

MR. BRYAN'S OMAHA SPEECH

At Omaha, Nebraska, on October 17 Mr. Bryan spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is certainly gratifying to have this splendid audience here tonight after eighteen years of service in your state. The highest reward that those in public life can have is the approval of those with whom and for whom they work, and I desire to express as emphatically as words can express it my gratitude for this most cordial reception. (Applause). I want to thank these singers, the Omaha Maennerchor, for contributing their part to the success of this gathering, and in doing so I want to express my delight that all over this land those who are known as German-Americans are giving their support to the democratic ticket. (Applause.) We have no stronger element in our population than that contributed by the Fatherland, and I esteem it an honor and a compliment that so many of the German papers and German-American voters are giving support to our platform and our ticket. I appreciate also the compliment that is paid me by this boy, Donald Bryan Smith, to whom his parents gave my name, not in the hour of our hope, but in the hour of defeat, testifying therefor that it was not victory that attached them to me, but the things for which I fought and fell. (Applause.)

A voice: "What is the matter with Bryan? He's all right!" (Applause.)

Help of Congress

I have a number of namesakes scattered throughout the country, and I count it one of the pleasures reserved for the latter days of my life to read of the successes and the achievements of those whose names are linked with me. And on this occasion the boy presents to you my favorite piece of band music. I heard it first eleven years ago, when the president's band played it for me in the city of Mexico, and from that time to this I have enjoyed its strains, and I can say that it will be a good piece to play on the 4th of March on Pennsylvania avenue. (Applause.) The title of the piece is 'La Paloma,' and it means 'The Dove,' and surely this is a fitting campaign for us to choose it as one of our battle tunes, for the dove at last has made his abode in the democratic party (great applause), and it may be, too, a republican symbol inviting them to join us in the ark democratic. (Applause.)

My friends on this occasion, I hardly know just how I should shape my speech, for I want to rejoice the hearts of the democrats, without treading upon the toes of the republicans who contribute by their presence to the success of this occasion. (Applause.) And yet, I am sure that I will seem more acceptable to the republicans in a natural position than in an unnatural one (applause) and my natural position is defending the democracy (applause) and I think that at this time a derense of democratic principles is more acceptable to republicans than I have ever known it to be before. (Applause.)

Good Words for Hitchcock

Before taking up the question that I want to discuss, I want to say a word about candidates. I want in the first place to urge upon you the importance of electing a democrat to congress in this district. (Applause. Cries of "We will do it," and "Hurrah for Hitchcock.") I am anxious the democrats will be elected in all the districts that are represented in this audience, whether they be Nebraska districts or Iowa districts or districts in other states. But as this is the home of our candidate, and the largest county of his district, I want to say a word in behalf of Congressman Hitchcock. (Applause.) He has served you faithfully and he deserves election (Applause). Among the men sent from the west none has measured up more fully to the stature of a public servant than your own distinguished congressman. (Applause). None from the east or south have more truly voiced the sentiments of the masses or fought more courageously for everything that was right and against everything that was wrong. He has earned a re-election at your hand and with the experience that he has already had, he will go back to do a larger service even than he has done before.

But, my friends, I have another reason for urging his re-election. I can truthfully say that I am more interested in his election than he is himself, more interested than his closest personal friends in this district, for I believe that I will be in Washington myself after March (great applause), and I want a democratic congress to work with me. A president can enforce the law, he can distribute patronage, but he cannot enact laws without the aid of congress.

I am not an aspirant for the presidency because of the honor that attaches to the office. (Applause). I am not an aspirant for the presidency because it will give me a chance to appoint men to office. (Applause). There is but one thing that makes the office attractive to me, and that is that in that office I may help to enact the laws that this country needs. (Applause). The president can recommend, but congress must initiate laws. If I were there as president with a republican house and senate, I could do nothing in the way of securing legislation for two years, but if I am there with a democratic house, I can do something towards securing legislation. (Applause). In fact I am convinced that I can do much, if I have a congress to help me, for if the people elect a democratic president and a democratic house, there will be a verdict, signed and sealed, in behalf of the reforms set forth in our platform, and I have faith in the moral force of the verdict of the people.

Help of Congress

Give me a congress that is pledged to that platform and I shall send measure after measure in conformity to our platform, and when the house passes those measures, I shall demand of the senate that they shall obey the people of the United States (great applause), and who will say that the senate will refuse? To be sure, the senate is apt to be republican for the next two years. The number of our gains in the senate will depend upon the size of our victory, but if we can gain a victory, we will make some gains in the senate and then with our democratic strength thus increased we shall find republican senators whose terms expire two years hence, and they will be willing to listen to what the people say. (Applause.)

Even in Nebraska our senators are not so tall but they can put their ears to the ground if necessary. (Applause.) If the democrats of the senate and house were willing to help a republican president when he advocated measures of reform, who will say that there will be no republican to help a democratic president when he urges reforms.

I repeat, that I want you to leave nothing undone to secure the election of Mr. Hitchcock in this district. (Great applause). And, to those from other districts I present this same message, "Go back to your district and do what you can to elect a democratic congress."

