

WASHINGTON IS RADIO SUBJECT

Dean James Gives Pen Picture of Leader

In a Washington's Birthday address upon "George Washington, American Citizen" which Dean James A. James, professor of history and head of the Graduate School of Northwestern University, delivered over the Chicago Daily News radio — WMAQ — this week, the intense purpose of Washington to so strengthen the infant American government as to render it prepared to meet successfully any ordinary international emergency was emphasized. Disorganized and unable quite to find itself on winning the war against Great Britain, this country, Dean James pointed out, needed the firm and wise guiding mind of George Washington.

"In his foreign policy the American spirit was his pole-star," said Dr. James. "No language seemed to touch him to the very quick so much as that which accused him of sympathy for England as against France. When offering the secretaryship of state to Patrick Henry, he wrote: 'My ardent desire is, and my aim has been as far as depended upon the executive department, to comply strictly with all our engagements, foreign and domestic; but to keep the United States free from political connection with every other country, to see them independent of all and under the influence of none. In a word, I want an American character, that the powers of Europe may be convinced that we act for ourselves and not others.'

"On another occasion Washington asserted,—there is a rank due these United States among the nations which will be withheld if not absolutely lost by the reputation for weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it. If we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."

"But, to my mind," continued Dean James, "these expressions of national policy uttered at the close of the eighteenth century could not be fairly used today by the advocates of isola-

tion or preparedness. We are to bear in mind that Washington was addressing a nation in the first years of its existence, with a population of some 4,000,000 people scattered along the Atlantic coast and with Spain and Great Britain wholly out of sympathy with a republican government, blocking western expansion. France likewise was determined to regain control of Louisiana. Thus the problems of diplomacy during the years in which the new government was being established were of quite as much significance as the inauguration of a sound financial system."

Dean James furnished interesting information regarding the personal appearance of the first president. He quoted from a letter of a man named Ackerman who had commanded a company in the Revolutionary war, as writing to a friend that "Washington is not what the ladies call a pretty man, but in a military costume a heroic figure such as would impress the memory ever afterward." And the following:

"He had a large, thick nose— which was apt to turn scarlet in a cold wind. He was standing near a small camp-fire, evidently lost in thought and making no effort to keep warm. He seemed six feet and a half in height, was erect as an Indian and did not for a moment relax from a military attitude. Washington's exact height was six feet two inches in his boots. His eye was so gray that it looked almost white, and he had a troubled look in his colorless face. Washington's boots were enormous. They were number thirteen. His ordinary walking shoes were number eleven. His hands were large in proportion; he could not buy a glove to fit him and he had to have his gloves made to order. His mouth was his strong feature; the lips being always tightly compressed. At that time he weighed 200 pounds and there was no surplus flesh about him. He was tremendously muscled and the fame of his great strength was everywhere. His lungs were his weak point and his voice was never strong. His hair was chestnut brown, his cheeks were prominent and his head was not large in contrast to every other part of his body which seemed large and bony at all points. His finger joints and wrists were so large as to be genuine curiosities. He was an enormous eater but was content with bread and meat if he had plenty of it."

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