

Protest in Front of White House



the Administration
suffrage

"Mr. President, What Will You Do for Woman Suffrage"
Demonstration Banner Carried September 16



Washington Crowds Throw Money for Suffrage

President of the United States
I have endeavored to assist you in every way in my power,
of the amendment by an early vote.—Woodrow Wilson.

Frost, wife of Lieutenant Frost, of Uniontown, Pa., carrying the American flag, led the procession. The familiar banners, "How long must women wait for liberty?" and "Mr. President, what will you do for woman suffrage?" carried by Miss Elizabeth Kalb, of Houston, Texas, and Miss Katherine Morey, of Brookline, Mass., followed, and then came the speakers and the bearers of the suffrage colors.

Silently the pageant slipped by—forty women determined to let the world know that only action for liberty is significant to women at this time. A crowd had gathered about the monument, women and girls returning home from their offices in government buildings streamed along the streets and joined the throng, men hastening in all directions stopped to listen, for now the pageant had reached the monument and banners were raised high about the figure of Lafayette and his compatriots.

The same police force that has formerly followed the order to arrest any and every woman who steps upon the Lafayette statue to speak for democracy, just as nimbly followed the new order to preserve order in the crowd. No one was to

be allowed to interfere with this meeting; no mistakes were to be made this time.

BUT it would seem that the crowd itself had gathered in its repeated efforts to hear the interrupted speeches of these demonstrations, the significance of these meetings, for only applause greeted the demonstrators, and the police stood idly looking on and listening as Miss Bertha Arnold, of Colorado Springs, read the appeal to Lafayette written by Mrs. Richard Wainwright, wife of Rear Admiral Wainwright.

"L AFAYETTE, here we are!
We, the women of the United States, denied the liberty which you helped to gain, and for which we have asked in vain for sixty years, turn to you to plead for us.

"Speak, Lafayette! dead these hundred years but still living in the hearts of the American people. Speak again to plead for us, condemned like the bronze woman at your feet, to a silent appeal. She offers you a sword. Will you not use the sword of the spirit, mightier far than the sword she holds out to you.

"Will you not ask the great leader of our democracy to look upon the failure of our beloved country to be in truth the place where everyone is free and equal and entitled to a share in the Government? Let that outstretched hand of yours pointing to the White House recall to him his

words and promises, his trumpet call for all of us to see that the world is made safe for democracy.

"As our army now in France spoke to you there, saying, Here we are to help your country fight for liberty, will you not speak here and now for us, a little band with no army, no power but justice and right, no strength but in our Constitution and in the Declaration of Independence, and win a great victory again in this country by giving us the opportunity we ask to be heard through the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

"Lafayette, here we are!"

WHILE the crowd of men and women applauded and the police smiled and nodded, Miss Lucy Branham, of Baltimore, stepped forward to speak. Just at the foot of the statue stood Miss Julia Emory, of Baltimore, holding a flaming torch that flared and leaped as the speeches ran on.

"We want action," declared Miss Branham, and taking the torch, she held the futile words of the President's afternoon message in the flames and said as the ashes drifted away:

"The torch which I hold symbolizes the burning indignation of women who for a hundred years have been given words without action. In the spring our hopes were raised by words much like these from President Wilson, yet they were



Banner Bearers Leaving Lafayette Monument

permitted to be followed by a filibuster against our amendment on the part of Democratic Senate leaders.

"President Wilson still refuses any real support to the movement for the political freedom of women.

"This afternoon he again expresses interest in their freedom, but does not take the necessary steps to see that this freedom becomes an established fact. His expressions of interest, therefore, are merely empty words.

"Today, the chairman of the Rules Committee of the Senate, a spokesman for the Administration, stated that suffrage was not on the program for this session, and that the Senate was hoping to recess in a few days for the autumn election campaigns without taking up any other measure. Today, the chairman of the Woman Suffrage Committee in the Senate, another spokesman for the Administration, announced that he would not even call the Suffrage Committee together to consider taking a vote. This session is nearing its close and the President and his party refuse to take any effective step toward the passage of the suffrage measure.

"We, therefore, take these empty words, spoken by President Wilson this afternoon, and consign them to the flames.

"This is a symbol of the indignation of American women at the treatment given by the President to their plea for democracy.

"We have protested to this Administration by banners; we have protested by speeches; we now protest by this symbolic act.

"As in the ancient fights for liberty the crusaders for freedom symbolized their protest against those responsible for injustice by consigning their hollow phrases to the flames, so we, on behalf of

thousands of suffragists, in this same way today, protest against the action of the President and his party in delaying the liberation of American women.

"For five years, women have appealed to this President and his party for political freedom. The President has given words, and words, and words. Today, women receive more words. We announce to the President and the whole world today, by this act of ours, our determination that words shall not longer be the only reply given to American women—our determination that this same democracy for whose establishment abroad we are making the utmost sacrifice, shall also prevail at home."

AGAIN the applause broke forth among the listeners, and as Mrs. Jessie Hardy Mackaye, of Washington, stepped forward to speak, a man in the crowd handed her a twenty dollar bill for the Woman's Party. Others began passing up dollar bills and coins; the suffrage marshalls ran here and there collecting them as the crowd cheered and even the police entered into the fanciful idea of helping to make a Woman's Party demonstration a great success. Men in uniform applauded as Mrs. Mackaye spoke of the demand for democracy at home as well as in Europe.

"Against the two-fold attitude on the part of the Senate toward democracy, I protest with all the power of my being," she said. "The same Congress and the same Administration that are appropriating billions of dollars and enlisting the services of millions of men to establish democracy in Europe, is at the same time refusing to do so common a piece of justice as to vote to

submit the woman suffrage amendment to the states."

Mrs. Bertha Moller, of Minneapolis, who was the other speaker of the afternoon, said:

"The burning of the words of the leader of the party in power this afternoon will flash to the women of the West, among whom are millions of voters, a picture of what the real record of the Administration has been on the question of democracy for American women."

"I have come from the middle west," she added, "where we have labored and struggled for years for freedom. We have held meetings and demonstrations, we have sent petitions to our Congressmen and Senators, and we have raised money, and given time. Now there is nothing more that we can do at home, and we have come to Washington where the next step must come in the cause of human freedom.

"The women of the West have given, at the bidding of their government, their sons and husbands in the cause of world democracy. They are now demanding that the words which have been applied to other nations, be applied to their own."

ACROSS the avenue the White House gleamed in the sun; the President's car drove up to the door and President Wilson stepped in. There was a moment's pause, and then the driver with much difficulty and somewhat belated diplomacy turned the car around on the narrow driveway so that the President would not make his exit through the generous looking gate just opposite the monument. "The President is a good listener," someone murmured. But few noticed the President. They were listening to the plea for democracy at home. They were cheering the women who have given so freely for democracy in other lands. They were pondering over the thought that some millions of voting women are waiting for democratic action from this Administration.

The procession started back to headquarters, the police cleared the walks and street for this dignified and beautiful march, the crowd went murmuring its way, and the President went his, while bystanders read aloud the passing banner, "Mr. President, what will you do for woman suffrage?"

Nina Allender on the Suffrage Demonstration

I WANT to tell you what a perfectly beautiful thing the demonstration was. When I came in sight of that wonderful pageant of color it was like coming home. It was one of the most beautiful of all that the Woman's Party has staged. The banners, the gowns, the granite background, the circle of the crowd, and then the trees—it was glorious.

It is not necessary for me to say anything about the meaning of it all. I am just commenting as an artist upon one aspect of it. Washington ought to be grateful for such a beautiful pageant.