

# THE FORENSIC

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## **EFFECTIVENESS IN EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

To be effective an extemporaneous speech must possess the following qualities.

**FIRST.**—It must engage the subject directly. It must take up the topic assigned and develop it in a natural manner. It should not cut off only a part of the subject or give it some unnatural interpretation. Every listener should feel satisfied that the speaker has taken up the task it was intended he should when the topic was assigned to him.

**SECOND.**—The speech must show that the speaker has a knowledge of his subject. He must get beyond mere general assertions. He should mention names, give dates, and employ facts and figures. The use of specific and intimate details indicates an acquaintance with the subject which secures the confidence of the listeners.

**THIRD.**—The speech must show progress. It should begin at one point and move towards another without a halt in the advance. The listener must never feel that he is standing still. Two simple devices will help to secure progress. There should first be an arrangement of topics in their logical order. One should lead up to another. This requires an outline. Second, an enumeration of topics helps both the speaker and the listener; such as, "This plan has these three advantages," or "the arguments against it are, first...., second...."

**FOURTH.**—There must be variety in development. One topic should be developed in a narrative manner to contrast with the next which is a logical analysis. "A personal experience used as an illustration serves to set off a set of statistics in the following paragraph." Variety in development permits of variety in delivery.

**FIFTH.**—The speech must have the power to impress itself upon the minds of the listeners. It should lead logically and inevitably to some definite conclusion which can be stated in a single sentence. There should be some striking assertion, some pat illustration, or some forceful expression which will linger in the mind after the speaker has left the platform. Most of what a speaker says is forgotten before he is thru, but a figure of speech, a word picture, or a skilfully constructed climax may haunt the memory of the audience for days. Such forceful expressions are usually not happy accidents, but must be planted judiciously thruout the speech by conscious effort.

## EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING IN AMERICAN COLLEGES

The first regularly instituted extemporaneous contests within a college, as far as I can find out, were the Hill prize contests established in Grinnell College in the early 90's. These contests originally came in Commencement Week the day before the Hyde prize contests in old line oratory. Never was there a more striking proof of the superiority of extemporaneous speaking over the old line type than these two contests furnished. A handful of audience attended the memorized speech contest, a full auditorium turned out to hear the vigorous, peppy contest in extempore speaking. Few men cared to enter the one, half the college wanted to try out for the other.

As far as I know, Macalester College was the first college to inaugurate contests with other colleges. Annual contests with Hamline University were arranged, and also with North Dakota University. Here again the interest both of speakers and of audience warranted going still further, so I was not surprised at the interest shown by colleges over the country when Pi Kappa Delta established the first national college contest in extemporaneous speaking in the United States. For there is no doubt whatever, and practically every great public speaker in the United States will bear me out, that the extemporaneous type of speaking is the most valuable type, unless it be debating, that the colleges can put in an organized form before the students of the country.—*Glen Clark, Professor of English, Minnesota Alpha, Macalester College.*

## THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION AND SPEECH CONGRESS

Fort Collins, Greeley, Estes Park, Colorado

March 29, 30, 31, April 1, 1926

Convention objective: Means of increasing public interest in inter-collegiate debating.

### Contests:

#### MEN

Fort Collins

March 29, 1:00 P. M.

Preliminaries in  
Oratory,  
Debate,  
Extemporaneous speaking.

#### WOMEN

Greeley

March 29, 1:00 P. M.

Preliminaries in  
Oratory,  
Debate,  
Extemporaneous speaking.

Finals in all contests in Estes Park, March 30, 31. Railroad rates, fare and a half for round trip under conditions given on page 136.

"Demosthenes, when taunted by Pytheas that all his arguments "smelled of the lamp," replied, "Yes, but your lamp and mine, my friend, do not witness the same labours."—*Plutarch—"Life of Demosthenes."*

## SOME WINNING EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECHES

### LEADERS IN AMERICAN POLITICS

Catherine McCune, South Dakota Beta, Huron College

(This speech was awarded first place in the extempore contest of Northern Provincial IKA convention, at Dakota Wesleyan University, April 8-10, 1925.)

The most tragic figures of history are those men who might have been leaders. In our own generation we have William Jennings Bryan, an admirable man,—a man who held forth great promise but who failed us. We have two men who attempted to win places of leadership last November—John W. Davis, and Bob Lafollette. Both men held great promise for us but both men lacked something which might have made them leaders of the American people. Both men had some qualities of leadership but they failed when the final test came.

