



Act 4

Judge Smith: This court hearing is now in session. I would like to thank you for taking a personal interest and for being here, Mr. President.

Woodrow Wilson: I am here because what has happened is of grave concern to the nation.

Judge Smith: This is an informal hearing. I will allow you all to address one another as well as the court. I will need to hear from everybody. Then, I will make my decision.

Woodrow Wilson: Let me begin. I think that what Miss Paul and her followers have been doing has hurt America. The world is now in a crisis, a world war. America needs to be strong and unified. This is not the time to have women picketing the White House.

Alice Paul: Mr. President, during your first inauguration, you made a promise to me. You said that you would help pass the Nineteenth Amendment. You let me down. You did not keep your promise.



Woodrow Wilson: Miss Paul, I made no such promise. In fact, I know I told you that it would be a very difficult thing to do.

Alice Paul: Yes, but you did say that you would do what you could to help. I took that as a promise, Mr. President. Women all over America were counting on you.

Woodrow Wilson: We are in a time of war, Miss Paul. The Great War is being fought in Europe. Right now we are sending our young men there to fight for democracy. America needs to be strong and resolute. Do you know what damage your movement can do to this country?

Lucy Burns: Excuse me, Mr. President. I don't mean to be disrespectful, but aren't you being just a bit hypocritical here? How can you send our men to Europe to die for democracy? In a democracy, don't all people have a say in the government? Don't all people vote? We can't say we are a democracy if we deny voting rights to women.

Woodrow Wilson: You know those are two very separate issues.



Lucy Burns: I strongly disagree with you, sir. In a true democracy, all the people should have basic rights. Voting is certainly one of them.

Judge Smith: Please, quiet down everyone. I must stop the proceedings now. You're getting off the topic. This case is about whether to send Alice Paul to an insane asylum. I need to hear from the jail guard and from Miss Paul about issues dealing with her sanity, and I need information about her behavior in jail to make a fair judgment. Guard, we will start with you.

Heckler/Guard: Miss Paul was arrested. She was sentenced to seven months in jail.

Judge Smith: Think hard. To the best of your memory, explain exactly what happened during her jail term.

Heckler/Guard: She kept yelling about her cause and was disturbing us. She was inciting the other prisoners. They started yelling too, so we had to move her.

Judge Smith: Where did you move her?



Heckler/Guard: We put her in solitary confinement. We had to keep her there for two weeks.

Judge Smith: And, how was she treated?

Heckler/Guard: We treated her like any other prisoner. We brought her food and water.

Judge Smith: Did you think you were treated fairly, Miss Paul?

Alice Paul: No, I certainly do not. I was treated horribly. They gave me nothing to eat but dry bread. I became frail, and after two weeks, I was unable to even walk.

Heckler/Guard: Yes, that's true. But, once we saw she was sick, we brought her to the prison hospital, and that is where the real trouble started.

Judge Smith: What do you mean?