TWENTY YEARS AFTER
WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

WENTY years ago today the United States declared war on the German Empire. It was January 3, 1917, and President Wilson delivered his famous speech to Congress saying, "I ask you to declare the existence of a hostile and aggressive purpose upon our country, and to declare war upon the German Empire." What is more, he added, "I ask you to declare war upon the German Empire and her allies with all our strength and with all our speed." It is now well established that our motives were not those of altruism. We fought, not to make the world safe for democracy, but to make the world's rich men safer for themselves.

The truth is that we fought, not to make the world safe for democracy, but to make our own democracy safe. And what is more, we made that democracy safe only by destroying it.

The democratic nations do not want war, it is therefore up to them to preserve peace. Only by strenuously resisting any efforts to use democracy as a tool to achieve our own ends, will what is our primary safeguard against war remain a safeguard.

The political leaders of the world must work at preserving peace. The power of governments is not only the power of government, it is the power of the people who elect them.