

# WOODROW WILSON

## THE LIGHT WITHDRAWN

### Extended Notes

#### 20. 'Impossible'

PAGE

- 253 *hundred cars ... "letters of fire"*: "Signal by the President Bathes Liberty Statue in Flood of Light," *New York Times*, December 3, 1916, 1; "Wind Brings Down Suff Bird Women," *New York Sun*, December 3, 1916, 8; John Carver Edwards, *Orville's Aviators: Outstanding Alumni of the Wright Flying School, 1910–1916* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2009), 12; "First Woman War Aviator," *Boston Globe*, December 3, 1916, 57; Eileen F. Lebow, *Before Amelia: Women Pilots in the Early Days of Aviation* (Dulles, VA: Brassey's, Inc., 2002), 216–17; "President Sets Liberty Aglow," *New York Sun*, December 3, 1916, 1; "Miss Law Tells of Her Record Flight," *New York Times*, November 20, 1916, 1.
- 254 *"conception of liberty"*: WW, After-Dinner Remarks, December 2, 1916, *PWW*, 40:120–21.
- 255 *"pose as a friend"*: David Morgan, *Suffragists and Democrats: The Politics of Woman Suffrage in America* (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 1972), 112–13.
- 255 *force the issue*: *SWP*, 180–82.
- 255 *formally dressed*: "President Urges Congress to Pass Railroad Laws ... Suffragists Cause a Stir," *New York Times*, December 6, 1916, 1; WW, Fourth Annual Message to Congress, December 5, 1916, *PWW*, 40:155.
- 256 *chose this passage ... newspapers across the country*: *SWP*, 180–82; "President Urges Congress to Pass Railroad Laws," *New York Times*, 1; "Wilson Avoids Foreign Rows in His Message," *Chicago Tribune*, December 6, 1.
- 256 *"suffrage coup"*: "President Wins Applause from Whole Congress ... Suffragists Produce 'Canned' Demonstration for Votes," *Reading (PA) News–Times*, December 6, 1916, 1.
- 257 *"robbed me"*: Champ Clark, *My Quarter Century in Politics* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1920), vol. 2, 406.
- 257 *"elephantine smart aleck"*: MAH, "The Woodrow Wilson I Knew," *Liberty Magazine*, vol. 1, no. 36 (January 3, 1925), 8–12, at 10.
- 257 *state action*: Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, *New Women of the New South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 147 and n42.
- 257 *did not attend*: "Tribute at Capitol for Mrs. Boissevain," *New York Times*, December 26, 1916, 11.
- 257 *Part religious service*: Katherine H. Adams and Michael L. Keene, *Alice Paul and the American Suffrage Campaign* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008), *Alice Paul*, 115.
- 257 *beside a banner*: Linda J. Lumsden, *Rampant Women: Suffragists and the Right of Assembly* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 174–77.
- 257 *formal resolution*: "The National Memorial Service in Memory of Inez Milholland," *The Suffragist*, vol. 4, no. 53 (December 30, 1916), 7–10.
- 258 *wrote President Wilson*: Alice Paul to WW, January 1, 1917, reel 209, #58955, image 655, Executive Office File, 1912–21, WWP.
- 258 *"would like to avoid"*: WW to Thomas Brahany, January 4, 1917, reel 209, #58956, image 656, Executive Office File, 1912–21, WWP.
- 258 *granted Paul's request*: WW to Thomas Brahany, January 8, 1917, reel 209, #58962, image 662, Executive Office File, 1912–21, WWP.
- 258 *audience with Wilson*: *SWP*, 188–90.
- 258 *"look in his eyes"*: *Ibid.*, 190.
- 258 *"impossible" ... patronizing them*: *JFF*, 52–57.
- 259 *confirmed this*: Three days after the Democratic convention, Wilson wrote to NAWSA president Carrie Chapman Catt to confirm that the plank in the platform leaving the decision on women's right to vote to the individual

