

TEXAS DEMOCRATS PRESENT WOODROW WILSON

Texas democrats have issued the following statement:

To the democrats of Texas:

On Monday, August 7, last, a conference of representative democrats favoring the nomination of their party of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey for president of the United States was held in the city of Austin. A notice of this conference had been given in the daily press of the state for some ten days, all democrats favoring the nomination of Governor Wilson had been invited to participate, the large number present consisted of citizens from every section of the state (some having traveled hundreds of miles to attend) and entertained diverse views on the various local democratic issues; with great enthusiasm and absolutely unanimity the conference organized for work, selected the undersigned from those present as the nucleus of an executive committee, and instructed them to perfect a state organization and invite Governor Wilson to address the people of Texas at Dallas during the fair in October.

Believing that the record of Governor Wilson and the measures he advocates will appeal to the rank and file of the democratic party in Texas, we address this communication to them, knowing full well that his candidacy has nothing to expect except opposition from special interests and their friends and retainers.

Woodrow Wilson was born at Staunton, Va., in 1856, he received various college degrees between 1879 and 1886, studied law at the University of Virginia, practiced his profession at Atlanta, Ga., was professor of standard works on history and politics, was elected president of Princeton university in 1902 and resigned in 1910 to make the race for governor of New Jersey on the democratic ticket, was elected by a majority of 49,000, overcoming a republican majority of 75,000 at the previous election, and is today the ablest and most courageous thinker, writer and doer of deeds in the ranks of progressive democrats.

For twenty years New Jersey has been the breeding ground of trusts, the incubator of corporations, the home of Standard Oil, the entrenched fortress from which predatory interests sent forth their forces to depredate in every state of the union; the democratic machinery in that state inspired only contempt, and was in the control of a reactionary class from whom the mass of the people could not more hope for relief than from the republicans in power; in 1910 Woodrow Wilson was sent forth as the forlorn hope of democracy; he declared in favor of rigid regulation of public service corporations, of city government by commission, of direct primaries in the selection of state officers and United States senators, of tariff for revenue only, and of many local measures seeking to restore to the people of the state powers filched from them by unworthy servants.

No greater victory over such odds was ever won by any democrat living or dead, and it electrified the national party and astonished the nation; yet the greatest victories of the scholar statesman were still to come, and were won after his election over the fierce opposition of republicans and renegade democrats, in forcing through the legislature laws carrying out the pledges of the democratic party and the demands of the masses of the people. The press of the nation, without regard to party lines, has paid tribute to his prowess in the cause of good government; the Louisville Post (rep.) says, "He has changed the very foundations of legislation in the

state of New Jersey;" the New York Evening Post (ind.) says, "We think it the literal truth to say that no man in public life ever mated performance to promise better than Governor Wilson," and the Baltimore Sun (dem.) says, "The story of the career of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, from the day he accepted the democratic nomination for governor of New Jersey down to the present time, is one of the most remarkable, the most interesting and inspiring chapters in the history of American politics."

In a recent speech delivered at Indianapolis, Governor Wilson said. "We say that we are against privilege and for the rights of the people, but privilege has worn many forms. What is the especial form of privilege we now fight? * * * By privilege, as we now fight it, we mean control of the law, of legislation and of adjudication, by organizations which do not represent the people, by means which are private and selfish and worthy of all condemnation. We mean specifically the conduct of our affairs and the shaping of our legislation in the interest of special bodies of capital and those who organize their use. We mean the alliance for this purpose of political machines with the captains of organized industry. We mean the exploitation of the people by legal and political means. We have seen our governments under these influences cease to be representative of the people and become governments representative of the special interests, controlled by machines which in their turn are not controlled by the people. * * *

"The democratic party is the party of hope because it is the free and disentangled party. We haven't made any embarrassing promises. We haven't made any entangling alliances; we are ready to go in any direction that we want to go, and we want to go in the direction of the light. We have seen the light and we have seen the growing dawn of a new day; our faces are alight with the reflection from that kindling sky. We know that there are steep and rugged paths ahead of us, but we have the blood, the full blood and the hope of youth in us, we have the confidence that the people believe in us, and are going to support us, and we shall struggle up those heights to the levels and until tableland after tableland has lifted up above the noisome plain and we have carried man another stage forward in that great progress of humanity in whose cause America was set up."

These are the words of one who takes counsel of his hopes, and not of his fears, and of one whom the democrats of Texas can follow with pride.

It has been almost seventy years since a southern democrat was president of the United States; it has been more than fifty years since the south has offered one of her sons as a candidate of that party for this high office; during these years we have furnished more than three-fourths of the democratic electoral votes and of democratic congressmen and senators; we have been willing hewers of wood and drawers of water for the national party; but we have hoped and prayed that the day might come when the land of Washington, of Jefferson, of Monroe, of Madison, of Jackson and of Polk would furnish a leader worthy of being classed with those giants of former days; the hour has come and the man; a man inheriting the proudest tradition of our past and representing the best hopes of our future; a man of political and moral courage who, although the president of a northern university, did not hesitate to denounce the great crime of reconstruction as unconstitutional, intolerable and "a regime of power

basely used;" a man who has the confidence and admiration of the north, the east and the west, and is universally acclaimed as one without fear and without reproach."

Let Texas lead the way, and let the southern states say to their sisters of the north. We present you one worthy of our past, and a worthy leader of democratic hopes.

With a view of perfecting a statewide organization as rapidly as possible, and in order that we may know each other, all persons favoring the candidacy of Governor Wilson are requested to at once mail their names and addresses to George D. Armistead at Austin, or to Thomas B. Love at Dallas; friends of Gover-

nor Wilson are also urged to organize Woodrow Wilson clubs in their communities and send lists of the members to one of the above-named gentlemen.

- Cato Sells, chairman, Cleburne;
- R. M. Wynne, Forth Worth;
- W. T. Bartholomew, San Angelo;
- C. E. Gilmore, Wills Point;
- A. R. McCollum, Waco;
- A. D. Rogers, Decatur;
- Thomas B. Love, Dallas;
- T. W. Gregory, Austin;
- O. T. Holt, Houston;
- George D. Armistead, San Antonio;
- R. C. Roberdeau, Austin;
- Executive Committee Woodrow Wilson state democratic league of Texas.

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