

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM

Text of the Declaration of Principles Adopted by the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis, June 16, 1916

Following is the full text of the democratic national platform adopted at St. Louis:

"The democratic party in national convention assembled, adopts the following declaration to the end that the people of the United States may both realize the achievements wrought by four years of democratic administration and be apprised of the policies to which the party is committed for the further conduct of national affairs.

"We endorse the administration of Woodrow Wilson. It speaks for itself. It is the best exposition of sound democratic policy at home and abroad.

"We challenge comparison on our record, our keeping of pledges and our constructive legislation with those of any party at any time.

"We found our country hampered by special privileges, a vicious tariff, obsolete banking laws and an inelastic currency. Our foreign affairs were dominated by commercial interests for their selfish ends. The republican party, despite repeated pledges, was impotent to correct abuses which it had fostered. Under our administration, under a leadership which has never faltered, these abuses have been corrected and our people have been freed therefrom.

FEDERAL RESERVE ACT

"Our archaic banking and currency system, prolific of panic and disaster under republican administrations—long the refuge of the money trust—has been supplanted by the federal reserve act, a true democracy of credit under government control, already proved a financial bulwark in a world crisis, mobilizing our resources, placing abundant credit at the disposal of legitimate industry and making a currency panic impossible.

"We have created a federal trade commission to accommodate the perplexing questions arising under the anti-trust laws so that monopoly may be strangled at its birth and legitimate industry encouraged. Fair competition in business is now assured.

"We have effected an adjustment of the tariff, adequate for revenue under peace conditions, and fair to the consumer and to the producer. We have adjusted the burdens of taxation so that swollen incomes bear their equitable shares. Our revenues have been sufficient in times of world stress and will largely exceed the expenditures for the current fiscal year.

LABOR LEGISLATION

"We have lifted human labor from the category of commodities and have secured to the workingman the right of voluntary association for his protection and welfare. We have protected the rights of the laborer against the unwarranted issue of writs of injunction, and have guaranteed to him the right of trial by jury in cases of alleged contempt committed outside the presence of the court.

"We have advanced the parcel post to genuine efficiency, enlarged the postal savings system, added 10,000 rural delivery routes and extensions, thus reaching 2,500,000 additional people; improved the postal service in every branch, and for the first time in our history, placed the post-office system on a self-supporting basis, with actual surplus in 1913, 1914 and 1915.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The reforms which were most obviously needed to clear away privilege, prevent unfair discrimination and release the energies of men of all ranks and advantages, have been effected by recent legislation. We must now remove, so far as possible, every remaining element of unrest and uncertainty from the path of the business men of America and secure for them a continued period of quiet, assured and confident prosperity.

TARIFF

"We reaffirm our belief in the doctrine of a tariff for the purpose of providing sufficient revenue for the operation of the government economically administered, and unreservedly endorse the Underwood tariff law as truly exemplifying that doctrine. We recognize that tariff rates are necessarily subject to change to meet changing conditions in the world's production and trade. The events of the last two years have brought about many momentous changes. In

some respects their effects are yet conjectural and wait to be disclosed, particularly in regard to our foreign trade. Two years of a war which has directly involved most of the chief industrial nations of the world and which has indirectly affected the life and industry of all nations are bringing about economic changes more varied and far reaching than the world has ever before experienced. In order to ascertain just what these changes may be, the democratic congress is providing for a nonpartisan tariff commission to make impartial and thorough study of every economic fact that may throw light either upon our past or upon our future fiscal policy with regard to the imposition of taxes on imports or with regard to the changed and changing conditions under which our trade is carried on. We cordially endorse this timely proposal and declare ourselves in sympathy with the principle and purpose of shaping legislation within that field in accordance with clearly established facts rather than in accordance with the demands of selfish interests or upon information provided largely, if not exclusively, by them.

AMERICANISM

"The part that the United States will play in the new day of international relationships which is now upon us will depend upon our preparation and our character. The democratic party therefore recognizes the assertion and triumphant demonstration of the indivisibility and coherent strength of the nation as the supreme issue of this day in which the whole world faces the crisis of manifold change, it summons all men, of whatever origin or creed, who would count themselves Americans to join in making clear to all the world the unity and consequent power of America.

"This is an issue of patriotism. To taint it with partisanship would be to defile it. In this day of test, America must show itself not a nation of partisans, but a nation of patriots. There is gathered here in America the best of the blood, the industry and the genius of the whole world, the elements of a great race and a magnificent society to be melted into a mighty and splendid nation.