It would be a platitude to say that leadership is important and yet we, as citizens in this great Democracy, must realize that we must have good leadership. For though it sounds trite to say leadership is important, nevertheless this is a fundamental fact in our form of government. We have seen now that leadership is important, we have glanced briefly at our defeated leaders, but what are the elements which the people of America look for in choosing successful leaders? There are two things for which the people of America always look. The first of these things is that a leader shall hold the confidence of the people and of his co-workers. The second element which we require in every leader, to use the slang expression, is that he shall "deliver the goods." That is, we demand that not only shall the leader enjoy the confidence of the people, but that he shall have the vision and the dynamic energy, which will bring results.

In all the different branches of government we need leadership. I might recall to you today hundreds and thousands of leaders in all parts of our nation. But instead of that I hope that you will think with me briefly of outstanding leaders in the outstanding branches of our American politics.

Let us consider, first of all, the legislative branch of our government. We have in the House of Representatives, as Speaker of the House, Representative Longworth, and in the Senate the Vice-President, Charles Dawes. Every Senator and every Representative is in some re-



spect a leader of our American people. But these men are representative of the leadership in the Legislative Department of our government.

Of Longworth, we know little. We know of him that he commands the confidence of his constituency. But of his probable policy as speaker of the House we can only conjecture. Will he be another Uncle Joe Cannon, who ruled the House of Representatives with an iron fist, who imposed his will upon our representatives? Or will he be a mere automaton, giving that man the floor or recognizing this man? We cannot wish that Longworth shall be a dictator, nor would we want him to be a mere puppet! But surely there must be some middle course which he will follow that will make him a trusted leader in Congress.

In connection with Vice-President Dawes, we have two of the most dramatic instances in American history. First of all, came his dramatic challenge to the Senate on March 4, when he laid down the law, upsetting all the tradition of the Senate and showing his disregard of Senate procedure. Surely there was great promise here that this leader of the American people should "deliver the goods." But less than three weeks later came another dramatic moment in American history, when Vice-President Dawes rushed into the Senate just too late, to break the tie vote on the appointment of Warren, when he failed to fulfill the promise he had made! Must we then infer that Vice-President Dawes will always come in just too late or must we conclude that with his ideals, his vision, and with his dynamic energy he may yet produce results!

We are told that Americans are always concerned with the "almighty dollar" and since we are concerned in the prosperity and financial welfare of our country it is only proper that we should consider our leadership along this line.

We have two men in our government today who are admirably fitted to this work—Herbert Hoover and Andrew Mellon. These two men have shown us during the past administration, what their ability is in bringing prosperity to our government. They have succeeded in cutting down by one-fifth, the national debt. But they have a greater task before them,—That of maintaining proper balance between tax reduction and expenditure which is necessary for the progress of our nation. The settlement of this problem is what we shall expect of them during the next four years.

Since we have considered what our leadership is in our own country, let us go farther afield. As citizens of this Republic we must not only see the importance of our welfare, but of our relations to the whole world. We are not a separate entity, isolated—set off by ourselves. Our whole welfare is bound up with that of other nations and with the common welfare of the world.

Now, let us think of our leadership in foreign relations. The outstanding man in this field at this time is Senator Borah, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Senator Borah is, first, a firm

constitutionalist. That is a fine thing. Second, Senator Borah believes that the people of America should not entangle themselves politically with any other nation. That is a fine thing. And because Senator Borah is so fundamentally conservative, he commands the respect and confidence of the American people. But we question whether his attitude on foreign relations goes far enough, whether it has the idealism and the vision which is necessary. Searching his policy further we find that he believes in co-operation between ourselves and the people of Europe in any way which will not bring us into political entanglements with them. He does not think that we should join the League of Nations, because that would mean in his eyes political entanglements. But he does believe that we should go into the World Court if it is divorced from the League. He does believe that we should co-operate in economic and judicial conferences, while keeping ourselves distinctly aloof along political lines. Thus we see some ray of hope in Senator Borah's attitude in foreign relations. And though he may seem at times conservative, the American people may still hope that he will lead us on in our relations with other nations, to the highest sort of co-operation. Senator Borah has proved himself worthy to command the confidence of the American people.

