

ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Adopted by the Conference for Progressive Political Action Chicago, February 20-21, 1922

After mature deliberation, and with a full sense of our responsibility, this conference of American citizens, assembled without regard to party, section, class, or creed, to take counsel in this hour of national crisis, reasserts, upon this one hundred and ninetieth anniversary of the birth of Washington, the fundamental principles upon which this nation was founded:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

"That government is instituted for the common good, for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people and not for the honor or profit of any man, family, or class of men.

"That no man, corporation, or group of men shall have any other title to receive compensation from the public than that which is measured by the value of the services they render to the public."

Reasserting these fundamental doctrines as the cornerstones of liberty, we proclaim that we do earnestly seek to restore the government of the United States to the noble ends and high purposes for which it was conceived.

We hold that the splendid structure of the visible American government is sound and well adapted to the genius of our people. But through the apathy of the people and their division upon false issues, the control of this visible government has been usurped by the "invisible government" of plutocracy and privilege and, administered in every branch by their creatures and servitors, has become destructive of those sacred rights to secure which it was established.

LONG RECORD OF INJURY AND USURPATION

The history of recent years is a history of repeated injuries and usurpation by the servants of this oligarchy in both the dominant parties; all having the direct object the

establishment of an absolute tyranny and plutocratic dictatorship within these states. Life, liberty, and happiness all have been sacrificed upon the altar of greed. To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have stifled free speech, throttled free press, and denied the sacred right of assembly.

They have sanctioned wholesale corruption of the electorate by seating in the Senate of the United States, Newberry, its most notorious beneficiary.

They have used the Federal Reserve System, controlling the life blood of the nation's credit, as an instrument to deflate and crush farmers and independent business men and cause nation-wide unemployment.

They have obstructed every honest effort to relieve the distress of agriculture thus caused and have used every influence to secure betrayal of the farmers' interests.

They have conscripted four million men and boys while they permitted corporations and individuals to extort unconscionable war profits and have sacrificed the soldiers' just demands for equitable compensation to the dictates of Mellonism and the selfish interests of tax-dodging capitalists and war profiteers.

They have abolished the taxes upon excess profits of corporations and have reduced the taxes upon the incomes of millionaires.

They have squandered the resources of the nation in wasteful and fraudulent contracts and subsidies.

They have permitted the railroads, the arteries of the nation, to be operated not for service but for speculative gain and, after subsidizing them heavily and guaranteeing their income, have allowed them to be looted by financial manipulation and by contracts to corporations controlled by favored railroad directors.

They have engaged in a campaign of ruthless imperialism in Haiti and San Domingo and have permitted the arms and resources of the United States to be used to crush nations and peoples struggling for freedom and self-government.

They have through the courts nullified righteous laws of state and nation for the protection of human rights and exalted judge-made law above the statutes.

They have permitted organized crimes and conspiracies of trusts to go unhampered and have turned the sword of the anti-trust law only against organizations of farmers and industrial workers.

They have held in prison men convicted of no crimes and have pardoned without warrant notorious profiteers and monopolists.

They have used the army and the troops and police forces of states and cities to crush labor in its struggles to secure rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

They have prostituted the highest offices of government as channels of pernicious propaganda.

They have surrendered Americanism to Garyism, creating new privileges and immunities for capital and trampling under foot the rights of man.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. Any administration whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We, therefore, citizens of the United States of America, in conference assembled, do solemnly publish and declare that our government of right ought to be administered for the common good and for the protection, prosperity, and happiness of the people; that its present usurpation by the invisible government of plutocracy and privilege must be broken; that this can be best accomplished by united political action suited to the peculiar conditions and needs of each section and state; and that to this end we do hereby pledge ourselves to organize for the coming campaign in every state and congressional district, so that this may become once more in very truth a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

RECORD VOTES OF OREGON CONGRESSMEN

Judge Your Congressman by his Vote on Measures of Vital Interest to the People as Shown in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL ACTION.

Organized at Chicago, Illinois, February 20-21, 1922. Official Headquarters, Machinists' Building, Washington, D. C.

