

ROY WILKINS

1937 - 1945

100

May 20, 1937

My dear Mr. Wilkins:

I am afraid that it is not going to be possible for me to speak during the annual conference of your Association in Detroit, as that will be a very busy time for me. My son is to be married on the 30th of June and my mother-in-law and youngest son sail on July 3, so that I must be here.

With many regrets, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Roy Wilkins
N.A.A. C.P.
69 Fifth Ave.
NYC

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
 ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: ALGONQUIN 4-3551

Official Organ: The Crisis



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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 The White House
 Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Last summer when Mr. Walter White wrote you inviting you to speak at one of the sessions of the 28th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Detroit, Mich., June 29 - July 4, you replied that you would be glad to speak if it could be arranged.

We hesitated to write you in any greater detail until we could know with more certainty about our program. Now we have the information, and we will be greatly honored if your schedule will permit you to speak to a mass meeting of our delegates and Detroit citizens on Tuesday night, June 29, or Friday night, July 2, or Sunday afternoon, July 4.

The June 29 meeting will be the opening mass meeting of the conference.

The July 2 meeting will be the occasion of the awarding of the 23rd Spingarn Medal given annually to the American Negro adjudged to have made the most distinguished achievement for his race. You will be interested to know, I am sure, that the award this year has been made by the committee to Mr. White, our secretary, for his efforts in behalf of legislation designed to secure the constitutional rights and privileges due the people of his race.

The July 4 meeting, Sunday afternoon, will be the closing mass meeting of the conference.

If your schedule will permit you to speak on any one of these dates, we can assure you that you will have a receptive audience not only in Detroit, but wherever colored Americans and their friends are gathered together, for this annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P.

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28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, DETROIT, MICH., JUNE 29th - JULY 4th, 1937

ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, 215 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

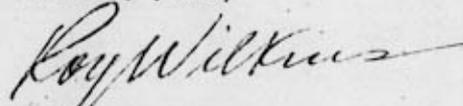
Have You Written Your Senators and Congressmen Urging Support of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill?

Mrs. Roosevelt
May 17, 1937
pg. 2

is generally conceded to be the most significant gathering of colored people in the United States.

Mr. White asks me to say to you that this matter of your addressing our conference was one of the items he wished to discuss with you when he wrote last week asking for a conference. I do not need to tell you that all of us in the association hope very much that it will be possible for you to be with us in Detroit.

Very sincerely yours,



Assistant Secretary,
N.A.A.C.P.

HW:DW

April 14, 1938

My dear Mr. Wilkins:

I am doing all I can about the matter of the National Training School for Girls, but, of course, I do not know what the outcome will be. I do hope the school can be maintained.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Roy Wilkins
Nat. Ass'n. for the Adv. of Col. People
69 - 5th NYC

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: ALGONQUIN 4-3551

Official Organ: The Crisis



April
12th
1938

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is deeply concerned over the move to evict the National Training School for Girls, of the District of Columbia, from its present quarters on Conduit Road, N.W.

We understand that you are interested in this matter and that information on certain aspects of it has been furnished you in detail by people in the District.

We will be grateful if you would use your influence to see that the National Training School for Girls is maintained in its present quarters, with a colored executive.

Very sincerely yours,

Roy Wilkins
Assistant Secretary

RW:LVS

July 26, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Wilkins:

Thank you very much for your letter. I suggest you see the head of the women's division when campaign headquarters are opened. I will take no part in the campaign.

With appreciation of your offer,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Roy Williams
409 Edgecomb
New York (32), New York.

VDS

MRS. ROY WILKINS

409 EDGECOMB AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY (32)

July 19, 1944

Mrs Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mrs Roosevelt;

JUL 21 1944

Because I believe that the United States desperately needs the leadership of the President at this time; and because I believe that Thomas Dewey and the forces which he represents are a menace to the American way of life for the "little man", I should like to be among those working actively in the campaign for the re-election of the President.