- states had “received my entire approval before its adoption.” WW to Carrie Chapman Catt, June 19, 1916, *PWW*, 37:266; *SWP*, 162–63.
- 259 “coldness”: *JFF*, 57–58.
- 259 “indignation meeting”: “Suffragists Will Picket White House,” *New York Times*, January 10, 1917, 1; *JFF*, 58–60; “Pickets Posted at White House Today by Women,” *Washington Herald*, January 10, 1917, 1; Linda J. Lumsden, *Inez: The Life and Times of Inez Milholland* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004), 177–78.
- 259 “wait more”: *JFF*, 59.
- 259 “every kind of deputation”: *SWP*, 202.
- 259 “the Presidential eye”: “President Ignores Suffrage Pickets,” *New York Times*, January 11, 1917, 13.
- 259 *peaceful protest*: *Ibid.*; “President Ignores Suffrage Sentinels,” *Washington Herald*, January 11, 1917, 10.
- 260 *unseasonably mild*: “Weather Conditions,” *Washington Herald*, January 10, 1917, 14.
- 260 *red-painted balls*: Richard W. Winans, “How President Wilson’s Health Is Guarded,” *Christian Observer*, vol. 106, no. 11 (March 13, 1918), 20; Irwin Hood Hoover, *Forty-Two Years in the White House* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1934), 61.
- 260 *1,200 rounds*: Don Van Natta Jr., *First Off the Tee: Presidential Hackers, Duffers, and Cheaters from Taft to Bush* (New York: Public Affairs, 2003), 138. The 1,200 figure is a conservative estimate; the author opines that the total number of Wilson’s golf outings during his presidency may be closer to 1,600. See also John Fischer III, “The Golfing President,” The Golf Heritage Society, [golfheritage.org](http://golfheritage.org).
- 260 *stared straight ahead*: “President Ignores Suffrage Pickets,” *New York Times*, January 11, 1917, 13.
- 260 “mild form of militancy”: “President Ignores Suffrage Sentinels,” *Washington Herald*, January 11, 1917, 10.
- 260 “till time passed”: Helen Woodrow Bones to Jessie Woodrow Wilson Sayre, January 16, 1917, WWP17542, Wilson Presidential Library.
- 261 “any means”: WW, Address to a Joint Session of Congress on the Severance of Diplomatic Relations with Germany, February 3, 1917, *PWW*, 41:108.
- 261 “yellow races”: John Milton Cooper, Jr., *Woodrow Wilson: A Biography* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009), 375 and n33.
- 261 *organized enemies*: “Women Proffer Services,” *Washington Times*, February 10, 1917, 10.
- 261 *British suffragists*: Paula Bartley, *Emmeline Pankhurst* (London: Routledge, 2002), 183–86.
- 261 *private dinner*: WW Appointment Books 1915–1924, February 5, 1917, box 3, reel 3, WWP.
- 261 *dinner conversation*: The Navy Secretary may also have been selected because he was open to granting voting rights to women, albeit not Black women, and not via a federal amendment. Josephus Daniels, *The Wilson Era: Years of Peace—1910–1917* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), 457.
- 261 *instant results*: *HWS*, 5:720–25. Committing to support the war even before it was declared was quite a contortion for Catt personally, given her role as a founder of the Woman’s Peace Party. In the wake of her action, she was ousted from the party of which, until then, she had been Honorary Vice Chairman. “Peace Party Ousts Mrs. Carrie Catt,” *New York Times*, March 7, 1917, 11.
- 262 “no intention”: *HWS*, 5:723.
- 262 “one purpose”: “Suffragists Deny Split,” *New York Times*, February 24, 1917, 11.
- 262 “international situation”: *SWP*, 207; “Alice Paul Heads New Suff Party,” *New York Sun*, March 4, 1917, 8.
- 262 *gain adherents*: Nancy F. Cott, “Feminist Politics in the 1920s: The National Woman’s Party,” *Journal of American History*, vol. 71, no. 1 (June 1984), 43–68, at 46. In February 1917, NAWSA claimed a membership of more than two million members, while according to Paul, speaking in December 1917, the NWP’s relatively modest membership had grown to nearly 45,000 as of June that year. *HWS*, 5:723; Sidney Roderick Bland, “Techniques of Persuasion: The National Woman’s Party and Woman Suffrage, 1913–1919” (PhD diss., George Washington University, 1972), 142n34.
- 262 *four cabinet members*: *HWS*, 5:724–25.
- 263 “literally impossible”: *SWP*, 202; WW to JPT, February 8, 1917, reel 209, #59137, image 852, Executive Office File, 1912–21, WWP.