The man in our government who commands the greatest respect and the greatest confidence is Calvin Coolidge. He is our supreme leader. Since the great war when it was so obviously proved to us that Americans could not keep themselves from all contact with other peoples we have wondered sometimes in what direction our relations with other nations are going. We have no Woodrow Wilson with his high ideals to lead us on to higher planes. We have no Theodore Roosevelt with his brisk determination to guide us through. But the man to whom we must turn is Calvin Coolidge. How does Calvin Coolidge measure up to our ideals of what a successful leader should be? Obviously he commands the confidence of the American people. With an overwhelming vote behind him he took his oath in the inauguration on March, as president. Evidently he commands the respect and confidence of his co-workers. But though he commands the respect of the people and his co-workers, we may wonder whether he will "deliver the goods." During the last year and a half, he has done wonderful work as president. But we have a suspicion, well founded in truth, that he was simply carrying on the ideals of President Harding. In his new administration, will he prove to be the leader the American people think him to be?

On March 4, last, I listened to Calvin Coolidge speak. I wonder how many of you here tonight heard him give his inaugural address? I wonder how many of you realized the greatness of that speech. There are two things in the program which he laid down. First, the things concerning our own domestic affairs. We have previously seen what our leadership is along this line. The second part of his program was concerned with foreign affairs. Here too we have great leadership. There were two things in this inaugural address which were particularly

striking. One of these was the fact that the entire speech was permeated with religious feeling. The second outstanding characteristic was the wealth of underlying principles, striking phrases, and great ideals. No other man in an inaugural address has laid down such broad principles of government as Calvin Coolidge laid down on March 4. If he lives up to those principles he will be a great man indeed. But these principles were not mere words. He also laid down a practical program in regard to both domestic and foreign affairs and there is adequate leadership in both lines to take us on to victory.

Thus with the co-operation of the American people, the vision and the dynamic energy and a concrete program he may produce results. Calvin Coolidge stands as our greatest living example of successful leadership. Surely under his guidance America shall go forward to great things.

### CRITICISM

First, this speech represents a fair attempt to meet the requirements of the subject. Second, it abounds in definite material, altho there are yet places which show a lack of it, the treatment of Longworth, for example. Third, the analysis of leaders into groups and the naming of one leader after another give a feeling of progress. Fourth, more variety is needed. This could be easily secured by some variation in the method of treatment of the various people mentioned. Fifth, the speech is well knit together. There are a few more or less powerful statements which will be remembered. The use of the interrogative sentences gives variety and force to the speech, but is employed perhaps too much. Progress is slow in places where one sentence repeats the statement of the sentence before. Better expression would help this.

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### CRITICISM

*(Marshall and the Constitution)*

First, this speech, while it does not avoid the subject, does not meet it as directly and fully as it should. Second, it lacks somewhat in specific material. This is not true of the last part. Third, the variety of material creates a sense of progress. Fourth, there is a pleasing variety all thru the speech. Fifth, some of the illustration, particularly because they specify pictures and are given as the experience of the speaker, make a forceful appeal and will be remembered. The statement that the English friend had one of the original copies of the Constitution makes us wonder why our government should go to the trouble of preserving its copy in a glass case.

## MARSHALL AND THE CONSTITUTION

**Andrew Coleman, Oklahoma Beta, University of Tulsa**

(This speech was awarded first place in the men's extempore contests of the Southwestern Provincial IKA convention, at Stillwater, Oklahoma, April 2-4.)

I feel today much like Eddie Guest when he said, "The Lord never intended me for a public speaker or He would have given me a different pair of knees to work with." However, it is always a pleasure to speak on the subject of the Constitution. Now that I look back over the past few years of my life, it seems strange that I never knew very much about the constitution until after my high school period. Stranger still, it was an Englishman who gave me the first vision of what the Constitution should mean to me.

In the spring of 1922 I was visiting in Portsmouth, England, in the home of a friend of mine. One day in the drawing room he pointed to a framed document above his coat-of-arms, and said, "My friend, there is one of the original copies of the American Declaration of Independence." I was surprised that such a document should be in the home of an Englishman, and so I said, "Then you think so much of this great document of ours."

"Yes," he said, "but there is something I think more of, and a something I would like to hang above this copy of the Declaration of Independence."

"What is that?" I asked.

He answered, "A copy of your Constitution."