William H. Johnson, Chairman. Warren S. Stone, Treas. Fred C. Howe, Secretary.

ESCH-CUMMINS RAILROAD LAW

VOTE ON SIX PER CENT GUARANTEE: On motion by Sims, of Tennessee, November 17, 1919, to recommit the Esch-Cummins Railroad bill and strike out the clause guaranteeing 6 per cent on railroad stock—including watered capital—(It will be remembered the government's estimate of the value of the roads was placed at about \$11,900,000,000 while the guarantee covered the railroads' figures of \$19,000,000,000).

These voted FOR THE PEOPLE	These voted FOR THE RAILROADS
Not one Oregon Representative voted for the People!	Dist. 1. HAWLEY. 2. SINNOTT. 3. McARTHUR.

LaFollette Seaman's Law

BILL TO DESTROY: Scott, of Michigan, undertook on June 15, 1921, to destroy the Seamen's law on the Great Lakes by repealing the life-saving requirements and the safety provisions for proper manning of vessels.

This man voted FOR THE PEOPLE	This man voted FOR THE SHIPOWNERS
Dist. 2. SINNOTT.	Dist. 3. McARTHUR.
This man FAILED TO VOTE Dist. 1. HAWLEY.	

Winslow Railroad Refunding Bill

MORE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR RAILROADS: Winslow, of Massachusetts, on August 23, 1921, forced through the House another piece of railroad class legislation to enable the railroads to loot the United States Treasury of an additional Five Hundred Million Dollars.

These voted FOR THE PEOPLE	These voted FOR THE RAILROADS
Not one Oregon Representative voted for the People!	Dist. 3. McARTHUR. 2. SINNOTT.

This man FAILED TO VOTE
Dist. 1. HAWLEY.

Farm Export (War Finance Corporation) Law

FARMERS' EXPORT RELIEF: When the War Finance Corporation bill was before the House on August 22, 1921, Wingo, of Arkansas, moved to recommit the bill, increase the funds and make them available for domestic as well as export purposes. If it had carried it would have stimulated and greatly helped all agriculturists.

These voted FOR THE PEOPLE	These voted AGAINST THE PEOPLE
Not one Oregon Representative voted for the People!	Dist. 3. McARTHUR. 2. SINNOTT.

This man FAILED TO VOTE
Dist. 1. HAWLEY.

Esch-Cummins Railroad Law

FINAL VOTE ON BILL: The final bill reported by the House and Senate conferees not only contained the same provision to guarantee 6 per cent interest to the owners on legitimate stock and watered stock, but also included very objectionable labor provisions. Barkley, of Kentucky, moved, on February 21, 1920, to recommit the bill for the purpose of striking out both unfair sections.

These voted FOR THE PEOPLE	These voted FOR THE RAILROADS
Not one Oregon Representative voted for the People!	Dist. 1. HAWLEY. 3. McARTHUR. 2. SINNOTT.

INCOME TAX LAW

SURTAX RATES ON INCOMES OF MILLIONAIRES: The dominant element in this Congress has expended much effort to shield big business and profiteers from paying equitable taxes on vast incomes. The House, under the whip of the financial interests which control this administration, not only repealed the "excess profits taxes" but also reduced the surtax rates on incomes of millionaires from 65 per cent to 32 per cent.

A few progressive Senators fought for days to retain taxes on excess profits. Failing in that they succeeded on October 22, 1921, in raising the House 32 per cent surtax rate up to 50 per cent. On November 17, 1921, after much effort, the minority members of the House forced a vote and decided that the profiteers should pay a surtax rate of 50 per cent instead of 32 per cent.

This man voted FOR THE PEOPLE	These voted FOR THE PROFITEERS
Dist. 2. SINNOTT.	Dist. 1. HAWLEY. 3. McARTHUR.

For full particulars write

The Conference for Progressive Political Action

Machinists Building
Washington, D. C.

WORKERS—Use Your Ballot for a Better America!

THINK, ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, AGITATE AND VOTE!