep the United States out of the war and he felt he had proved he was a man of peace when possible.

Some people say that the Navy ranks second, he declared, but the experts agree it ranks fourth. He added it should be increased.

Among the possible sources of danger mentioned by the President were the difficulties growing out of the protection of Americans abroad and the obligation of the United States to maintain the liberties of the people of the Western Hemisphere.

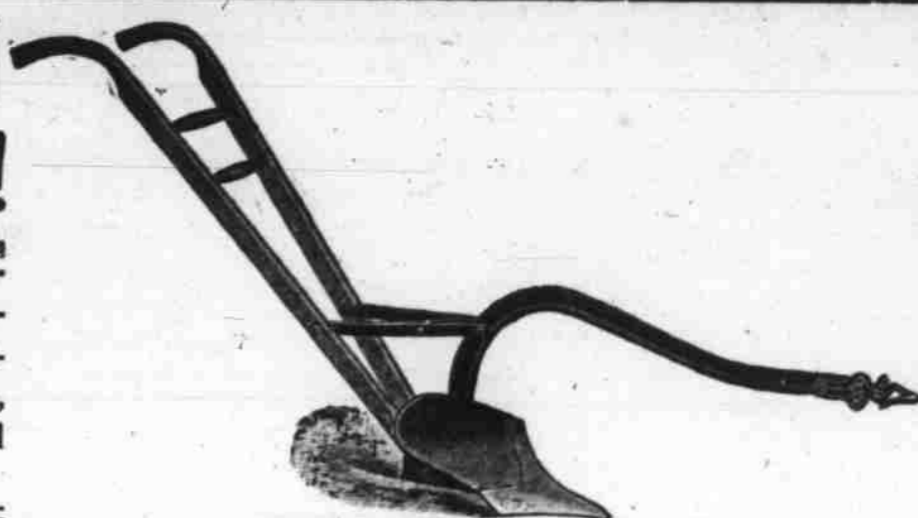
"I suppose that this country has never found itself in so singular a position," the President said. "The present situation of the world would only a twelve month ago, even after the European war had started, have seemed incredible, and yet now the things that no man anticipated have happened. The titanic struggle continues."

"What are the elements of the case? In the first place, and most obviously, two-thirds of the world are at war. It is not merely a European struggle; Nations in the Orient have become involved as well as Nations in the West, and everywhere there seems to be creeping even upon the Nations disengaged the spirit and the threat of war. All the world outside of America is on fire."

"And in the meantime, we, the people of the United States, are the one great disengaged Power, the one neutral power, finding it a little difficult to be neutral, because like men everywhere else we are human; we have the deep passions of mankind in us; we have sympathies that are as easily stirred as the sympathies of any other people. We have interests which we see being drawn slowly into the maelstrom of this tremendous upheaval."

"Take for example, the matter of our coast defenses. It is obvious to every man that they are of the most vital importance to us. We have coast defenses as we have strong and admirable, but we have not got coast defenses in enough places. Their quality is admirable but their quantity is insufficient. The military authorities of this country have not been negligent; they have sought adequate appropriations from Congress and in most instances have obtained them so far as we saw the work in hand that it was necessary to do. And the work they have done in the use of these appropriations has been admirable and skillful work. Do not let anybody de-

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ceive you into supposing that the Army of the United States so far as it has had opportunity, is in any degree unworthy of your confidence.

"And the navy of the United States. You have been told that it is the second in strength in the world. I am sorry to say that experts do not agree with those who tell you that. Reckoning by its actual strength I believe it to be one of the most efficient navies in the world; but its strength ranks fourth, not second. And you must reckon with the fact that it is necessary that that should be our first arm of defense, and you ought to insist that everything should be done that it is possible for us to do to bring thenavy up to an adequate standard of strength and efficiency."

"Where we are lacking more perhaps is on land and in the number of men who are ready to fight. Not the number of fighting men but the number of men who are ready to fight."

But the characteristic desire of America is not that she should have a great body of men whose chief business is to fight, but a great body of men who know how to fight and are ready to fight when anything that is dear to the Nation is threatened. You might have what we have, millions of men who had never handled arms of war, who are mere material for shot and powder if you put them in the field, and America would be ashamed of the inefficiency of calling such men to defend the Nation."

What was wanted, the President asserted, was men who would volunteer to spend a sufficient length of time every year in acquiring a rudimentary knowledge of arms, camp life and military training and discipline."

"We are interested in knowing that there are men all over the United States, prepared, equipped and ready to go out at the call of the National Government upon the shortest possible notice. You will ask me, why do you say the shortest possible notice? Because, gentlemen, let me tell you very solemnly you cannot afford to postpone this thing. I do not know what a single day may bring forth."

"I do not wish to leave you with the impression that I am thinking of some particular danger. I merely want to leave you with this solemn impression, that I know that we are daily treading amidst the most intricate dangers, and that the dangers that we are treading amongst are not of our making and are not

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under our control; and that no man in the United States knows what a single week or a single day or a single hour may bring forth. These are solemn things to say to you, but I would be unworthy of my office if I did not come out and tell you with absolutely frankness just exactly what I understand the situation to be."

"America is not afraid of anybody. I know that I express your feeling and the feeling of all our fellow citizens when I say that the only thing I am afraid of is not being ready to perform my duty. I am afraid of the danger of shame; I am afraid of the danger of inadequacy; I am afraid of the danger of not being able to express the great character of this country with tremendous might and effectiveness whenever we are called upon to act in the field of the world's affairs for it is character we are going to express, not power, merely. "I hope that you will bear me out

in saying that I have proved that I am a partisan of peace; that I would be ashamed to be belligerent and impatient when the fortunes of my whole country and the happiness of all my fellow countrymen were involved. But I know that peace is not always within the choice of the Nation, and I want to remind—and remind you very solemnly—of the double obligation you have laid upon me. I know you have laid it upon me, because I am constantly reminded of it in conversation, by letter, in editorial, by means of every choice that writes me out of the body of the Nation. You have laid upon me this double obligation.

"We are relying upon you, Mr. President, to keep us out of this war, but we are relying upon you, Mr. President, to keep the honor of the Nation unstained."

"Do you not see that a time may come when it is impossible to do both of these things? Do you not see that if I am to guard the honor of the Nation against itself; if we are not going to do anything to stain the honor of our own country. I am protecting it against things that I cannot control, the action of others. You may count upon my heart and resolution to keep you out of the war, but you must be ready if it is necessary that I should maintain your honor. That is the only thing a real man loves about himself."

Jess Willard Signs for Bout With Moran

Chicago Dispatch, Feb. 3 Jess Willard, heavyweight champion, will be paid at the rate of \$1,583.33 per minute for his ten-round fight with Frank Moran in New York, March 17. Willard signed an agreement to meet Moran today, the promoters who secured the bout, Tex Rickard and Sam McCracken, agreeing to pay the champion \$47,500 win, lose or draw in addition to 51 per cent of the moving picture rights and the money derived from advertising privileges.

Moran will get \$666.67 a minute, as he will receive \$20,000 from the promoters. These sums constitute the largest purse ever offered for a ten-round contest. The champion drove a hard bargain.

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