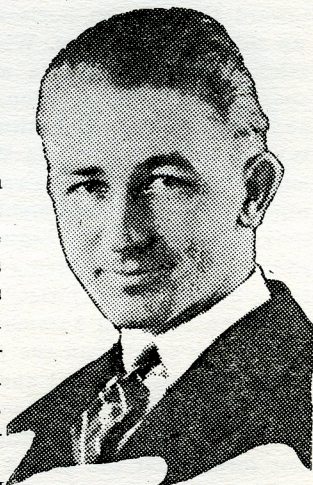
"Then you admire our Constitution?" I inquired.

"Yes," he said, "but even yet there is something greater and that is the unwritten constitution given you by that master jurist, John Marshall. It was he who gave flexibility to that great document which is now your heritage."

I answered, "But I have never heard very much about John Marshall."

Then in a kindly way he placed his arm about my shoulder and said, "My friend, you will come to realize that you cannot speak the word 'Constitution' without thinking of John Marshall, or speak of John Marshall without thinking of the Constitution. They are inseparable, and my advice to you is to begin at once to seek knowledge of them." John Marshall and the Constitution; a subject with beauty and sentiment.

One day I stood on the ruins of ancient Carthage and saw the place



where Hannibal daily knelt and vowed vengeance upon Rome. Looking towards Rome, the Mediterranean Sea stretched as an unbroken field of blue. What inspiration. Surely a civilization built under such inspiration would thrive. But no, I looked about me and there before me lay stones piled upon stones, the barren city a glistening white under the rays of the noon-day sun. The code under which Carthage lived was wrong; her scale of values was wrong, and so today Carthage lies in barren ruins on the shores of Northern Africa.

On another day I stood in the top of the Woolworth tower and looked out over the great city of New York, and then on and on over toward the western horizon where lay the commonwealths which make up this union of ours. What is it that makes this nation so great, you ask? Under what code are we living? And then perhaps you may answer your own question, "Why, the Constitution is the guide to our national life. The Constitution is the code under which we live." Surely, that is not all, for in Washington the original copy of the Constitution of the United States rests under a plate of glass. The ink is beginning to fade; the document is beginning to crumble. Surely we are not living under a rigid, fading document. No, we may truthfully say in addition that we are living under a great unwritten Constitution as given to us by that great jurist, John Marshall.

John Marshall became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1801. During his service on the Supreme Court bench fifty-one decisions were made on Constitutional questions. In thirty-four of these John Marshall rendered the decision himself, indicating with what great scope of interpretation his mind worked on Constitutional questions. And we must not forget that the period of Marshall was a critical one. Many cases were arising under the Constitution, testing its very fundamentals. Let us remember that during Marshall's time there was the greatest array of lawyers ever presented at one time in American history; Pinckney, Martin, Clay, Calhoun, and the towering Webster heading the list of Marshall's contemporaries. These men argued Constitutional cases before Marshall, and Marshall had to decide in the face of these great legal minds. He was equal to the task, and oftentimes in a single sentence he would clear away the fog of long arguments, and present the issue at hand in such a clear way that there was no doubt left as to the wisdom of his decision.

Through such decisions Marshall rendered a great service to his country, because in them he formed a precedent of a great unwritten Constitution, which has come to form a great unwritten law that serves to hold the American people more closely together. In such ways Marshall was the greater welder of the Constitution. So, however we may try otherwise, when we think of the Constitution we think of Marshall. We cannot think of one without thinking of the other. They go together.

We may, therefore, place upon the tomb of Marshall these words; "Here lies the body of John Marshall—expounder and welder of the Constitution."

## CAN LEGISLATION BRING HELP TO THE FARMER?

Harold Roberts, Missouri Delta, William Jewell College

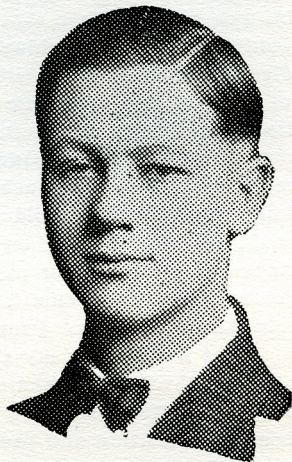
(This speech was awarded first place in the men's extempore contest at the Western Provincial IKA convention, at Culver-Stockton College, April 23-25, 1925.)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: The chairman has been kind enough to state my topic. I find myself indebted to the first three speakers who have preceded me on tonight's program for stimulating me in thought upon my subject by their brief, but well-taken remarks concerning the agricultural problem with which we are today confronted. I am happily indebted to the gentlemen for very considerably leaving me something to say about a subject rather hard to approach.

