
Address to the American People.

Adopted by the Conference for Progressive Political Action
at its Founding Conference, Chicago, IL, Feb. 20-21, 1922.

Published in *The Socialist World* [Chicago], v. 3, no. 2 (Feb. 1922), pp. 3-4.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

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, reassert, upon this 190th 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 corner stones 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.

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 in 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 nationwide 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 indi-

viduals 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 laws 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.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2005. • Free reproduction permitted.