Quarterly Journal of Speech

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rqjs20>

A message from the president

Howard S. Woodward President
Published online: 05 Jun 2009.

To cite this article: Howard S. Woodward President (1919) A message from the president, Quarterly Journal of Speech, 5:1, 62-65, DOI: [10.1080/00335631909360721](https://doi.org/10.1080/00335631909360721)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00335631909360721>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the “Content”) contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

Again, I was a Wandering Monk. To the High and Low, I brought the tale of the Holy Land, suffering under Moslem oppression. My appeal inspired the Great Crusade.

Again, I was a Wayfaring Mariner, spreading strange rumors of unknown lands, beyond the seas. Columbus heard my message—set sail and discovered a New World.

Thus it is, that the destinies of Humanity have been swayed and directed by the SPOKEN WORD.

Today, my appeal is more compelling—more potent—more universal than ever.

I am a Stoker for the Great Melting Pot. In four minutes, I breathe the flame of true American Patriotism to people of all kinds and creeds.

I am a Soldier. I fight German propaganda, intrigue, falsehoods, treachery.

I am a Teacher. I set forth in 240 seconds, lessons in loyalty, duty, thrift, conversation, co-operation.

I am a Herald. I sound the clarion call for men to serve their country. I summon help for the Y.M.C.A. and the Red Cross.

I am a Salesman. I sell Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps.

I am a Preacher. Using the text that all men are equal, I invoke Loyalty, Patriotism, Devotion.

I am a Doctor. I give four-minute treatments for disloyalty, un-Americanism, selfishness, laziness. I eradicate apathy and listlessness and instill "pep" and enthusiasm.

I am a Lawyer. Before a jury of all races and creeds, I indict old world standards of caste, class distinction, privileges, and false pride.

I am an Efficiency Engineer. I plead for the elimination of waste and carelessness and the practice of economy and conservation.

I am an Optimist. I have faith in the triumph of Truth and Right over Might and Brute Force.

I am a Prophet. I predict the doom of Despotism and Autocracy and the triumph of Liberty and Democracy.

I am a Lover. I love the Stars and Stripes. I love to think that this nation under God is having a new Birth of Freedom and that Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

I am the Mouthpiece of Democracy.

I make men THINK.

I am a Four-Minute Man.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A FEW inquiries came to the President in October and November about the national convention. No doubt many others wondered that they heard nothing about it. Since the appearance at last of the October *QUARTERLY*, probably everyone has understood that I was relying on this number of the *QUARTERLY* to give due notice of the action of the Executive committee. In the light of our experience, I expected in September that the October *QUAR-*

TERLY might be as late as the latter part of November, but I felt that even this would adequately serve the purpose and that it would not be necessary to incur the expense of mailing notices to all the members.

This expectation was warranted, I think, by the facts. In reply to any inquiry of mine, the Banta Company wrote me on September 28 as follows: "With relation to the announcement to appear in the October number, I should like to say that if you will give us some idea as to its length and the place in which you wish it to appear, we can allow space and insert it up to the 15th of October. Printing will doubtless be begun about that date." As heretofore explained, final action of the Executive committee was purposely taken late, but it was not late enough to delay the QUARTERLY in the least. On October 9, a copy of the annual convention announcement was mailed to the Banta Company. In a letter accompanying it, I said, "If it will not hold you up at all, I want proof; but do not let the QUARTERLY wait an hour for that." Proof was not sent, and thereafter the QUARTERLY was expected from week to week. The above and other assurances were sufficient, I think, to warrant my relying on the QUARTERLY to carry notice to the members in adequate time. I hope the fact that it arrived so very late worked real hardship to no one in planning for the holiday season.