I am sure that there is none of you who hasn't had called to his mind a question of current and, may I say, momentous importance? Perhaps you have been face to face with it as a farmer or a farmer's wife or son. Perhaps it has been called to your mind by that rather crude question voiced in a popular song set to the music that we term indigenous to the Hottentot. The question rather uncouthly stated, but of compelling importance today, is "how are you going to keep them down on the farm?" It must be to the answer of this question that thoughtful Americans address themselves.

I am not here to eulogize the farmer. I rather think that as our great orator said of Massachusetts, the farmer "needs no encomium." The farmer is the man behind the throne of stability and yet we have made it hard for him to enjoy stability. The farmer has fed the millions as they rushed madly to progress almost too hurriedly to pause to thank him. Something must be done. I realize how intangible is my subject. However, it is my frank opinion that legislation can bring help to the farmer if it be conditioned on a practical understanding of the farmer's needs and not on political expediency.

Of one thing I am quite sure, that the policy of *laissez faire* must go. We must act. We must legislate for the farmer. I shall even subscribe to paternalism in his favor if nothing else can be done. Far too long have we regarded the farmer's problems as the sunshine and the rain—to be accepted but done nothing about. The farmer buys in a protected market and sells in an unprotected market and we sit idly by and by our silence assent to this unfairness. We learn from the wisdom of



little children. I remember the story I read not long ago. The little farmer's boy asked of his father:

"Daddy, why is it that we always ask the storeman what he will give us for what we have to sell and how much he will take for what we want to buy?"

The national government must legislate laws of a remedial nature for this end. We have regulated the hours of women and children in industry—in late years there has been no end of legislation by the federal government to alleviate bad social and economic conditions. I recall that when Viscount Bryce first published his "American Commonwealth" he was able to state that the state government had an almost absolute control over the individual, that rarely did the national government reach directly down to him. But modern progress with its attending problems of a social and economic character has altered the situation. Uniformity was needed. States bickering among themselves presented a hopeless outlook. The only recourse was action by the national government and more and more has such action been taken. Today the statement of Lord Bryce doesn't hold good. The farmer is held back by evils that could be remedied by legislation. The second speaker, Mr. Tate, mentioned that the farmer pays for the paved road while the motor bus proprietor reaps the benefit. The merchant, the manufacturer, the packer have the advantage. Proper legislation could equalize matters.

But I condition my statement. Such legislation must be passed out of a practical understanding of the farmer's needs and not as political expediency. Too often we have been angered by a Congress mutilating needed legislation and passing it only after it has been emasculated of its strength because of party play. Sometimes the Congress and the President have used their law making powers and so shaped their veto as to secure re-election. The bonus bill that makes it possible for a man to get his bonus only at death is a marked example of political expediency. It must not be so in the farmer's case.

Fortunately the executive and the Congress seem to have sensed the real need. Despite the fact that I have been reared in a staunch Democratic home and taught that judicious action was second fiddle with all Republican presidents, I must confess that Mr. Coolidge's action in appointing Mr. Jardine is a severe blow to my teaching. Mr. Jardine has risen by dint of hard work. He is in vital touch with the farmer's needs. He understands the grave biological and economic aspects of the farmer's problems. He has captured us by his ready work. He speaks candidly of the situation. He calls big business to his aid. Unthinking persons accuse him of being too close to big business. It is an unmerited accusation. Big business and the farmer need to be friends; each can be of benefit to the other and Mr. Jardine readily seeks to establish helpful relationships.

Nor has Congress been idle. The Purnell act has trebled the expenditures to be used in educating the farmer. This is the true course

of action. Better methods of farming, how to preserve the fertility of the soil by rotation of crops, a genuine appreciation of the true worth of farming,—these are the crying needs of the farmer. Beneficent legislation that sponsors education will bring help. Let Congress be advised by economists. This is not a problem for cornerstore whittlers or members of the court-house stove league who hold their sessions in mid-winter. Let legislation be of a judicious practical character and the farmer will then enjoy his deserved profit.

