

# President Wilson Defends Democratic Record

President Wilson addressed a large crowd of people at Tomlinson hall, Indianapolis, January 8, on the occasion of the Jackson day celebration. The president was introduced by Governor Ralston of Indiana. His speech, as reported by the Chicago Herald, follows:

Governor Ralston, Ladies and Gentlemen:— You have given me a most royal welcome, for which I thank you from the bottom of my heart. It is rather lonely living in Washington. I have been confined for two years at hard labor and even now I feel that I am simply out on parole. You will notice that one of the most distinguished members of the United States senate is here to see that I go back. And yet with sincere apologies to the senate and house of representatives, I want to say that I draw more inspiration from you than I do from them.

They, like myself, are only servants of the people of the United States. Our sinews consist in your sympathy and support, and our renewal comes from contact with you and with the strong movements of public opinion in this country.

### KEEP THOUGHTS AT HOME

That is the reason why I for one would prefer that our thoughts should not too often cross the ocean, but should center themselves upon the policies and duties of the United States. If we think of the United States, when the time comes we shall know how this country can serve the world. I will borrow a very interesting phrase from a distinguished gentleman of my acquaintance, and beg that you will keep your moral powder dry.

But I have come here on Jackson day. If there are republicans present, I hope they will feel the compelling influences of such a day. There was nothing mild about Andrew Jackson; that is the reason I spoke of the 'compelling influences of the day.' Andrew Jackson was a forthright man, who believed everything he did believe in, in fighting earnest. And really, ladies and gentlemen, in public life that is the only sort of man worth thinking about for a moment.

### MILITANT DEMOCRACY ALIVE

If I was not ready to fight for everything I believe in I would think it my duty to go and take a back seat. I like, therefore, to breathe the air of Jackson day. I like to be reminded of the old militant hosts of democracy which I believe have come to life again in our time.

The United States had almost forgotten that it must keep its fighting ardor in behalf of mankind when Andrew Jackson became president, and you will notice that whenever the United States forgets its ardor for mankind, a democrat is elected president.

### REPUBLICANS LACK IDEAS

The trouble with the republican party is that it has not had a new idea for thirty years. I am not speaking as a politician; I am speaking as an historian. I have looked for new ideas in the records and I have not found any proceeding from the republican ranks. They have had leaders from time to time who suggested new ideas, but they never did anything to carry them out.

I suppose there was no harm in their talking, provided they could not do anything. Therefore, when it was necessary to say that we have talked about things long enough, which it was necessary to do, and the time had come to do them, it was indispensable that a democrat should be elected president.

### G. O. P. FEARS YOUNGSTERS

I would not speak with disrespect of the republican party. I always speak with great respect for the past. The past was necessary to the present; and was a sure prediction of the future.

The republican party is still a covert and refuge for those who are afraid, for those who want to consult their grandfathers about everything. You will notice that most of the advice taken by the republican party is taken from gentlemen old enough to be grandfathers, and that when they claim that a reaction has taken place they react to the re-election of the oldest members of their party. They will not trust the youngsters. They are afraid the youngsters may have something up their sleeve.

### TIRED SAYING SWEET THINGS

You will see, therefore, that I have come to you in the spirit of Jackson day. I got very tired staying in Washington and saying sweet things.

## STRONG POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT WILSON

"I would prefer that our thoughts should not too often cross the ocean, but should center themselves upon the policies and duties of the United States."

"There may come a time when the American people will have to judge whether I know what I am talking about or not."

"As long as I am president nobody shall interfere with the efforts of the Mexicans to get liberty. Have not European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilled as much blood as they pleased to settle their own affairs? And shall we deny the same right to Mexico? No, I say."

"Every time the country really wants something done it returns the democratic party to power."

"This country is now guided by the independent voter."

"We have laid the lines now upon which business designed to do the country harm shall be stopped and an economic control which was intolerable shall be broken up."

"There is nothing the matter with American business except a state of mind."

"There is a very simple way to help the workingmen. If you were simply to establish a great federal employment bureau it would do a vast deal."

"I do know that the United States in its judicial procedure is many decades behind every other civilized government in the world."

May we not look forward to the time when we shall be called blessed among the nations because we succored the nations of the world in their time of distress and dismay?"

