

we call upon our country not only to consider the past but to earnestly consider our present and our future as a part of the American people. To them we declare our needs, now and tomorrow, as those primarily of Americans struggling for enlightenment and that competency that is consistent with American citizenship. We do avow our hopes and our destiny inseparably united to that of the people of the United States of America and that our hearts and minds are now and forever loyal to our country, which we would serve in our fullest capacity as men and Americans.

Unto this declaration I do set my hand and seal this 28th day of September in the Year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Fifteen. Done at Lawrence, Kansas.

Attest:

Sherman Coolidge, President,  
Arthur C. Parker, Secretary.

An inner view of the Conference and its personnel revealed at once the dangers and the great possibilities of the organization. In the hands of selfish men looking for personal honors and political power the Society would at once deceive those who put their hopes in it and then miserably fail. Any attempt to make the Society a clearing house or court of review of special cases would stamp its membership as prejudiced and hasty in judgment. The easy way in which special cases and complaints were put up in the conference without debate or evidence, showed on the part of some a lack of understanding that the Society especially states as one of its objects, "To direct its energies exclusively to general principles and universal interests and not allow itself to be used for any personal or private interest." There was danger also in over-riding all rules, principles and laws by individuals bent on personal ends.

Members should not be admitted without investigation in the future if the Society is to guard its welfare. It must also be seen that the stated principles of the Society constitute its real groundwork and that the members, both associate and active who join, become members to support such principles. No individual or group in a conference has any right to attempt to overthrow those principles, else a conference does not and cannot express the aims of the Society. Any attempt to overthrow those principles would be a flagrant betrayal of trust, not to say a usurpation of authority.

In the hands of honest men, with no personal motives for position or honors, the Society cannot help but succeed. Its success will come, not through the demands for rights or by the presentation of grievances, but by its dignified upholding of great and eternal principles. Out of these principles the detailed good that is sought will flow. A review of the Conference Platform will indicate in a measure the force of this statement.