

Full Text of Wrangles Speech at Conference

Republican Candidate Declares for "America First and Efficient" in Keynote.

CRITICISES ACTS OF WILSON

Blames the Administration for Deplorable Conditions Now Existing in Mexico.

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Mr. Hughes' speech of acceptance of the Republican nomination for President follows:

Senator Harding, members of the nomination committee, and fellow citizens: This occasion is more than a mere ceremony of notification. We are not here to indulge in formal expressions. We come to state in plain and direct manner our faith, our purpose and our pledge. This representative gathering is a happy augury. It means the strength of reunion. It means that the party of Lincoln is restored, alert, effective. It means the unity of a common perception of our national needs. It means that we are neither deceived nor benumbed by abnormal conditions. We know that we are in a critical period, perhaps more critical than any period since the civil war. We need a dominant sense of national unity; the exercise of our best constructive powers; the vigor and resourcefulness of a quickened America. We desire that the Republican party as a great liberal party shall be the agency of national achievement, the organ of the effective expression of dominant Americanism.

Candidate's Version of Duties of Executive.

Our foreign relations have assumed grave importance in the last three years. The conduct of diplomatic intercourse is in the keeping of the Executive.

President Is Assailed For Vera Cruz Fiasco

The dealings of the Administration with Mexico, constitute a confused and chaotic picture. The President has helped Mexico. She lies prostrate, impoverished, famine stricken, overburdened with debt, and a victim of internecine strife, the helpless victim of a condition of anarchy which the course of the Administration only has deepened. It is in this spirit that I respond to your summons.

Object Not Gained By Acts in Mexico.

In the light of the conduct of the Administration no one could understand its professions. Decried interference, we interfered most exasperatingly. We have not even kept out of actual conflict, and the soil of Mexico is stained with the blood of our soldiers. We have resorted to physical invasion, only to retire without gaining the slightest object. It is a record which cannot be examined without a profound sense of humiliation.

Naked Truth Revealed By Cabinet Officer

Recently the naked truth was admitted by a Cabinet officer. We are now informed that "we did not go to Vera Cruz to force Huerta to salute the flag." We are told that we went there "to show Mexico that we were in earnest in our demand that Huerta must go." That is, we seized Vera Cruz to depose Huerta. The question of the salute was a mere pretext.

It rests chiefly with him whether we shall show competence or incompetence; whether the national honor shall be maintained; whether our prestige and influence shall be lowered or advanced. What is the record of the Administration?

The first duty of the Executive was to command the respect of the world by the performance of his obvious obligation. Still, after making every allowance for certain commendable appointments, it is apparent that this obligation was not performed.

At the very beginning of the present Administration, where in the direction of the policy of the Administration, we have been conspicuous strength and expertise, we had weakness and ineffectiveness. We invited distrust of our competence and speculation as to our capacity for firmness and decision. Thus entangling ourselves in difficulties which otherwise could have been escaped.

Herick Withdrawal Cited As Administration Blunder.

The record showing the Administration's disregard of its responsibilities with respect to our representation in diplomacy is an open book and the specifications may easily be had. It is a record revealing professions belied. It is a record of failure to those who believe in Americanism.

Punitive Expedition Viewed as Menace.

The Santa Yzabel massacre, the raid at Columbia, the bloodshed at Carrizal are fresh in your minds. After the Columbus raid, we started a "punitive expedition." We sent a column of hundreds of miles into Mexico, between two lines of railway, neither of which we were allowed to use and which we did not feel at liberty to seize.

Says Administration Sought to Destroy Huerta.

The question is not as to the non-recognition of Huerta. The Administration did not content itself with refusing to recognize Huerta, who was recognized by Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Spain, and Japan. The Administration undertook to destroy Huerta, to control Mexican politics, to deny Huerta the right to be a candidate for the office of President at the election the Administration demanded.

Denounces Alien Plots As "Intolerable" Here

We denounce all plots and conspiracies in the interest of any foreign nation. Utterly intolerable is the use of our soil for alien intrigues. Every American must unreservedly condemn them and support every effort to destroy them. But here also, prompt, vigorous and adequate measures on the part of the Administration were needed.

Sees no Militarism In Preparation.

We are a peace loving people, but we live in a world of arms. We have no thought of aggression, and we desire to pursue our democratic ideals without the waste of strife. So denoted are we to these ideals, so intent upon their development that I do not believe that there is the slightest danger of militarism in this country. Adequate preparedness is not militarism; it is the essential assurance of security; it is a necessary safeguard of peace.

It was "almost certain that reprisals on American citizens would have followed and lives would have been lost." We had no intention of the least violence to our own citizens at Vera Cruz.

Stands Firmly for American Rights.

In this age of composite population, drawing its strength from every race, the national security demands that there shall be no parting with American rights. The greater the danger of divisive influences, the greater is the necessity for the maintenance of a just, strong and patriotic position.

Resolutions Would Not Have Caused War.

It is a great mistake to say that resolutions in protecting American rights would have caused war. Rather, it is the best assurance of peace. Weakness and indecision in the maintenance of known rights are always sources of great danger; they forfeit respect and invite serious wrongs, which in turn create an uncontrollable popular resentment.

Temporarily Success A "Fool's Paradise"

When we contemplate industrial and commercial conditions we see that we are living in a fool's paradise. The principle of democracy to which our political point has been created by the Constitution, had no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue.

Denounces European Stand

The last analysis does not rest upon the condition that there shall be a stable basis for honest enterprise. Put transportation On Sure Footing. This subject has several important phases to which at this time I can allude only briefly. We should place our transportation system on a sure footing.

Insists on Adequate And Efficient Defense

We demand adequate national defense; adequate protection on both our Western and Eastern coasts. We demand thoroughness and efficiency in both arms of the service. It seems to be plain that our regular army is too small. We are too great a country to require of our army the sort of military service to which they are now called.

Attacks European Stand

Denounces All "Plots and Conspiracies in Interest of Any Foreign Nation." The last analysis does not rest upon the condition that there shall be a stable basis for honest enterprise. Put transportation On Sure Footing. This subject has several important phases to which at this time I can allude only briefly.

Such conditions to exist is almost incredible. In the demand for reasonable preparedness the Administration has followed, not led. Those who demand more adequate forces were first described as "nervous and excited."

Blames the Administration for Deplorable Conditions Now Existing in Mexico.

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Object Not Gained By Acts in Mexico.

In the light of the conduct of the Administration no one could understand its professions. Decried interference, we interfered most exasperatingly. We have not even kept out of actual conflict, and the soil of Mexico is stained with the blood of our soldiers.

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Makes Strong Demand for Adequate Preparedness for This Nation.

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