I wanted to come out and get in contact with you once more and say what I really thought.

My friends, what I particularly want you to observe is this, that politics in this country does not depend any longer upon the regular members of either party. There are not enough regular republicans in this country to take and hold national power; and I must immediately add there are not enough regular democrats in this country to do it either.

### INDEPENDENTS GUIDE THE NATION

This country is guided and its policy is determined by the independent voter; and I have come to ask you how we can best prove to the independent voter that the instrument he needs is the democratic party and that it would be hopeless for him to attempt to use the republican party. I do not have to prove it; I admit it.

What seems to me perfectly evident is this, that if you made a rough reckoning, you would have to admit that only about one-third of the republican party is progressive; and you would also have to admit that about two-thirds of the democratic party is progressive. Therefore, the independent progressive voter finds a great deal more company in the democratic ranks than in the republican ranks. I say a great deal more because there are democrats who are sitting on the breeching-strap; there are democrats who are holding back. There are democrats who are nervous. I dare say they were born with that temperament.

### AN ANIMATED CONSERVATIVE

And I respect the conservative temper. I claim to be an animated conservative myself; because being conservative I understand to mean a man not only who preserves what is best in the nation

but who sees that in order to preserve it you dare not stand still, but must move forward. For the virtue of America it is not static; it is dynamic. All the forces of America are forces in action or else they are forces of inertion.

What I want to point out to you, and I believe that this is what the whole country is beginning to perceive, is this, that there is a larger body of men in the regular ranks of the democratic party who believe in the progressive policies of our day and mean to see them carried forward and perpetuated than there is in the ranks of the republican party. How can you be otherwise, gentlemen?

### ENACT PEOPLE'S POLICIES

The democratic party, and only the democratic party, has carried out the policies which the progressive people of this country have desired. There is not a single great act of this present great congress which has not been carried out in obedience to the public opinion of America; and the public opinion of America is not going to permit any body of men to go backward with regard to these great matters.

Let me instance a single thing: I want to ask the business men here present if this is not the first January in their recollection that did not bring a money stringency for the time being, because of the necessity of paying out great sums of money by way of dividends and the other settlements which come at the first of the year?

### EMANCIPATE NATION'S CREDIT

I have asked the bankers if that happened this year and they say, "No, it did not happen; it could not happen under the federal reserve act." We have emancipated the credits of this country. And is there anybody here who will doubt that the other policies that have given guarantee to this country that there will be free competition are policies which this country will never allow to be reversed?

I have taken a long time, ladies and gentlemen, to select the federal trade commission, because I wanted to choose men and be sure that I had chosen men who would be really serviceable to the business men of this country, great as well as small, the rank and the file. These things have been done and will never be undone. They were talked about and talked about with futility until a democratic congress attempted and achieved them.

### DEMOCRATS STILL ON TRIAL

But the democratic party is not to suppose that it is done with the business. The democratic party has to prove to the independent voters of this country not only that it believes in these things, but that it will continue to work along these lines and that it will not allow any enemy of these things to break its ranks.

This country is not going to use any party that can not do continuous and consistent teamwork. If any group of men should dare to break the solidarity of the democratic team for any purpose or from any motive, theirs will be a most unenviable notoriety and a responsibility which will bring deep bitterness to them. The only party that is serviceable to a nation is a party that can hold absolutely together and march with the discipline and with the zest of a conquering host. I am not saying these things because I doubt that the democratic party will be able to do these things, but because I believe that as leader for the time being of that party, I can promise that country that it will do these things. I know my colleagues at Washington, I know their spirit, and their purpose, and I know that they have the same emotion, the same high emotion of public service, that I hope I have.

I want at this juncture to pay my tribute of respect and of affectionate admiration for the two great democratic senators from the state of Indiana. I have never had to lie awake nights wondering what they were going to do. And the country is not going to trouble itself, ladies and gentlemen, to lie awake nights and wonder what men are going to do.

### TEAM WORK DEMANDED

If they have to do that they will choose other men, and that is all to the business. Team work all the time is what they are going to demand of us, and that is our individual, as well as our collective responsibility. That is what Jackson stands for.

If a man will not play in the team, then he does not belong to the team. You see, I have spent a large part of my life in college and I