I believe that I have certain qualifications which might, perhaps, be of value to me as an active participant. I have no political affiliations. I have been a professional social worker for a number of years, and am presently employed in a minor administrative job in a New York City agency. I am a Negro, and the wife of Roy Wilkins who is the assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and editor of its Crisis Magazine. I have lived in New York City for thirteen years, and have a wide acquaintance in the middle west where I was born and reared.

If there is any work that I might do, that would be of value, I would be happy to take a leave of absence from my employment and volunteer my services.

Will you kindly advise me?

Respectfully

Minnie Badeau Wilkins

Minnie Badeau Wilkins

*Thank you
Also see hand N
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Minnie's accompan
July 19
at the
6/19*

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
 ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, 3, N. Y.

TELEPHONE, ALGONQUIN 4-8550

Official Organ: The Crisis



**February
 13th
 1945**

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 WASHINGTON BUREAU

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

"He trusted the people...and they remember."

We shall all remember Wendell L. Willkie, surely. We of the NAACP cannot forget his forthright statements asking fair treatment for America's largest minority. We remember his speech to the NAACP conference in Los Angeles in 1942, his speech at the testimonial dinner for Walter White last May, his magazine articles urging first class citizenship for the Negro.

But in the years to come we will need a reminder--we and America--of his uncompromising ideals of public service. That is the idea animating the proposed Willkie Memorial building described in the enclosed brochure.

This building, a "One World Center", will provide a convenient headquarters where national and local organizations can serve the humanitarian causes to which Mr. Willkie was devoted. The NAACP was one of the first organizations invited to enter the memorial building.

It is hoped that during February sufficient funds may be raised for this unique memorial, and that on February 18, Mr. Willkie's birthday, a substantial total may be announced.

We feel sure you will want to participate in this exciting project, and we will appreciate it deeply--since the fund raising period is so short--if you will mail a contribution at once.

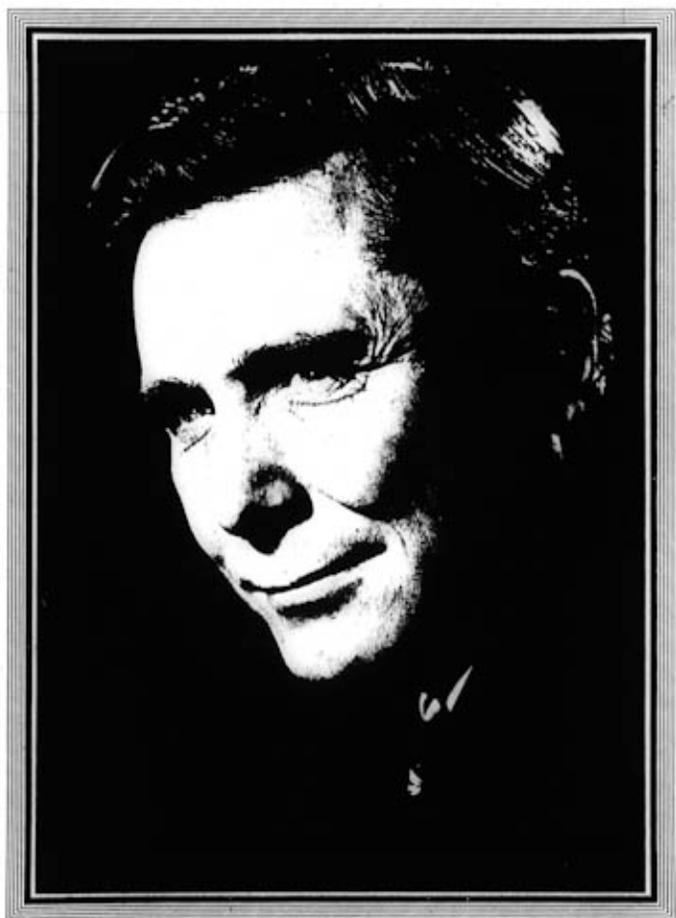
As you will note on the last page of the brochure, a Founder's Certificate will go to all participants who contribute one dollar or more.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Ray Wilkins
 Acting Secretary

If you received this appeal from other sources, ignore this.