A word, too, in regard to our state ticket. These men who have been nominated are men who for these long years have helped in the fight we have made for reform. These men have been my co-laborers, they have fought for you and they deserve your support. I bespeak for them your votes and then the influence that you can bring in their behalf. We want Mr. Shallenberger for governor (applause) of this state (applause) and we want a democratic legislature to hold up his hands and help him to carry out the pledges of our platform, and one of the pledges that will be carried out if we have this state ticket elected and a democratic legislature is the pledge to pass a bill that will make it possible for you to go to sleep at night, if you have deposited your money, without dreaming of a failure of a bank. (Applause.)

Bank Guaranty

And as this subject is presented in both our national and our state platforms, I shall begin the discussion of the issues with a word upon the subject. In our national platform we demand legislation that will guarantee the depositor. The republican national convention not only ignored this question, but the republican candidate has seen fit to take a position hostile to it. In this state democrats also demand this, and in this state the republican convention refused the demand, although those who were in the convention must have known that a large majority of the republicans of the state are in favor of this legislation.

If you want this legislation in state or nation you must get it through the democrats, for if the republicans will not promise it to you, before election, they will not give it to you after election. (Applause.)

If they will defy what they know to be the sentiment, even when they want votes, are they likely to yield to it when the necessity for votes has passed? It seems hardly necessary to discuss a question so simple and so easily understood as this. Why, my friends, nearly everybody can understand this question. I do not mean to say that everybody can, but nearly everybody. I draw the line here; whenever a man reaches that period of

intellectual development where he can clearly comprehend that when he puts his money in a bank he ought to be able to get it out again, then he is able to understand the subject. (Great Applause.) If you agree with me that a man ought to have a deposit made secure, then there are only two questions remaining. One is, are his deposits now secure? If not, who ought to make them secure? Are they now sufficiently secure? (Cries of no, no, no.) Let me give you the evidence in proof of the assertion that they are not sufficiently secure. The postmaster general says that we send millions of dollars to Europe every year to be deposited in the government savings banks of the old country because those who send money abroad are not willing to trust our banks in this country. I say to you that we ought to make our banks so safe that this money will be kept at home and used in business and not driven across an ocean to find a safe depository. (Applause.)

Money in Hiding

Another evidence: There is at all times a considerable amount of money in hiding and in hoarding, and at the approach of a business depression, just at the time when the people need money, more money rushes into hiding. It ought not to be and it will not be when our banks are made secure, for no man will hide money under a carpet or in a stove or a stocking or in the ground except as a matter of necessity to protect it from loss (Applause.) If the people feel secure, they would rather have their money in the bank, and our plan will bring their money into the bank and through the bank it will go into the channels of trade.

Do you still believe that the banks are safe enough? Go to a national banker who is opposed to any additional protection to the depositor and ask him if his bank is safe and he will tell you it is. You tell him it is not, and he will repeat that it is. Tell him that he knows it is not and give him the proof of it. Tell him that he cannot borrow one dollar of Uncle Sam's money on the security that he gives to the depositor. (Applause.) Go to any national bank in this city, or in any other city, and you will find that when that bank gets a deposit of government money, it puts up specific security, and whenever the state, the county, the city, the village, deposit money in the banks, each and all demand security, and if these banks are not safe enough for a deposit of the money of the United States, or if the state or the county or the city or the village requires security, they are not safe enough to take the deposit of a farmer or laborer or a merchant. (Applause.)

Who to Give Security

Who shall give the security? I would never have thought of that question if it had not been suggested after I made a speech in Baltimore. I discussed this question in Baltimore, as I have discussed it everywhere. I have the advantage over Judge Taft. I can present all of my platform everywhere, but he has to present his by installments in different parts of the country. (Great applause.) He talks about one thing in one part of the country, and about another thing in another part of the country. He spoke here, didn't he? (Voices: He tried to.) Did he discuss the subject of bank deposits in Omaha. (Voices, No, no, no.) He did not discuss it anywhere in the west, except once in St. Paul, Minn. He was doubtless warned that he was on dangerous ground when he discussed that subject in Nebraska and he does not go on dangerous ground if warned in advance. (Great Applause.) I discussed this subject in Baltimore, and a few days afterward my attention was called to an advertisement in a Baltimore paper. It quoted what I said, that a man could insure his life or his house or his buggy or his barn, but he could not insure his money. The advertisement said that Mr. Bryan was mistaken; that a man could insure his money. It said that the Bank Guaranty company would insure his money in a bank. You see, a man deposits his money in a bank and then he goes and hires somebody to insure that he can get it out again. (Applause.) I do not think that is fair.

My friends, if a banker tells you that people deposit in his bank because of their faith in him, you tell him he is mistaken. Tell him they deposit in his bank because of their faith in it, not in him. (Applause.) If he wants to get his pride punctured and have his self-esteem collapse, let him withdraw from the bank and start an establishment next door and hang out his sign inviting deposits, and then let him wait un-