

# THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO ARMS

President Roosevelt sent to congress a special message Friday, January 31. He explains the occasion for this message by saying: "The recent decision of the supreme court in regard to the employers' liability act, the experience of the interstate commerce commission and of the department of justice in enforcing the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws, and the gravely significant attitude toward the law and its administration recently adopted by certain heads of great corporations, render it desirable that there should be additional legislation as regards certain of the relations between labor and capital, and between the great corporations and the public."

## WHAT THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS

The message is very long and the following synopsis is taken from the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal:

The president begins by recommending the passage of an employer's liability law, to apply only to men engaged in interstate traffic. Then he warms up to the main subject and discusses the whole corporation question, and the attacks that have been made upon the administration.

He says there has been abuse of the injunction in labor union disputes, and the abuse is beginning to bring discontent and disrespect for the federal judiciary.

Stock watering is denounced.

The federal government must assume a certain measure of control over the physical operation of railroads.

Corporations, he insists, have duties as well as rights, and they must be taught that fact.

Gambling on the stock market is no better than with cards and on the race track.

Corporation lawyers are declared largely to blame for delay in justice; and equally culpable are men who oppose enactment of just laws.

The man who seeks to corrupt legislatures or less important lawmaking bodies is in the same class as the blackmailer, the bribe-giver, the gambler and the thug.

The judges who fined the Standard Oil company and the Santa Fe Railroad company are defended.

The president charges certain rich men with banding together to evade the law and discredit the administration.

He denies any attack on law-abiding wealth, but says the most efficient instrument of corruption is in the purchased politician and the purchased newspaper.

He singles out the Standard Oil company as a law-defying corporation, which controls books and pamphlets and speeches by public and private men.

The president says his purpose is to put the real wrongdoer in prison, and this is what has been done with some wealthy criminals and what he hopes to do with others.

He does not believe the acts of the administration have brought about business distress, but if the panic was necessary at this time to expose corruption, he has no misgivings.

## DEMOCRATS ARE PLEASED

A Washington dispatch referring to the special message says: "When the striking passages were reached many of the senators looked around the chamber and exchanged smiles. Mr. Tillman seemed especially pleased with the document."

In the senate Mr. Davis, democrat, of Arkansas moved that 10,000 copies of the message be printed as a public document. Mr. Davis said: "It is the best democratic doctrine that I have ever heard emanating from a republican source." In the house the democrats made a demonstration of their approval by rising to their feet and clapping their hands. Mr. James, democrat, of Kentucky, tauntingly asked Mr. Payne, republican, "How many additional thousand do you desire for circulation?" Mr. Payne laughingly replied: "Oh, the usual number."

## SOME HARD HITS

Following are some extracts from the message:

There is no moral difference between gambling at cards or in lotteries or on the race track and gambling in the stock market.

It is not the puppets, but the strong cunning men and the mighty forces working for

evil behind and through the puppets, with whom we have to deal.

When we are able to put the real wrongdoer in prison, this is what we strive to do.

That stockholder is not innocent who voluntarily purchases stock in a corporation whose methods and management he knows to be corrupt.

The apologists of successful dishonesty always declaim against any effort to punish or prevent it on the ground that any such effort will "unsettle business."

They have hurt honest business men, honest workingmen, honest farmers, and now they clamor against the truth being told.

The business which is hurt by the movement for honesty is the kind of business which, in the long run, it pays the country to have hurt. It is the kind of business which has tended to make the name "high finance" a term of scandal to which all honest American men of business should join in putting an end.

Most certainly it behooves us all to treat with the utmost respect the high office of judge, and our judges, as a whole, are brave and upright men.

The opponents of the measures we champion single out now one and now another measure for especial attack, and speak as if the movement in which we are engaged was purely economic. It has a large economic side, but it is fundamentally an ethical movement.

The methods by which the Standard Oil people and those engaged in the other combinations of which I have spoken about have achieved great fortunes can only be justified by the advocacy of a system of morality which would also justify every form of criminality on the part of a labor union, and every form of violence, corruption and fraud, from murder to bribery and ballot box stuffing in politics.

I do not for a moment believe that the actions of this administration have brought on business distress.