A word now with regard to the meeting that was called for Chicago on December 6 and 7. From the time plans for the Students' Army Training Corps came to light, much work was done by the War committee, especially by Chairman Merry, to get adequate recognition for public speaking. Doubtless the greatest obstacle in the way was the condition existing within our own field. One of the regional educational directors expressed it as follows: "I am personally in hearty sympathy with the idea that it (public speaking) should be one of the allied subjects. I believe that the hesitancy of the Committee in so indicating it is due largely to their feeling that public speaking is ill defined, and that they do not know what they are approving." Steps toward unified professional action became more and more plainly necessary. The holding of a conference on the situation seemed urgent to some. Consequently Professor Merry called the War committee and I issued a call to the Executive committee and all those members teaching in colleges which seemed in the least likely to be S. A. T. C. institutions. This situation was well developed at the time of the signing of the

armistice. The "end of the war" presaged readjustment and a liberalizing of the courses of study, but probably not one of us anticipated demobilization very soon. In view of the prospective reorganization, there seemed as much need as before for the conference. Then on November 27 was issued the S. A. T. C. demobilization order! While this did not destroy the need for standardization, it was felt that it would seriously reduce attendance, and that the meeting should be cancelled. The time was exceedingly short, and in my effort to reach by mail everyone to whom notice had been sent, I omitted even explanation of the cancellation. Probably to most of those affected the demobilization order was obvious and sufficient cause. At any rate it was the practical factor that caused the cancellation.

We may think the S. A. T. C. a Nazareth, but certainly at least one good thing should come out of it. Those who want our subject defined with a clearness comparable to that of older curriculum subjects should have their arguments so fortified by the facts of our recent experience that definite and continuous progress can be made. I am sure our Editor will welcome discussion and suggestions bearing on this subject. And any conference or convention held hereafter ought to be in a mood to do something more than talk.

And now, the chair begs for advice. So far as I know, only the Thanksgiving or the Christmas season has ever been seriously considered for the national convention. But, since the 1918 convention was omitted, it has been suggested that the 1919 meeting might well be held in the summer. This would make a better division of the time than to wait till the end of the year, and would bring us to an earlier consideration of the situation just stated, as well as the other subjects of most importance to us. It is primarily a question of attendance, and my personal opinion is that such a meeting should not be undertaken without a very general and favorable expression from the Association members. *Who would attend a summer convention, and who prefers one then, considering the special conditions existing this year? If you do, will you spend two cents and two minutes? Send a card now to any member of the Executive committee, while you have it on your mind. Whoever wants a summer convention, please stand up—now.*

Finally, the omission of the convention last month left us without an opportunity for election of officers. The constitution makes no provision for such a situation. There is no way of learning the

will of the membership except by the laborious and somewhat expensive method of correspondence, a method to which there is usually small response. Members who have expressed themselves to us have assumed that the present officers would hold over. This may not be generally desired, however, by the officers or members. The following committee has been appointed to determine what action shall be taken: Professor L. E. Bassett, Leland Stanford Jr. University, chairman; Mrs. B. F. Herring, Nicholas Senn High School, Chicago; Dr. D. W. Redmond, College of the City of New York. Those who have opinions to express are asked to write at once to a member of this committee. Whatever is done should be done as speedily as possible after the appearance of this QUARTERLY.

HOWARD S. WOODWARD, *President*.

"GET RICH QUICK" METHODS IN SPEECH

A WAVE of speculation in mental investments is sweeping over our country at the present time. Many of the popular magazines advertise various systems of getting large returns for a small investment of money and time. Any one who will pay the price and take a few minutes a day for practice is promised wonderful results. These advertisements say that those who will follow directions will soon get the "secrets" and then in an incredibly short time they will become effective speakers, great conversationalists, orators, and fine writers: or they promise to develop great powers of will, to make good salesmen, to secure positions which will pay fabulous salaries: or again they offer one a wonderful memory, and unusual powers of mental efficiency.

The feverish demand for such things has been increased by the successes which applied psychology has had in increasing efficiency in several fields of practical and professional life. We all want this increased efficiency and we want it in a hurry. The psychologists have spent years in getting a few of these problems solved and those who put the solutions into practice must work for long periods of time to guarantee satisfactory results. These scientific systems of efficiency have little in common with the conspicuously advertised "get rich quick" schemes referred to above. In our hurry we take chances on unscientific specifics.