CAST OF CHARACTERS

Principal Roles:

WOODROW WILSON
EDITH BOLLING WILSON
COLONEL HOUSE
JOSEPH TUMULTY
DR. CARY GRAYSON
SENATOR LODGE

Secondary and Minor Roles:

HENRY WHITE
ELTING
CAPT. STANLEY
JUDGE BRANDEIS
PROF. SEYMOUR
ORLANDO
MARTINO
CARPENTER
MRS. TREADWELL
PICHON
CLEMENCEAU
LLOYD GEORGE
SONINO
SIX NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS
PROLOGUE

SCENE: Rostrum of the United States Senate, April, 1917.

AT RISE: The stage and house are in complete darkness. Then gradually WILSON is seen, his head and shoulders caught by the light. HE reads from a paper which is on a stand dimly outlined before him.

WILSON

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragic character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, I advise that Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerency which has thus been thrust upon it; and that it take immediate steps to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the Government of the German Empire to terms and end the war.

Let us make clear to all the world what our motives and objectives are. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them.

It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful people into war. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts -- for Democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.

To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness, and the peace which she has treasured.

God helping her, she can do no other.

BLACKOUT

CURTAIN
(For ten seconds there is no sound in the darkened house. Then, from a distance, come the martial strains of a band playing "Over There." The music gradually increases in volume as if the band were approaching)

P-2

Anderson Wilson is seated at his desk, composing on a small, old-fashioned typewriter. He types very slowly, often stopping to frame a sentence in his mind before committing it to paper. In a chair near his desk sits EDITH BOLLING WILSON, his wife—a woman about thirty-five years old, of charming appearance and gracious manner. She is knitting an one of the useful articles of apparel for Overseas Red Cross.

Yawn. Inside comes the thumping music of the band, now evidently passing in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. WILSON repeats his work, glances in the direction of the music. Noticing this distraction, EDITH rises and walks toward a window that is open a crack.

NOTES

Do you want me to shut the window, dear?

WILSON

Thank you.

(The curtain to window and the music become more muffied as WILSON closes it.)