## STRIKING WORDS

The president concludes his message with these striking words:

"On behalf of all our people, on behalf no less of the honest man of means than of the honest man who earns each day's livelihood by that day's sweat of his brow, it is necessary to insist upon honesty in business and politics alike, in all walks of life, in big things and in little things; upon just and fair dealing as between man and man. Those who demand this are striving for the right in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln when he said:

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in."

"In the work we of this generation are in, there is, thanks be to the Almighty, no danger of bloodshed and no use for the sword; but there is grave need of those stern qualities shown alike by the men of the north and the men of the south in the dark days when each valiantly battled for the right as it was given each to see the right. Their spirit should be our spirit, as we strive to bring nearer the day when greed and trickery and cunning shall be trampled under feet by those who fight for the righteousness that exalteth a nation."

## MR. BRYAN ON THE MESSAGE

It is a brave message that the president sent to congress last Friday, and is needed at this time. All friends of reform have reason to rejoice that the president has used his high position to call attention to the wrongs that need to be remedied. He has discovered the running sore in our national life. He has pointed out the corrupting influences that flow from predatory wealth and the monopolistic enter-

prises which have given unearned riches to the few, who, by controlling the great industries of the nation have levied tribute on the whole country.

His warnings are entirely in harmony with the warnings which democrats have been uttering for more than a decade, and I hope that the democrats in the senate and house will promptly challenge the republicans to meet the issues that have been presented by the president.

There ought to be enough republicans in the two houses to join with the democrats and insure some remedial legislation at this session. If there be none the public ought to know it, so that when the next national republican convention endorses the present administration the hypocrisy of the endorsement will be understood. The president has discussed the relative spheres of the state and of the nation. We hope that in the measures which may be introduced in response to this appeal there will be no attempt to take from the states any power that they now have.

The democrats are in favor of the present power vested in the congress, but they want the national remedies added to the state remedies and not substituted for them. If the president's republican friends will join with the democrats in devising legislation which will be effective and yet within the recognized constitutional power of congress, great good may be accomplished before congress adjourns.

The president has issued a call to arms. Now let the battle begin and we shall soon be able to pick out the purchased newspapers and the purchased legislators described by the president, but not specifically named.

## CHANCELLOR DAY ON THE MESSAGE

Chancellor Day of Syracuse University seems ready to speak for the special interests. Speaking to a representative of the Associated Press at Syracuse, N. Y., Mr. Day said:

"Of the president's message if I am entirely honest and frank, I am compelled to say that much of it reads like the raving of a disordered mind, and other portions, in which appeal is made to class prejudice and excitement, is large with the suggestion of the adroit and cunning, the shrewd, but reckless demagogue.

"The whole message is his familiar ranting against what he calls 'criminal wealth' and it proceeds upon the slanderous assumption that so great a piece of corporate business of this country is so corrupt as to demand special messages to congress, popular harangues by the president and the entire time, ability and effect of the congress in volume of corrective legislation such as the world has never seen.

"It is wrong, a great wickedness, for the Standard Oil to defend itself, but there is no impropriety in the president's assailing this corporation by name and defaming it and slandering it with the 'envenomed' influence of his great office, while its cause is still undecided in the higher courts. The 'square deal' has long been a farce and this inconsistency seems to have escaped Mr. Roosevelt's ethical standard, of which he makes so much.

"As I am one of those 'hired' book writers referred to, a personal word may be permitted. Not a nickel or dime was ever offered to me by any person, company or corporation for a sentence or paragraph in print in any shape or form whatever. No such party knew a syllable contained in my book until it was published.

"I was warned that if I wrote, my reputation would be assailed by the president and every unworthy motive would be charged against me. I have been accused of personal pique and revenge. I am charged with selling my character and bartering my reputation for pay to a cause that I know to be corrupt. When one hears the high source of such a slander, can one imagine a much lower descent of vituperation or a more astounding use of the prerogatives of the highest of influences in our land?"

"These are strange times when American citizens are to be assailed under cover of a message to congress for exercising their inalienable right to criticize the 'policies' and acts of the administration of the country. If this liberty is to be taken from the people what is there left

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