

AMERICANISM AND PREPAREDNESS TOPICS OF RAYMOND ROBINS' KEYNOTE SPEECH

In his keynote speech as temporary chairman of the Progressive convention, Raymond Robins discussed Americanism and preparedness. Among other things he said:

"Let us in every way seek to avoid repeating that irony of history whereby the men with little of property, with little of freedom and of comfort to preserve against a foreign foe have been called so often in the name of patriotism to defend the sacred lives and property of the few who thereafter continue to enjoy the major part of the blessings of liberty, for which the many have fought and suffered and died. We are rightly told that we are not worthy of self-government unless we are able and willing to defend that government. Let us also see to it that our government is worthy of defense. * * * Let us see to it that the money cost of armament shall be borne by that property which is safeguarded and by that commerce on the highways of the world which the American flag is once again promptly and surely to protect. Let us see to it that the human cost in service under arms shall be borne equally by all our citizenry. * * * We want no military caste in this republic. We will have none if each man serves his training time and then returns to civil life—better physically and with a better understanding of the facts of war. * * * With universal suffrage and universal service there will be no needless wars. * * * Any program for national security in time of war that does not involve social and economic security in time of peace is false to the needs of nation's life.

"Narrow-chested and gray-blooded children living in dark rooms in congested tenement districts, eating adulterated food and corrupted in

their childhood by an environment of dives, gambling dens and brothels, are a poor foundation for a first line of defense. Men and women who receive regularly less than a living wage or work exhausting hours in daily toll under anti-social conditions will have little enthusiasm in defending a country that has so poorly defended them. The social human waste from insanitary homes, sweated labor and immoral living conditions is as much a fact of national weakness as the lack of guns and ammunition. 'A nation must be worth living in to be worth dying for.'"

Progressive Principles.—"But we would solemnly warn all those of easy and accommodating political virtue that we will not surrender principle nor make unworthy compromise to gain a meaningless and selfish political victory. We would rather face possible defeat fighting for our cause than to seek assured victory through moral treason to those high principals and heroic souls that combined to make us the 'second party of this nation in 1912.'"

Saying that the Progressives stand for Americanism and preparedness, Mr. Robins said the supreme need was for a MAN—and his description of the man was that of Roosevelt.

RUSSIAN DRIVE ON AUSTRIA GROWS—30,000 CAPTURED

London, June 7.—The interest of the military critics of Europe is now centered on the armies of the czar. The bear's offensive has now been in operation for a week, each day growing in length of line attack and in frequency of infantry rushes. According to official announcement from Petrograd, the drive has already resulted in the capture of nearly 30,000 prisoners, together with cannon and small arms.