

# America Needs Hughes

By THEODORE ROOSEVELT

SINCE 1912 we have had four years of a policy which has been an opiate to the spirit of idealism.

It has meant the relaxation of our moral fibre.

A sordid appeal to self-interest and to fear has paralyzed the national conscience.

We have been told that Americans, if they do not wish to be killed, should leave Mexico and should keep off the ocean; that to save a few American lives it is not worth while to hazard the lives of American soldiers; that Mexicans should be allowed to spill blood to their hearts' content; that the European War is no concern of ours; that even as between Belgium and Germany we should be neutral not only in act but in sympathy!

Not once has President Wilson squarely placed before the American people the question which Abraham Lincoln put before the American people in 1860: what is our duty?

Not once has he appealed to moral idealism to the stern enthusiasm of strong men for the right.

On the contrary, he has employed every elocutionary device to lull to sleep our sense of duty, to make us content with words instead of deeds, to make our moral idealism and enthusiasm evaporate in empty phrases instead of being reduced to concrete action.

America as a nation has been officially kept in a position of timid indifference and cold selfishness.

America, which sprang to the succor of Cuba in 1898, has stood an idle spectator of the invasion of Belgium, of the sinking of the Lusitania, of the continued slaughter of our own citizens, and of the reign of anarchy, rapine and murder in Mexico.

Nevertheless, I believe that the American people were ready for the same kind of appeal



which was made to them by Abraham Lincoln in 1860, by the advocates of an honest currency in 1896, by the advocates of the Spanish War in 1898, by the advocates of Nationalism in 1900.

But the appeal was not made.

On the contrary, Mr. Wilson invoked the spirit of timidity and selfishness. He made no effort to invoke the sense of duty.

He put "safety first," the immediate safety of the moment, to be obtained by shrinking from duty.

He did not even put American rights first, still less did he put American duty first.

His task was not an especially difficult or dangerous task; but it needed a brave heart and a steady hand.

Under his lead America could and should have put itself at the head of all the neutral nations by its example, if not by direct diplomatic agreements, in demanding that the war should be conducted in accordance with the usage of civilized nations, that international law should be observed, that the rights of neutrals and non-combatants should be respected.

If this spirit had animated our administration there would probably have been no invasion of Belgium, no fears of a like fate to terrorize other smaller nations, no torpedoing of merchant vessels, no bombarding of churches and hospitals, no massacring of women and children, no murder of Miss Cavell, no attempted extermination of the Armenians and Syrian Christians.

We cannot undo what has been done. But we can repudiate what has been done. We can regain our own self-respect and the respect of other nations for this country. We can put in power an administration which will throughout its term of power protect our own citizens and live up to our national obligations.

It is just that this nation should concern itself with its rights; but it is even more necessary that it should concern itself with its duties.

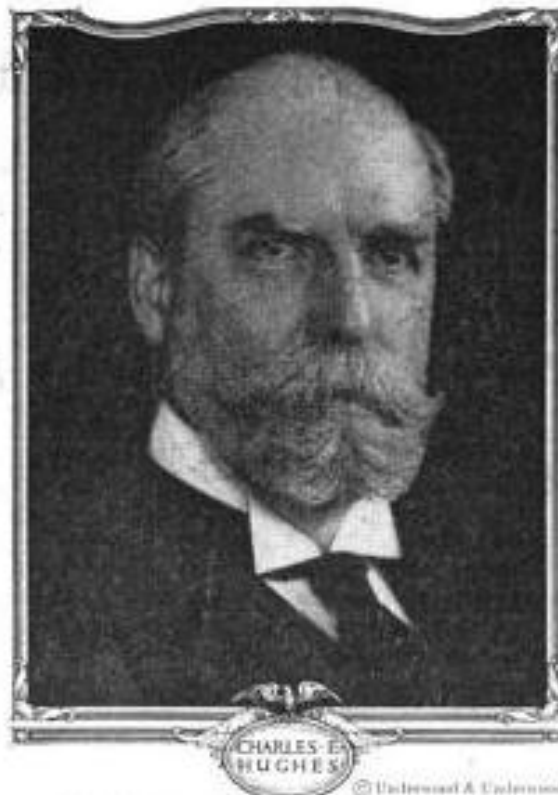
As between Mr. Hughes and Mr. Wilson, who can doubt which is the man who will, with austere courage, stand for the national duty?

Mr. Wilson's words have contradicted one another; and all his words have been contradicted by his acts.

Mr. Wilson's promise has not borne the slightest reference to his performance.

We have against him in Mr. Hughes a man whose public life is a guarantee that whatever he says he will make good, and that all his words will be borne out by his deeds.

Against Mr. Wilson's combination of grace in elocution, with futility in action; against his record of words unbacked by deeds or betrayed by deeds, we set Mr. Hughes' rugged



and uncompromising straightforwardness of character and action in every office he has held.

We put the man who thinks and speaks directly, and whose words have always been made good, against the man whose adroit and facile elocution is used to conceal his plans or his want of plans.

The next four years may well be years of tremendous national strain.

Which of the two men do you, the American people, wish at the helm during these four years; the man

who has been actually tried and found wanting, or the man whose whole career in public office is a guarantee of his power and good faith?

But one answer is possible; and it must be given by the American people through the election of Charles Evans Hughes as President of the United States.

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*Tear out and mail*

THE NATIONAL HUGHES ALLIANCE, 511 Fifth Avenue, New York City

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2. Enroll me as a member of The Hughes Alliance. I attach check which you may use in your efforts towards Mr. Hughes' election.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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In 1912 I voted for \_\_\_\_\_