“HE TRUSTED THE PEOPLE
AND THEY REMEMBER”

"There could be no better monument for Wendell Willkie than that those who loved him, near and far, should strive to keep alive in their hearts the example of his great and generous spirit."—NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

WILLKIE MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND OF FREEDOM HOUSE

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WENDELL WILLKIE was one of the founders of Freedom House, and an active member of its board of directors until he died. After his untimely death his fellow-directors met to consider how they could best perpetuate his memory and his vivifying influence upon American life. They made the following statement to the public:

"It is proposed to establish a fund for the purpose of setting up a Wendell Willkie Memorial Building in New York. In such a place, under the aegis of a man who awoke the conscience of America to its responsibility in the world, the causes for which he and thousands of Americans have fought for more than four years will inspire renewed and continuing devotion.

"The Board of Directors recommends that on October 8, 1945, one year after Wendell Willkie's death, the committee shall erect at the entrance of the proposed building a bronze tablet bearing the following inscription: 'Freedom House, Dedicated to Wendell L. Willkie (1892-1944). We Carry On In The Spirit Of His Service To All Men and One World'. Appropriate programs shall be

arranged in New York and other cities on the day of the dedication of this building.

"The tragedy of Wendell Willkie's death and the loss of his leadership mandates all of us to carry on his fight. The many causes for which he fought should be fused into one home, and a memorial building as a center and headquarters for leading organizations would be a dramatic way of achieving that fusion . . .

"Such a plan could do many things to stimulate thought and keep alive Wendell Willkie's mission. We could establish awards and scholarships to whatever extent there were funds available. But the chief goal would be the pooling of good will, the marshalling of all groups who believe in and want to work for the 'One World'."



THIS 'ONE WORLD CENTER' will provide quarters for great national or local organizations serving the causes to which Wendell Willkie so generously devoted his talents and boundless energy.

Freedom House will be but one of a number of such organizations. The Association for the Advancement of Colored People, for example, will surely

have its national headquarters in the building; so will the most outstanding organization seeking the improvement of housing and neighborhood conditions; another fostering international collaboration; another seeking to eliminate racial and religious antagonisms; one striving to improve labor-employer relations—and so on, covering the range of humanitarian causes in which Wendell Willkie was a fighting leader.

As many causes, as many great organizations, will be accommodated as space in the Center will permit; and for others, which cannot have headquarters there, conference rooms will be maintained where necessary meetings may be held. This latter service will be of particular value to out-of-town organizations, which frequently have to meet in New York. Finally, a small hall will be provided for public meetings and exhibits.

