

# Governor Wilson's Speech of Acceptance

Governor Wilson was formally notified of his nomination to be president of the United States, August 7th. Following is the Associated Press report:

Seagirt, N. J., Aug. 7.—Governor Woodrow Wilson today unfolded the fabric of his political beliefs in a speech formally accepting the democratic nomination to the presidency. Establishing first what he termed his "faith," he invoked "the rule of right and of justice" to politics, proceeding in succession to show its application to the tariff, the anti-trust question, the restoration of the merchant marine, the development of waterways, the conservation of natural resources, banking reforms and other issues of the day.

Officially there was a notification committee of fifty-two, representing every state and territory, and with them came eight of the democratic governors. Spread over the green that stretched away from the governor's cottage to the ocean, however, was a mixed gathering of several thousand.

Governor Wilson was notified of his nomination by Senator-elect Ollie James of Kentucky, who emphasized, as he said, that the governor had obtained the honor untrammelled by obligations and unembarrassed by felicitations of any kind. Though the governor spoke in acceptance to the fifty-two members of the committee, the speech sounding his political philosophy was heard by a great throng.

The governor, read from his manuscript. The platform, he said, was not a program, but a practical document intended to show "that we know what the nation is thinking about and what it is most concerned about."

The people, he added, were about to be asked not particularly to adopt a platform, but to entrust the democratic party with "office and power and guidance of their affairs," and their desire now was to know what "translation of action and policy he intends to give the general terms of the platform, should he be elected."

By 11:30 the roadway was jammed with automobiles. Governor Mann of Virginia was the first of the governors to arrive.

"It's a great day for democracy," said Governor Mann, as he greeted the democratic presidential nominee.

The marching clubs which arrived with brass bands bore orange and black pennants with a Wilson picture on them. On their coats they wore sunflowers.

The notification committee, led by Senator-elect Ollie James of Kentucky, arrived at 1:45 o'clock. The party were received by the governor, his wife and daughters in the governor's cottage, where luncheon was served.

William Jennings Bryan, it was announced, sent a telegram regretting that previous engagements prevented his attendance.

## THE SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE

Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance was as follows: "Mr. James and Gentlemen of the Notification Committee: Speaking for the national democratic convention, recently assembled at Baltimore, you have notified me of my nomination by the democratic party for the high office of president of the United States. Allow me to thank you very warmly for the generous terms in which you have, through your distinguished chairman, conveyed the notification, and for the thoughtful personal courtesy with which you have performed your interesting and important errand.

"I accept the nomination with a deep sense of its unusual significance and of the great honor done me, and also with a very profound sense of my responsibility to the party and to the nation. You will expect me in accepting the honor to speak very plainly the faith that is in me. You will expect me, in brief, to talk politics and open the campaign in words whose meaning no one need doubt. You will expect me to speak to the country as well as to yourselves.

"We can not intelligently talk politics unless we know to whom we are talking and in what circumstances. The present circumstances are clearly unusual. No previous political campaign in our time has disclosed anything like them. The audience we address is in no ordinary temper. It is no audience of partisans. Citizens of every class and party and prepossession sit together, a single people, to learn whether we understand their life and know how to afford them the counsel and guidance they are now keenly aware that they stand in need of.

We must speak, not to catch votes, but to satisfy the thought and conscience of a people deeply stirred by the conviction that they have come to a critical turning point in their moral and political development.

## AN AWAKENED NATION

"We stand in the presence of an awakened nation, impatient of partisan make-believe. The public man who does not realize the fact and feel its stimulation must be singularly unsusceptible to the influences that stir in every quarter about him. The nation has awakened to a sense of neglected ideals and neglected duties; to a consciousness that the rank and file of her people find life very hard to sustain, that her young men find opportunity embarrassed, and that her older men find business difficult to renew and maintain because of circumstances of privilege and private advantage which have interlaced their subtle threads throughout almost every part of the framework of our present law. She has awakened to the knowledge that she has lost certain cherished liberties and wasted priceless resources which she had solemnly undertaken to hold in trust for posterity and for all mankind; and to the conviction that she stands confronted with an occasion for constructive statesmanship such as has not arisen since the great days in which her government was set up.

"Plainly, it is a new age. The tonic of such a time is very exhilarating. It requires self-restraint not to attempt too much, and yet it would be cowardly to attempt too little. The path of duty soberly and bravely trod is the way to service and distinction, and many adventurous feet seek to set out upon it.

"There never was a time when impatience and suspicion were more keenly aroused by private power selfishly employed; when jealousy of everything concealed or touched with any purpose not linked with general good, or inconsistent with it, more sharply or immediately displayed itself.

"Nor was the country ever more susceptible to unselfish appeals or to the high arguments of sincere justice. These are the unmistakable symptoms of an awakening. There is the more need for wise counsel because the people are so ready to need counsel if it be given honestly and in their interest.

