

## Judge's Wescott's Great Speech

Following is the speech of Hon. John W. Wescott of Camden, N. J., nominating Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, for the presidency of the United States at the democratic convention at Baltimore, June 27, 1912:

New Jersey, once bound, but, by the moral energy and intellectual greatness of a single soul, now free, comes to this historic convention, in the glory of her emancipation, to participate in your deliberations, aid in formulating your judgments and assist in executing your decrees. The New Jersey delegation is in no sense empowered to exercise the attributes of proprietorship. On the wreck and ruin of a bipartisan machine a master hand has erected an ideal commonwealth in less than two years. (Applause.) New Jersey is free. Therefore, the New Jersey delegation is commissioned to represent the great cause of democracy and to offer, as its militant and triumphant leader, a scholar, not a charlatan; a statesman, not a doctrinaire; a profound lawyer, not a splitter of legal hairs; a political economist, not an egotistical theorist; a practical politician, who constructs, modifies, restrains without disturbance or destruction; a resistless debater and consummate master of statement, not a mere phrase-maker; a humanitarian, not a defamer of characters and lives; a man whose mind is at once cosmopolitan and composite of all America; a gentleman of unpretentious habits, with the fear of God in his heart and the love of mankind exhibited in every act of his life (applause); above all a public servant who has been tried to the uttermost and never found wanting—peerless, matchless, unconquerable in the performance of his duty, the ultimate democrat, the genius of liberty and the very incarnation of progress. (Applause.)

New Jersey has reasons for her course. Let us not be deceived in the essentials of the premises upon which this convention will build, if it builds successfully. Campaigns of villification, corruption and false pretense have lost their usefulness. The evolution of national energy is toward a more intelligent morality in politics and in all other relations. (Applause.) The line of cleavage is between those who treat politics as a game and those who regard it as the serious business of government. The realignment of political parties will be on this principle. The situation admits of no dispute and no compromise. The temper and purpose of the American people will tolerate no other view. The indifference of the American public to its politics has disappeared. Any platform, and any candidate on that platform, not fully responsive to this vast social, political and economical behest will go down to ignominious defeat at the polls. (Applause.) Platforms are too often mere historic rubbish heaps of broken promises. Candidates are too often the unfortunate creatures of arrangements and calculations. Exigencies, conditions, national needs and necessities make better platforms and produce greater leaders than does the exercise of proprietorship. (Applause.) Hence it is that a disregard of the premises will bring our dreams crashing in ruins next November.

Again the eternal conflict between equal opportunity and special privilege is upon us. Our fathers wrote the issue of that struggle in our constitutions. They declared all men to be free and equal. In a single century that principle developed the North American continent, leavened the world with its beneficence, inspired all nations with hope and made the United States the asylum of all mankind. (Applause.) Yet America, at this very hour, presents the most stupendous contradiction in history—a people politically free, while economically bound by the most gigantic monopolies of all time and burdened with a system of taxation which exploits millions to enrich a few. We have preserved the forms of freedom, but are fast losing its substance. The evils of this condition are felt in a thousand ways throughout the land. Therefore it is that America is awake. Therefore it is that a mistake in our premises will be fatal. Therefore it is that the situation, the national exigency, the crisis, call for the right man. Therefore it is that a silent and resistless revolution demands our patriotic and best judgment. Individuals are as nothing and personal ambitions are worse than nothing. Impersonality should be the majesty of this convention. If the chosen candidate falls in any sense or in any degree fully and completely to

meet the call of the nation, he is doomed to defeat. (Applause.)

Men are known by what they say and do. Men are known by those who hate them and those who oppose them. (Applause.) Many years ago the distinguished executive of New Jersey said, "No man is great who thinks himself so, and no man is good who does not strive to secure the happiness and comfort of others." (Applause.) This is the secret of his life. This is, in the last analysis, the explanation of his power. Later, in his memorable effort to retain high scholarship and simple democracy in Princeton university, he declared, "The great voice of America does not come from seats of learning. It comes in a murmur from the hills, and woods, and the farms and factories and the mills, rolling on and gaining volume until it comes to us from the homes of common men. Do these murmurs echo in the corridors of our universities? I have not heard them." A clarion call to the spirit that now moves America. Still later he shouted, "I will not cry peace so long as social injustice and political wrong exist in the state of New Jersey." (Applause.) Here is the very soul of the silent revolution now solidifying sentiment and purpose in our common country.

The deeds of this moral and intellectual giant are known to all men. They accord, not with the shams and pretenses of diseased and disorganized politics, but make national harmony with the millions of patriots determined to correct the wrongs of plutocracy and reestablish the maxims of American liberty in all their pregnant beauty and practical effectiveness. (Applause.) New Jersey loves her governor, not for the enemies he has made, but for what he is. All evil is his enemy. He is the enemy of all evil. The influences opposing him have demonstrated his availability and fitness on the one hand, and exposed the unavailability and unfitness of certain others on the other hand. The influence that has opposed him blights and blasts any cause and any person it espouses. That influence has appealed to the sordid, the low and the criminal. That influence fattens and gorges itself on ignorance and avarice. Any man who accepts the aid of that influence would be more fortunate had a mill stone been tied about his neck and he had been cast into the depths of the sea. (Applause.) New Jersey believes that the opposition to her governor, such as it has been and such as it is, necessitates and secures his triumph.