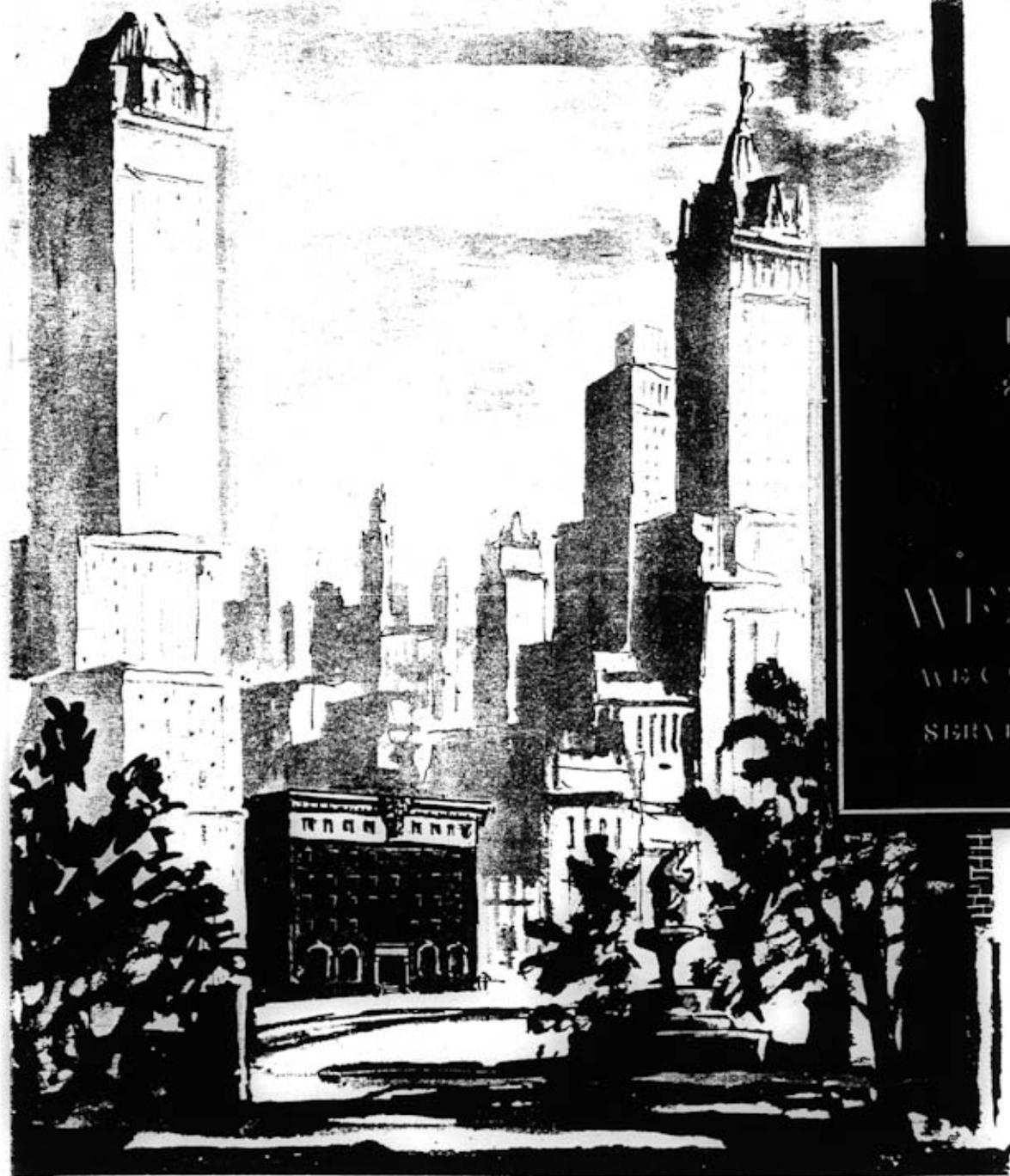
This challenging enterprise, unique as a memorial to an American whose influence upon our time was historic, is on its way to being achieved. A Founder's Certificate will be issued to all those who contribute, whether the gifts be a dollar or in the thousands. The Memorial Building itself will be a record, for all the future, of what his own generation thought of Wendell Willkie; this Founder's Certificate will be a record which each one of us may prize for himself, as a symbol of our indebtedness to Wendell Willkie for straight leadership in an era of confusion.



*Willkie greeted by Generalissimo and
Madame Chiang Kai-shek in China.*



"Our way of living together in America is a strong but delicate fabric. It is made up of many threads. It has been woven over many centuries by the patience and sacrifice of countless liberty-loving men and women. It serves as a cloak for the protection of poor and rich, of black and white, of Jew and Gentile, of foreign and native born. Let us not tear it asunder. For no man knows, once it is destroyed, where or when man will find its protective warmth again."—Wendell Willkie



WEN
AND CAR
SERVICE

HENRY



Willkie's home in Rushville, Indiana

Homage to Willkie . . . Though Silent He is Heard

*A dedication to Wendell Willkie delivered by Raymond Massey
at the opening session of the New York Herald Tribune Forum:*

BY ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

WENDELL WILLKIE was to have spoken from this place—on this day—in these minutes. He will not speak here. He will not rise from a chair, arrange his papers, look up at you under that familiar forehead, speak.