## FORCES OF NATION AROUSED

"It is in the broad light of this new day that we stand face to face—with what? Plainly, not with questions of party, not with a contest for office, not with a petty struggle for advantage, democrat against republican, liberal against conservative, progressive against reactionary. With great questions of right and of justice, rather—questions of national development, of the development of character and of standards of action no less than of a better business system, more free, more equitable, more open to ordinary men; practicable to live under, tolerable to work under, or a better fiscal system whose taxes shall not come out of the pockets of the many to go into the pockets of the few, and within whose intricacies special privilege may not so easily find covert. The forces of the nation are asserting themselves against every form of special privilege and private control, and are seeking bigger things than they have ever heretofore achieved. They are sweeping away what is unrighteous in order to vindicate once more the essential rights of human life and, what is very serious for us, they are looking to us for guidance, disinterested guidance, at once honest and fearless.

"At such a time, and in the presence of such circumstances, what is the meaning of our platform, and what is our responsibility under it? What are our duty and our purposes? The platform is meant to show that we know what the nation is thinking about, what it is most concerned about, what it wishes corrected and what it desires to see attempted that is new and constructive and intended for its long future. But for us it is a very practical document. We are now about to ask the people of the United States to adopt our platform; we are about to ask them to entrust us with office and power and the guidance of their affairs. They will wish to know what sort of men we are and of what definite purpose; what translation of action and of policy we intend to give to the general term of the platform which the convention at Baltimore put forth, should we be elected.

"The platform is not a program. A program must consist of measures, administrative acts, and acts of legislation. The proof of the pud-

ding is the eating thereof. How do we intend to make it edible and digestible? From this time on we shall be under interrogation. How do we expect to handle each of the great matters that must be taken up by the next congress and the next administration?

## TASK CONFRONTS THE PEOPLE

"What is there to do? It is hard to sum the great task up, but apparently this is the sum of the matter: There are two great things to do. One is to set up the rule of justice and of right in such matters as the tariff, the regulation of the trusts and the prevention of monopoly, the adoption of our banking and currency laws to the varied uses to which our people must put them, the treatment of those who do the daily labor in our factories and mines and throughout all our great industrial and commercial undertakings, and the political life of the people of the Philippines, for whom we hold governmental power in trust, for their service not our own. The other, the additional duty is the great task of protecting our people and our resources and of keeping open to the whole people the doors of opportunity through which they must, generation by generation, pass if they are to make conquest of their fortunes in health, in freedom, in peace, and in contentment. In the performance of this second great duty we are face to face with the questions of conservation and of development, questions of forests and water powers and mines and water ways, of the building of an adequate merchant marine, and the opening of every highway and facility and the setting up of every safeguard needed by a great industrious, expanding nation.

"These are all great matters upon which everybody should be heard. We have got into trouble in recent years chiefly because these large things, which ought to have been handled by taking counsel with as large a number of persons as possible, because they touched every interest and the life of every class and region, have in fact been too often handled in private conference. They have been settled by very small, and often deliberately exclusive, groups of men who undertake to speak for the whole nation, or, rather, for themselves in the terms of the whole nation—very honestly it may be, but very ignorantly sometimes, and very shortsightedly too—a poor substitute for genuine common counsel. No group of directors, economic or political, can speak for a people. They have neither the point of view nor the knowledge. Our difficulty is not that wicked and designing men have plotted against us, but that our common affairs have been determined upon too narrow a view, and by too private an initiative. Our task now is to effect a great readjustment and get the forces of the whole people once more into play. We need no revolution; we need no excited change; we need only a new point of view and a new method and spirit of counsel.

## BOUND TO UNDERTAKE DUTY

"We are servants of the people, the whole people. The nation has been unnecessarily, unreasonably at war within itself. Interest has clashed with interest when there were common principles of right and of fair dealing which might and should have bound them all together, not as rivals, but as partners. As the servants of all, we are bound to undertake the great duty of accommodation and adjustment.

"We can not undertake it except in a spirit which some find it hard to understand. Some people only smile when you speak of yourself as a servant of the people; it seems to them like affectation or more demagoguery. They ask what the unthinking crowd knows or comprehends of great complicated matters of government. They shrug their shoulders and lift their eyebrows when you speak as if you really believed in presidential primaries, in the direct election of United States senators, and in an utter publicity about everything that concerns government, from the sources of campaign funds to the intimate debate of the highest affairs of state.

"They do not, or will not, comprehend the solemn thing that is in your thought. You know as well as they do that there are all sorts and conditions of men—the unthinking mixed with the wise, the reckless with the prudent, the unscrupulous with the fair and honest—and you know what they sometimes forget, that every class, without exception, affords a sample of the mixture, the learned and the fortunate no less than the uneducated and struggling mass. But you see more than they do. You see that these multitudes of men, mixed of every kind and quality, constitute somehow an organic and noble whole,