Similar necessities, causes and motives impel all men similarly the world over. The same necessities, causes and motives which draw, as by omnipotence, all New Jersey about this great and good man, are identically the same necessities, causes and motives that are in resistless motion in every state in the union. (Applause.) Its solidarity can not be disintegrated. False argument falls broken against it. A revolution of intelligent and patriotic millions is the expression of these same necessities, causes and motives. Therefore, New Jersey argues that her splendid governor is the only candidate who can not only make democratic success a certainty, but secure the electoral vote of almost every state in the union. (Applause.) New Jersey herself will indorse his nomination by a majority of one hundred thousand of her liberated citizens. What New Jersey will do, every debatable state in the union will do. (Applause.) We are building, not for a day, or even a generation, but for all time. Let not the belief that any candidate may succeed rob us of sound judgment. What would it profit the democratic party to win now, only to be cast out four years hence? The democratic party is commissioned to carry on a great constructive program, having for its end a complete restoration of the doctrine of equal rights and equal opportunity—without injury or wrong to anyone. Providence has given us, in the exalted character of New Jersey's executive, the mental and moral equipment to accomplish this reincarnation of democracy.

New Jersey believes that there is an omniscience in national instinct. That instinct centers in her governor. He is that instinct. (Applause.) How can his power in every state be explained? He has been in political life less than two years. He has had no organization of the usual sort; only a practical ideal, the re-establishment of equal opportunity. (Applause.) The logic of events points to him. The imperial voice of patriotism calls to him. Not his deeds

alone, not his deathless words alone, not his simple personality alone, not his incomparable powers alone, not his devotion to truth and principle alone, but all combined, compel national faith and confidence in him. (Applause.) Every crisis evolves its master. Time and circumstance have evolved the immortal governor of New Jersey. The north, the south, the east and the west unite in him. Deep calls to deep. Height calls to height.

"From peak to peak, the rattling crags among,  
Leaps the live thunder. Not from one lone  
cloud,  
But every mountain now hath found a tongue,  
And Jura answers through her misty shrouds  
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her aloud."

The lightning flash of his genius has cleared the atmosphere. We now know where we are. The thunder of his sincerity is shaking the very foundations of wrong and corruption. (Applause.)

This convention stands between ninety millions of people and a thousand monopolies. It stands between ninety millions of people who need a free and fair opportunity and a thousand trusts that have special privileges. The great issue is to restore to the people equal opportunity, and, at the same time, to compel monopolies and trusts to proceed upon the same principle. This issue can not be solved by a platform. Thousands of platforms will not solve it. The man on the platform alone can solve it. If he has the moral force and personal courage and mental ability, he will solve it because ninety millions of confiding men, women and children stand behind him. (Applause.) Such is the meaning of the appearance of the governor of New Jersey at this time in the history of the nation. (Applause.) From the roar and struggle and strife preceding this convention and now involving it, there arises in majesty one character, unsullied and unsoiled. He has made but one compact. That compact was with his conscience. He has made but one agreement. That agreement was with his country and his God. (Applause.) He is under but one obligation. That obligation is to the eternal principle of truth and right. It requires no sophistry to explain either his position or his character. He stands in the quenchless light of truth, a brave, fearless and patriotic soul. (Applause.)

If providence could spare us a Washington to lay deep in the granite of human need the foundations of the United States; if providence could spare us a Jefferson to give form and vitality to the most splendid democracy the sun ever shone upon; if providence could spare us a Lincoln to unite these states in impregnable unity and brotherhood, New Jersey appeals to the patriotism and good sense of this convention to give to the country the services of the distinguished governor of New Jersey, that the doors of opportunity may again be opened wide to every man, woman and child under the stars and stripes, so that, to use his own matchless phrase, "their energies may be released intelligently, that peace, justice and prosperity may reign."

New Jersey appreciates her deliverance. New Jersey appreciates the great constructive results of her governor's efforts during the past two years, but New Jersey appreciates more than that the honor which she now has, through her freely chosen representatives sitting before me, of placing before this convention, as a candidate for the presidency of the United States, the seer and philosopher of Princeton, the "Princeton schoolmaster," Woodrow Wilson. (Applause.)

### IMPORTANT

The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat says that the length of the presidential term is of very less importance than the identity of the man who serves it. But the man who appreciates the importance of limiting the presidential term in order that the occupant of the office may be free to discharge his duty to the public without the embarrassments growing out of undue ambition, is likely to be a pretty good sort of a man. In any event, it is just as well to take no chances with the good, the bad, or the indifferent, by laying down a rule that will save men from the follies of selfish ambitions.

### APPRECIATED IN TEXAS

R. N. Wilson, Texas: Accepting your clubbing offer for The Commoner, I made up a club of five in a few minutes this morning. If you will send me two more blanks for sets of five, I can fill them promptly.