New York, March 4, 1921

Statement given out by Mr. Secretary of the Treasury
William G. McAdoo in response to a request from the
editor of the New York Globe.

It is with hesitation that I comply with your request
for an expression of my views on Woodrow Wilson, because my inti-
mate relationship may incline cynical or prejudiced minds to
say that I am not an impartial observer. His retirement from the
Presidency marks, however, an epoch of such profound significance
to the world that I cannot resist the temptation to say a few
words about one phase of his career.

I do not agree with those who hastily and inconsider-
ately adjudge the President’s work at the Peace Conference a
failure. Whatever may be the imperfections of the Treaty from
a political or economic standpoint, Woodrow Wilson did not fail.
The outstanding thing for which he fought, the thing that trans-
cends political and economic considerations, is the permanent
peace of the world. Unless this is secured all else is failure;
without this the sublimest hope of humanity is sunk in the black
abyss; without this all political and economic adjustments are
unstable and sooner or later will disappear.

Woodrow Wilson laid the foundations of world peace and
a new order in the Versailles Treaty. This is the supreme need
of civilization; this is his greatest work. The fact that the
crowning structure has not yet reached completion, that it has
been halted by the selfishness of designing politicians and the
 greed of materialistic national interests, has neither impaired
nor destroyed those foundations. The tide of reaction will in-
ominously exhaust themselves and the work of Woodrow Wilson will
emerge unscathed and stand like the eternal rocks as the support
of a new and better order of which peace and justice will be the
keystone.

This is Woodrow Wilson’s matchless contribution to his
time. Great and noble as have been his other unparallelled achieve-
ments in the fields of politics, economics and letters; this is his endur-
ing monument. He has put a new star in the American flag —
like the Star of Bethlehem, with its eternal message of peace,
good will and hope. No one can tear that star from the flag.
With it America will lead the vanguard of humanity and civil-
ization to a new day of human brotherhood and world order. This
will not come immediately, but it will come inevitably in the
slow and sure processes of time.

Woodrow Wilson, the man, will die; but Woodrow Wilson,
the Apostle of Peace, will live forever. Out of his sacrifice and
suffering — born with admirable dignity and sublime courage —
the good he has sought to do for mankind will come to a noble
fruition and receive a splendid though perhaps belated recogni-
tion. In his martyrdom there is no defeat — there is triumph! His-
story will do him justice. He can await its verdict with
serenity.

[Signature]