

SESSION 2023

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# AGRÉGATION CONCOURS EXTERNE

Section : LANGUES VIVANTES ÉTRANGÈRES  
ANGLAIS

COMMENTAIRE DE TEXTE EN ANGLAIS

Durée : 6 heures

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[...] Then came the time when Alice Paul went out, carrying the banner that we all know so well now, taken from the President's own words again, "The time has come to conquer or submit, for us there is but one choice, we have made it." On her the outrageous sentence of seven months was imposed, apparently with the idea that in the person of Alice Paul they had seized the one who inspired the demonstrations, the woman responsible for the apparently irrepressible demand on the part of women.

Such a stupid government! The imprisonment of Alice Paul aroused such a fire of burning indignation that women everywhere were stirred, that protests came in thousands to the President and women came in person to voice their protests and to voice it in the most effective way they could find. Forty-one women appeared on the picket line on the 10th of November. The demand had not been silenced.

And the answer that came to those women was varying terms of imprisonment, from six days for Mrs. Nolan, a woman seventy-three years of age, to six months for Lucy Burns, another "ringleader."

We know what happened when those women demanded that they be treated as political prisoners, and, as a protest against the treatment imposed upon them, went on hunger-strike. The hunger-strike called attention to their just demands, and a storm of indignation was aroused in every part of the country. The effect was sure and came quickly. All suffrage prisoners were released.

We have a right to believe that the government at last recognizes the untenable position it has maintained when it has declared that we fight for democracy—and refused democracy to those at home; when it sends millions of men to fight for it in Europe and imprisons and tortures women who struggle for it here.

Certainly those things the pickets have done, certainly the suffering women have shown they are willing to endure has had this effect—that our government is spurred to action. Those who say they are friends have hung back and been slow to act; we believe they have been roused to see the urgency of immediate action. Those who were enemies are now taking the position that agitation which grows more and more intense must be ended, at least removed from the capital and scattered among the legislatures of forty-eight states.

We believe that we occupy this position today, why? Because of the picketing. Because of the imprisonment of those women, the situation has become intense, and the only answer to it is action. That is the reason we believe that when the suffrage amendment comes to a vote in the present Congress, it will pass.

35 But suppose the vote when it is taken does not win the amendment? What have we in  
store for us? Why, we can simply go on doing what we have done, we can simply go on pressing  
with every means at our command that this thing should be done, we can go on lobbying for it  
just as we have lobbied—how insistent and how incessant that lobbying has been!—we can go on  
organizing for it as we have organized. And certainly we can go on demonstrating, giving right  
40 here in Washington the visualization of all this sentiment which does exist, we know it exists,  
in all parts of our country.

Our course is very plain before us. We have tried the things we have thought best in the  
last five years; we know pretty well where we stand; we know what is good and what is not  
good; we know what to discard and what to use to the very limit of our ability. Those are our  
future plans, to go right straight on until the amendment is won.

Mabel Vernon, “The Picketing Campaign Nears Victory”, Address to the Advisory  
Council Conference of the National Woman’s Party, December 7, 1917. The text of this  
speech is taken from the transcript published in *The Suffragist*, Vol. V, #98, December 22,  
1917, pp. 9-10 (source: [https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/vernon-the-picketing-campaign-  
speech-text/](https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/vernon-the-picketing-campaign-speech-text/)).

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Concours	Section/option	Epreuve	Matière
EAE	0422A	102	2763