Nevertheless, there is not one of you that does not hear him.

The people of this republic — not of this city only but of all the cities—all the towns, villages, cross-roads, and in every state—and not in the states alone but beyond them—beyond the Pacific—beyond the Atlantic—in small places in the interior of the farthest continents and at the river ports and the caravan-rests, where the air fields have been constructed—the people hear him.

For nine days now the people have heard him as they have heard few others who have spoken to them in their history.

They have heard his silence. They have heard the stopped voice — the uncompleted sentence.

Do you think it strange they should have heard this? Do you think it strange that the people here and in other continents and countries should have heard this silence?—should have listened? Are you astonished that the stillness of a voice should be heard so far—the silence of a man—and of a man, moreover, who had no title—no office—who had never held an office—whose campaigns for office had failed—who had not carried his own

country's suffrage or even, at last, the suffrage of his party?

Or are you not astonished? Does it seem natural to you? Do you think perhaps there is nothing strange in this at all—nothing to wonder at?

Do you think perhaps the answer is simple—that Wendell Willkie was a man of character and courage; that the world has recognized his character and courage and so mourns him? Is it this you think?

Men of courage and of character have died before and the people have not mourned them.

Or do you think the answer may be only this—that Wendell Willkie undertook to represent the people and the people are grateful?

There are many in every generation, in every political campaign, who undertake to speak for the people. The people are not always grateful.

No. The explanation is not simple. But it is not strange, either. Nothing the people do by their hearts, by their deep instincts, is either altogether strange or wholly simple. When the people mourn they do not mourn for a reason but for a man. Their own grief surprises them. The mystery, if you wish to find a mystery, is this: that the people know this man is lost to *them*; not to his hopes or to his future or his friends but *them*. It is not of Wendell Willkie we must think but of the people if we wish to understand this.

How do the people know that he is lost to them?

For this: because he trusted them and they remember.

Because he trusted the people. Because he trusted the people not in a form of words, or for the length of a campaign tour, or as part of a political strategy, but trusted them.

Because he believed literally, and word by word, and intending the meaning of each word, the great American Proposition that the people—not the American people only, but *the people*—that the people can govern themselves, and of right ought to.

Because he believed, believed literally, believed in sober earnest and without reserve, that if the great American Proposition is true for part of the world it is true for all of the world.

Because he believed that the people are in-

divisible in their quality as the people, in their rights as the people, in their humanity as the people.

Because he believed this not for his own advantage, but at the cost of his advantage; not for his own preferment, but at the expense of his preferment.

Because he believed this with such intensity of conviction that he rejected the support, and refused the favor, of those who would not believe it, of those who doubted the Proposition, of those who reserved the promise of the Proposition for themselves—for their friends, their kind, their country: because he rejected their support and favor, no matter what their influence or wealth or power or the clamor of their printed or their spoken words.

Because he believed in the people.

Because he trusted the people.

It is not strange that the people heard the silence of his voice so far. The words he spoke were theirs. And they remember.

These words they remember. These are the words of Wendell Willkie:

"I was a soldier in the last war, and after that war was over I saw our bright dreams disappear, our stirring slogans become the jests of the cynical, and all because the fighting peoples did not arrive at any common post-war purposes while they fought. It must be our resolve to see that this does not happen again.

"While they fight, the people of the world must come to a common understanding of what they fight for and what they hope for. Millions have already died in this war and many thousands more will go before it is over. Unless Britons and Canadians and Russians and Chinese and Americans and all our fighting allies, in the common co-operation of war, find the instrumentalities and the methods of co-operative effort after the war, we, the people, have failed our time and our generation.

