

People Protest Against "Scaredness" Program

F. J. Flanagan, Fairport, N. Y.: God bless you for the stand you have taken upon the question of a big army and navy. I have just read the statement you issued covering President Wilson's speaking tour and I wish I could convey to you how clear and refreshing it seemed after the endless outpouring of words, words, words on the part of all the advocates of preparedness, including the President, on this subject. I heard you speak in the fall in Detroit upon this question, and considered your speech then the best I have ever heard you deliver. I am a traveling salesman, and I am positive you have voiced the sentiment of the majority of the American people on militarism. I have covered a large section of the country in the past six months, and nowhere have I found any great sentiment for a huge military and naval establishment. On the contrary, I have found that among the plain people there is a tremendous sentiment against such a burden being placed upon them. To you, Mr. Bryan, we look as the leader in this fight against the corrupting forces who are making a tremendous effort to fasten militarism upon this nation, and who are so powerful they have even bent the President to their will. Now, as in the former fights you have made for the people, your vast army of friends have rallied behind you, and you may depend on their strength as they depend on your leadership. May God give you the power to lead us to victory.

O. F. Carpenter, Weston, Ohio, addressed the following letter to William Gordon, Washington, D. C.: From reports in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, I learn that the savages of that vicinity are attempting to frighten you because of your honesty and courage in opposing the most cowardly and loathsome "pork barrel" ever sprung upon an American congress. Recent editorials in the Plain Dealer are most emphatic evidences of the power of the military spirit to make it zealots vicious and bloodthirsty.

I hope you will not be swerved from your convictions by a howling group of military maniacs. I hope you need no encouragement to continue to play the role of a man charged with the responsible duties of preserving civilization and defending the twentieth century against the forces of hate and greed that threaten the return of the dark ages.

Preparedness for war will necessitate a war to prove the wisdom of "Preparedness."

I am convinced that the greatest enemies of America are within her own borders. The "Rockefeller massacre" in Colorado and the Eastland horror in Chicago are more vitally connected with our honor and self-respect than the safety of Americans who choose to enter war zones, perched beneath a belligerent flag and above a cargo of munitions.

An armed peace is not worth the having, even if such a peace were possible. Justice and friendship toward all nations and peoples are the mightiest guarantees of national security. Militarism knows no peace; its food is hate and suspicion, its motive greed, and its method slaughter.

May you never make peace with the enemies of our nation's peace.

Mason C. Breckman, Beckley, W. Va.: In about one and one-half hours time I secured the enclosed club of twenty-one subscribers. Shall endeavor to send another list soon. Would be glad to have you furnish

the current December number to these people if possible. You have my best wishes.

Alfred Lookabill, Crawfordsville, Ind.: You will find enclosed a list of thirteen subscriptions to your most valuable paper. This is only a small testimonial of my appreciation of the great work which is now being done by your paper and the great leader who stands behind it. The curse of this country is the power of organized greed and graft represented by the great corporations which through the subsidized press, under the flimsy pretense of false patriotism and the excuse of "preparedness," are now seeking to burden America with the damnable policy of militarism. In the fight against this great evil the people would now be without a leader and friend were it not for that matchless statesman, William Jennings Bryan, who has no equal in our country, and perhaps none in all the world. It is through his voice and pen that the people are now able to get the light turned in on the debased and corrupt schemes of the great interests to pass laws inimical to the interests of the great body of the people. It is a blessing to the people that this light shines, because other papers and other leaders both great and small are too cowardly to tell the people what is going on. I am seventy-eight years old and have always voted the democratic ticket. I voted for President Wilson in good faith, but if he is instrumental in fastening on this country the curse of militarism I shall have to break this record and vote the republican ticket, or some other, and there are others of the same mind. Let me urge every reader of The Commoner to co-operate with Mr. Bryan in this great work by redoubling the subscription list to The Commoner. Let us not let him bear the brunt of the battle alone. Now is the time for us to uphold his hands and in that way really serve our country. You will find enclosed a money order for seven dollars and eighty cents for thirteen yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. I have written the President and Senators Kern and Shively regarding this matter.

W. D. Folsom, Henniker, N. H.: Mr. Bryan is representing the side of the people. Herewith find draft to pay for club of eight yearly subscriptions.

Walter E. Simmen, Mitchell, Ind.: Being greatly interested in Mr. Bryan's personal work and life we feel obliged to assist in making it possible for people to know just what he is advocating, and in fact what he is doing.

Arthur A. Robinson, Primrose, Nebr.: I am heartily in sympathy with your efforts to defeat the great graft that is proposed to be put upon the people of the country without their consent. You will find enclosed \$3.00 to pay for five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. I will try to get more; want to do all I can against the great "preparedness" graft, and for the state dry campaign.

T. L. Stiles, Howe Valley, Ky.: We are with you heart and soul in your opposition to "preparedness." Hit them hard. But very few we have heard express themselves in favor of it. Scarcely one in twenty-five voters approve of it. I enclose three yearly subscriptions to The Commoner.