### CRITICISM

First, the speech only half way engages the subject. While the answer to the question is a definite "yes," the material employed in the development is not direct. Second, there is a real lack of specific material which shows a knowledge of the subject. Third, there is lack of progress. It is hard to measure how far we have gone as we finish the speech. Fourth, there is some variety and also the of it. Fifth, the speech, since it does not frankly enough take up the subject, does not make a clear-cut impression. Outside of the story told, it lacks vigor and force of expression. "Legislate laws" is an example of how not to use words.

## SHOULD THE UNITED STATES DEMAND THE PAYMENT OF THE INTERALLIED WAR DEBTS?

Edith E. Frieden, Iowa Eta, Upper Iowa University

(This speech was awarded first place in the women's extempore contest at the Western Provincial IKA convention, at Culver-Stockton College, April 23-25, 1925.)

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Since the close of the great World War the problem of the interallied war debt has been one of the most important and vexing before our country. In considering the problem we must deal with three important factors; the justness of the debt, the ability of the allies to pay, and the effect of this payment of debts.



First, in estimating the justness of the debt, our attention is called to the loans made by our country during the war and also to the benefits we derived from the war. If we had been asked whether we wished to furnish men or money we would undoubtedly have named the latter. We were given no choice, however, for money was greatly in demand and the allied countries had none to offer; hence the United States gave financial aid. When we gave our millions to the cause, we did not give it as a donation, but as a loan. The other countries did not lend the lives of men—they donated their men to the cause. Hence, we are now able to calculate the debt owed to us financially, but

the allies cannot estimate the human losses which they sustained in the terms of dollars and cents. Are we therefore justified in asking for the payment of this money when we did not make nearly so great a sacrifice as the other countries?

Before the war we were heavily in debt—we owed money to several European countries. Since we loaned so much money during the war, we are now creditors in almost all the allied countries. Thus, the United States benefitted financially by the war. Because of the United States' failure to make donations rather than loans, and because of our financial benefits it seems that we cannot but consider the war debt unjust.

We must next consider the ability of the allies to pay. This calls our attention to the dependency of the European countries upon each other. If we demand our money from England, that country must be paid by France. If France is to pay England, it must receive payment from Germany. We know, however, that Germany is at present unable to pay. Because of this status, our demand for payment of the debt would necessitate crushing of France. In this case, the United States would be called upon for aid and we shall have gained nothing. This

close relationship among the countries makes the question of the debt a vast problem.

We must also consider a means of payment of the interallied war debt. This might be by either of three methods, namely; gold, imports, or by the three corner system.

If we were to ask for gold in payment, we might expect to be paid for only a small part of the debt, for there is a very limited amount of gold in all the European countries. Then, if all the gold were taken from the treasuries, no capital and hence no means of production would be left as resources for our debtors. Consequently, by this means we would hamper all chances of payment.

In consideration of exports as a means of payment, we must remember that the United States already has an over supply of production. During the war, we learned to produce goods that we had previously imported. At the present time, we are equipped to supply all of the needs of our country. If we accept the exports of European countries, our country will be flooded with produce which will result in a great deal of waste to us.

Our last resort in finding a means of payment might seem to be the three corner system, but even that has proved itself inadequate. If we export goods from the United States, we must expect to lose on the transactions, and allow the other countries to gain if we wish to have the allied countries replenish their treasuries. If we do this, however, our country will be approaching an economic downfall—we will be paying the European countries the very money by which they in turn will pay their debt. By this means, there can be no gain in our demanding the payment, for we will lose rather than profit and much time and labor will have been uselessly expended. Thus it seems that neither gold, exports, nor the three corner system will supply us with the needed means of payment.

Before we ask the allied countries to pay the debt, we must consider what the effect of the payment would be. It is important that we think especially of the effects on economic and social conditions. It seems that the economic burden would bear more heavily on France than on any of the other countries. If that country were forced to pay her debts and could receive in turn no payment from Germany, poverty would reign. No means of production would remain and France would be left with no funds and no possibilities of advancement. Social destruction would also be wrought. Poverty would bring about its appalling results. The only possibility of saving France and other countries from such a condition is by financial aid from some other country.

Since the United States is the only nation so situated that it can supply this aid, the burden would again fall on us. Thus, because of the social and economic effects in other countries and because of the immediate burden upon us, the results of the payment of the debts are evident.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, the unjustness of the debt, the