"We must establish beyond any doubt the equality of men. And we shall find this equality, not in the different talents which we severally possess, nor in the different incomes which we severally earn, but in the great franchise of the mind, the universal franchise, which is bounded neither by color, nor by creed, nor by social status. Open the books, if you wish to be free."



The people wrote to him all the time

BY SUMNER WELLES

*Excerpt from a speech by Mr. Welles
at a Freedom House dinner*

As the weeks have passed since the day of Wendell Willkie's untimely death I believe that all of us recognize more and more fully the value of the services which he rendered to the people of this country. He had a clear vision of what is needed to create that better association between peoples which it is possible for us to achieve after our victory is won. But what is far more than that, he had the courage and the determination to fight untiringly for those things in which he believed. He had the

power which can only come from sincerity. His love for his fellow human beings sprang from his concept of what he termed "One World." It was not conditioned upon their race, their color, or their creed. He held fast to the fundamental principles of liberty which have made this country great. His voice and his presence among us were never more needed than they are now. They will be missed in increasing measure in the years which lie ahead.

The people of the United States will indeed be greatly indebted to Freedom House if it truly carries on "in the spirit of his service to all men and one world."

Willkie Book Assails Tragic Africa Policy

Wendell Willkie's new book, "One World," is a scathing indictment of the United States' policy in Africa. He writes that the "tragedy" of Africa is not only a tragedy for the continent itself, but a tragedy for the world. He calls for a "Council of Allies" to coordinate the efforts of the United States, Great Britain, and the other nations of the world to bring about a "new world order" in Africa. He also calls for a "new world order" in general, one that is based on "freedom, justice, and peace."

WILLKIE ASKS FREE TRADE IN POSTWAR ERA

Wendell Willkie, in his new book "One World," calls for a "new world order" in the postwar era. He argues that free trade is essential for the world to move forward and that the United States should lead the way in this regard. He also calls for a "Council of Allies" to coordinate the efforts of the United States, Great Britain, and the other nations of the world to bring about a "new world order" in general, one that is based on "freedom, justice, and peace."

WILLKIE FAVORS TRADE FREEDOM

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Willkie Book Calls for Council of Allies Now

By CHARLES A. WAGNER
Wendell Willkie calls for the immediate establishment of a council of all the United Nations great and small.

*From an editorial in the
New York Herald Tribune
October 11, 1944*

Marching On

There seemed a peculiar appropriateness in the playing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as a postlude to the last rites of Wendell Willkie. At that very moment the sense of personal loss was intense for countless people—for men, women and children, for close friends, acquaintances, admirers at a distance. It is rare, indeed, that a public figure touches so deeply the hearts of his countrymen. Yet, for all the poignancy of farewell, "marching on" sounded the one right note.

Such is, indeed, the miracle of greatness. The tragedy of so vast a loss—to the individual, to the country, to the world—widens the horizon of every one. The pettinesses of every-day life, of envy, of suspicion, of carping, fade out of sight; the essentials remain. Partisanship loses its force. Disagreements as to ways and means recede. Antagonisms level out. The truth remains. In sober reality death is swallowed up in victory.

It would surely be the deepest hope of Wendell Willkie that something of this spirit should carry on. He, himself, was singularly devoid of party narrowness. The idea was always first in his mind even when his own personal political fortunes were at stake. The unity which his going away has brought momentarily to the nation is of a piece with his inmost nature. May it live and grow and prosper! The country will sadly need solidarity in the difficult years ahead. There could be no better monument for Wendell Willkie than that those who loved him, near or far, should strive to keep alive in their hearts the example of his great and generous spirit.

Wendell Willkie Reports On Trip Around World

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Willkie Tells His Findings

Tour Convinces Him
of Postwar World
Organization Need



Wendell Willkie

Willkie for World With Chance for Every Nation

His New Book Says Rus-
and U. S. Must Cooperate

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Willkie's Tour and His Hopes for New World

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Wendell Willkie

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