Thos Hyland, New York City, N. Y.: We admire with undiminished

ardor your distinguished brother. I know that whatever stand he takes is prompted by love of God and man. He will be honored when those who now criticize him shall have been forever forgotten. May God protect and spare him to our country. I enclose a club of four yearly subscriptions to The Commoner.

F. H. Gillan, Humboldt, Neb.—The first gun fired in the state, outside of Omaha, in opposition to the proposed program for preparedness, now before congress, was by Hon. I. J. Dunn of Omaha, in an address delivered at the opera house in Humboldt, on the evening of February 4, under the auspices of the Humboldt Commercial club. This was the first of a series of public addresses on important questions, that the club is arranging for. Mr. Dunn is a well known lawyer, of strong convictions relative to government principles, and fearless in giving expression to the faith that is in him. He is one who has fought the battles of democracy in this state for years against the influences that are stimulated by the brewers and other trusts. In his address in this city, he was greeted by a representative audience of men and women of almost every political faith. It is difficult to conceive of anyone presenting so forceful an argument against the idea of preparedness as suggested by the President, as was presented by Mr. Dunn, and at the same time keep himself free from the charge of openly criticizing the motives of the President in the marvelous change of front he has made in the last fourteen months. And from his presentation of facts concerning the gigantic combinations of munition manufacturers, it is easy to see how easily even a president of the United States might be unconsciously misled, in the actual sentiment prevailing in the hearts of men and women who would be compelled to furnish the fighting blood of the nation.

Michael J. Doyle, Berkeley, Calif.: Only through united effort of liberty-loving Americans throughout the whole country can the death-mongers be checked in their dealings. They are out here displaying moving pictures that must have cost fortunes—flashing fear into thousands of eyes—while a paid liar fulminates in accompaniment to the horrors of the reel. I am not much of a solicitor, but am sending a club of four yearly subscriptions.

T. A. Walsh, Spokane, Wash.: The opposition delight in alluding to Mr. Bryan indirectly as a "Peace at any price" pacifist, which is a libel. Our fire eating, militaristic friends should be referred to as advocates of "War at any price." Both expressions represent extreme views, and there is as much sense in one as the other.

Peter C. Anderson, Minden, Neb.: I heartily endorse Hon. William Jennings Bryan's position in regard to the "preparedness" plan. I am certainly opposed to it. I am a deaf farmer, and also a subscriber to The Commoner. I know what preparedness is meant for. It is meant for "war of barbarism." We, the people of the United States, are strong with W. J. Bryan, for he is a very true, dutiful peace-maker to our country. He is right to take the fight against preparedness, because we want peace. He is right to represent the three greatest issues before the American people—Peace, Prohibition and Woman's Suffrage, because we are for them. May God bless him with

strength and success for more years to fight against evils because our hearts are his in spirit.

Ex-Gov. Charles N. Herreid, Aberdeen, S. D.: For one, I want to express my appreciation of your stand on the "preparedness" issue. The people are just getting their eyes open on this question, and will be with you.

R. C. Ghostley, Edmonton, Alberta, Can.: Enclosed please notice clipping strongly supporting your attitude upon the "preparedness" program of the United States, contained in statement made by ex-Premier Rosebery, of Great Britain. In discussing the policy of the Wilson administration upon "preparedness" with several erstwhile Americans (being one myself even yet) I have found many of them believe in you and your power to frustrate the passage of this program. Many Canadian-Americans in Western Canada strongly approve your policy and stand. Many Canadians as well. This is to wish you success in your fight to save the country and hemisphere from the most terrible calamity that ever threatened its history.

A. B. Smith, Convoy, Ohio: "Down with preparedness" is the slogan of this vicinity. We want to read more of Mr. Bryan's views on this subject. In enclose club of four yearly subscriptions.

M. H. Wolfe, Hudson, Wisc.: I will do all in my power to defeat the plan of the special interests. I fully agree with Mr. Bryan's position on the question of so-called "preparedness." I am sure Mr. Bryan is the champion of the people.

W. J. Fuller, Callaway, Va.: I want to help the cause for which Mr. Bryan and The Commoner stand. I know of no better way than to get as many voters as possible to read his paper. Herewith find a club of five.

Robert Jones, Herrin, Ill.: The "preparedness" program is being severely criticized and protested in this community. I have talked with a great number of people and feel safe in saying that eight out of every ten are opposed to any appropriation for military purposes, over and above the amount appropriated in late years. Organized labor has sent in a protest. I have been fighting militarism for a number of years and think it is not wise for our country to fall into the snare of the makers of war supplies now.

G. E. Meissner, New York City, N. Y.: I am fully in favor of your action in protesting against "preparedness" and shall endeavor to assist you in your work with the utmost energy.

Mrs. Chas. Maples, Green Forest, Ark. I am strictly against this so-called "preparedness" now being considered by congress. I am highly in favor of Mr. Bryan's idea, and so are the democrats in this locality who I have heard express themselves.

E. Estill, Boonville, Calif.: Wishing the great Commoner success in his work for the people of the United States, I am enclosing a club of six yearly subscribers.

Andrew Paton, Ypsilanti, Mich.: I do not suppose it will do you any special good to hear from a plain, everyday citizen of Ypsilanti, Mich.,