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President Wilson Reviews His Administration

Full Text of President Wilson's Speech of Acceptance, Shadow Lawn, Long Branch, N. J., Saturday, Sept. 2, 1916

Senator James, Gentlemen of the Notification Committee, Fellow Citizens: I can not accept the leadership and responsibility which the national democratic convention has again, in such generous fashion, asked me to accept without first expressing my profound gratitude to the party for the trust it reposes in me after four years of fiery trial in the midst of affairs of unprecedented difficulty, and the keen sense of added responsibility with which this honor fills (I had almost said burdens) me as I think of the great issues of national life and policy involved in the present and immediate future conduct of our government. I shall seek, as I have always sought, to justify the extraordinary confidence thus reposed in me by striving to purge my heart and purpose of every personal and of every misleading party motive and devoting every energy I have to the service of the nation as a whole, praying that I may continue to have the counsel and support of all forward-looking men at every turn of the difficult business.

For I do not doubt that the people of the United States will wish the democratic party to continue in control of the government. They are not in the habit of rejecting those who have actually served them for those who are making doubtful and conjectural promises of service. Least of all are they likely to substitute those who promised to render them particular services and proved false to that promise for those who have actually rendered those very services.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS FULFILLED ITS EXPLICIT PROMISES

Boasting is always an empty business, which pleases nobody but the boaster, and I have no disposition to boast of what the democratic party has accomplished. It has merely done its duty. It has merely fulfilled its explicit promises. But there can be no violation of good taste in calling attention to the manner in which those promises have been carried out or in adverting to the interesting fact that many of the things accomplished were what the opposition party had again and again promised to do but had left undone. Indeed that is manifestly part of the business of this year of reckoning and assessment. There is no means of judging the future except by assessing the past. Constructive action must be weighed against destructive comment and reaction. The democrats either have or have not understood the varied interests of the country. The test is contained in the record.

What is that record? What were the democrats called into power to do? What things had long waited to be done, and how did the democrats do them? It is a record of extraordinary length and variety, rich in elements of many

PRESIDENT WILSON OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED

Woodrow Wilson received official notification of his renomination by the democratic party for the presidency of the United States at his summer home, "Shadow Lawn," Long Branch, N. J., Saturday, September 2.

The ceremonies attending the notification were witnessed by a crowd that numbered not less than 20,000 and represented every state in the union.

President Wilson was conducted to the speaker's stand by Vance C. McCormick, chairman of the national democratic committee; Senator Ollie James and Governor Fielder of New Jersey.

Senator Ollie James made the speech of notification, outlining the achievements of the administration and ending with the words, "and may God who blesses the peacemaker guide you to a glorious victory in November."

President Wilson's speech of acceptance will be found in full on this and pages 10 and 11.

kinds, but consistent in principle throughout and susceptible of brief recital.

The republican party was put out of power because of failure, practical failure and moral failure; because it had served special interests and not the country at large; because, under the leadership of its preferred and established guides, of those who still make its choices, it had lost touch with the thoughts and the needs of the nation and was living in a past age and under a fixed illusion, the illusion of greatness. It had framed tariff laws based upon a fear of foreign trade, a fundamental doubt as to American skill, enterprise, and capacity, and a very

tender regard for the profitable privileges of those who had gained control of domestic markets and domestic credits; and yet had enacted anti-trust laws which hampered the very things they meant to foster, which were stiff and inelastic, and in part unintelligible. It had permitted the country throughout the long period of its control to stagger from one financial crisis to another under the operation of a national banking law of its own framing which made stringency and panic certain and the control of the larger business operations of the country by the bankers of a few reserve centres inevitable; had made as if it meant to reform the law but had faint-heartedly failed in the attempt, because it could not bring itself to do the one thing necessary to make the reform genuine and effectual, namely, break up the control of small groups of bankers. It had been oblivious, or indifferent, to the fact that the farmers, upon whom the country depends for its food and in the last analysis for its prosperity, were without standing in the matter of commercial credit, without the protection of standards in their market transactions, and without systematic knowledge of the markets themselves; that the laborers of the country, the great army of men who man the industries it was professing to father and promote, carried their labors as a mere commodity to market, were subject to restraint by novel and drastic process in the courts, were without assurance of compensation for industrial accidents, without federal assistance in accommodating labor disputes, and without national aid or advice in finding the places and the industries in which their labor was most needed. The country had no national system of road construction and development. Little intelligent attention was paid to the army, and not enough to the navy. The other republics of America distrusted us, because they found that we thought first of the profits of American investors and only as an afterthought of impartial justice and helpful friendship. Its policy was provincial in all things; its purposes were out of harmony with the temper and purpose of the people and the timely development of the nation's interests.

AMERICAN BUSINESS, LIFE AND INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN SET FREE

So things stood when the democratic party came into power. How do they stand now? Alike in the domestic field and in the wide field of the commerce of the world, American business and life and industry have been set free to move as they never moved before.

The tariff has been revised, not on the principle of repelling foreign trade, but upon the principle of encouraging it, upon something like

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