"Whoever, actuated by the purpose to promote the interest of a foreign power in disregard of our own country's welfare or to injure this government in its foreign relations or cripple or destroy its industries at home, and whoever by arousing prejudice of racial, religious or other nature, creates discord and strife among our people, so as to obstruct the wholesome process of unification, is faithless to the trust which the privileges of citizenship repose in him and disloyal to his country.

"We therefore condemn as subversive of this nation's unity and integrity, and as destructive of its welfare, the activities and designs of every group or organization, political or otherwise, that has for its object the advancement of the interest of a foreign power, whether such object is promoted by intimidating the government, a political party or representatives of the people, or which is calculated and tends to divide our people into antagonistic groups, and thus to destroy the complete agreement and solidarity of the people and that unity of sentiment and national purpose, so essential to the perpetuity of the nation and its free institutions.

"We condemn all alliances and combinations of individuals in this country of whatever nationality or descent, who agree and conspire together for the purpose of embarrassing or weakening our government or of improperly influencing or coercing our public representatives in dealing or negotiating with any foreign power. We charge that such conspiracies among a limited number exist and have been instigated for the purpose of advancing the interests of foreign countries to the prejudice and detriment of our own country. We condemn any political party which, in view of the activity of such conspirators, surrenders its integrity or modifies its policy.

PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES LOVE PEACE

"Along with the proof of our character as a nation must go the proof of our power to play the part that legitimately belongs to us. The people of the United States love peace. They respect the rights and covet the friendship of all other nations; they desire neither additional

territory nor any advantage which can not be peacefully gained by their skill, their industry or their enterprise; but they insist upon having absolute freedom of national life and policy and feel that they owe it to themselves and to the role of spirited independence which it is their sole ambition to play; that they should render themselves secure against the hazard of interference from any quarter and should be able to protect their rights upon the seas or in any part of the world.

"We, therefore, favor the maintenance of an army fully adequate to the requirements of order, of safety and of the protection of the nation's rights; the fullest development of modern methods of sea coast defense and the maintenance of an adequate reserve of citizens trained to arms and prepared to safeguard the people and territory of the United States against any danger of hostile action which may unexpectedly arise; and a fixed policy for the continuous development of a navy worthy to support the great naval traditions of the United States and fully equal to the international tasks which the United States hopes and expects to take part in performing. The plans and enactments of the present congress afford substantial proof of our purpose in this exigent matter.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

"The democratic administration has throughout the present war scrupulously and successfully held to the old paths of neutrality and of peaceful pursuit of legitimate objects of our national life which statesmen of all parties and creeds have prescribed for themselves in America since the beginning of our history. But the circumstances of the last two years have revealed necessities of international action which no former generation can have foreseen. We hold that it is the duty of the United States to use its power, not only to make itself safe at home, but also to make secure its interests throughout the world and, both for this end and in the interest of humanity, to assist the world in securing settled peace and justice. We believe that every people has the right to choose the sovereignty under which it shall live; that the small states of the world have a right to enjoy from other nations the same respect for their sovereignty, and for their territorial integrity that great and powerful nations expect and insist upon; and that the world has a right to be free from every disturbance of its peace that has its origin in aggression or disregard of the rights of peoples and nations; and we believe that the time has come when it is the duty of the United States to join with the other nations of the world in any feasible association that will effectively serve these principles, to maintain inviolate the complete security of the highway of the seas for the common and unhindered use of all nations.

"The present administration has consistently sought to act upon and realize in its conduct of the foreign affairs of the nation the principles that should be the object of any association of the nations formed to secure the peace of the world and the maintenance of national and individual rights. It has followed the highest American traditions; it has preferred respect for the fundamental rights of smaller states, even to property interests, and has secured the friendship of the people of these states for the United States by refusing to make a more material interest and excuse for the assertion of our superior power against the dignity of their sovereign independence. It has regarded the lives of its citizens and the claims of humanity as of greater moment than material rights, and peace as the best basis for the just settlement of commercial claims. It has made the honor and ideals of the United States its standard alike in negotiation and action.

PAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

"We recognize now, as we have always recognized, a definite and common interest between the United States with the other peoples and republics of the western hemisphere in all matters of national independence and free political development. We favor the establishment and maintenance of the closest relations of amity and mutual helpfulness between the United States and the other republics of the American continent for the support of peace and the pro-