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The Club's 1927 Luncheon Program

Tradition gives us a pretty story about a poet of France who used his idle hours to plan what he would do if he were king. Perhaps that is in part the inspiration of the plan which the Woman's National Democratic Club has made of it's 1927 program luncheons. At any rate the Club proposes to invite certain outstanding men and women of the country to speak at a series of luncheons at the Club house in Washington, the general subject of the series to be "Presidential Standards."

There can be no doubt that in the period of time which has elapsed since 1920 the standards of honesty and of efficiency and achievement for the office of President have fallen far below that height of excellence set by our great Democratic President Woodrow Wilson. It may be that ordinary mankind treading the path of ordinary every day life can not attain to that height, it may be, as some say, that the world crisis which was Woodrow Wilson's daily trial was also his daily stimulation to the mighty works he did.

But however that may be there can be no two ideas as to the possibility and desirability of a higher standard at the White House than that which permits the use of the nation's public resources for private spoils as the Fall case in the Courts daily reminds us has been an accepted policy; than that which permits the use of the Department of Justice for the enrichment of private persons at the expense of even handed justice as the Doherty case in Court reminds us was an accepted policy; than that which permits the disruption of the three great quasi judicial independent Commissions which were created to represent all of the people in the problem of government dealing with the Railroads, Big Business and the Tariff as we are reminded by the failure of the Senate to confirm certain appointments, and by Senatorial investigations, is an accepted policy; than that which permits the use of the Veterans Bureau and the funds appropriated for the care of the world war soldiers and their dependents to become a public shame and reproach by the appointment of men who have used their positions for graft as we are reminded by the presence in the penitentiary of a former head of the Bureau was an accepted policy.

The Club believes that the early part of the year 1927 is an ideal time to set about calmly and dispassionately raising an ideal for honest and efficient administration of the nation's affairs which shall be as a guide and a measuring rod to the country so that not even the heat of political controversy can again be used to blind the people to their own betrayal. Toward that end the Club believes that this series of addresses of a constructive nature will be a valuable contribution.