

“Strong Voices and 100 Per Cent Patriotism”: The Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County, 1917-1918

by M. Guy Bishop

DURING INTERMISSION AT A LOS ANGELES County movie theater in October 1917, a man rose to speak. He quickly began to address the audience since his time was strictly limited to four brief minutes. “Ladies and Gentlemen—At the request of the United States Government and through the co-operation of the management of the Theatre, I am to call your attention to one of the serious problems confronting the nation.” Then, reminding his listeners of sacrifices already made, that “mothers and fathers have given their sons to form an army [and] bought Liberty Bonds to finance the war,” he forcefully moved into the main theme of his speech. “NOW,” the man observed, “our soldiers and the soldiers of our Allie’s [Allies] must be fed.”¹

Carefully following the outline furnished by the Committee on Public Information in Washington, D.C., the speaker dramatically recounted the food shortages said to be sweeping the war zone: “[T]he starving children of France and Belgium must have milk...Thirty-five million head of cattle have been killed in Europe during the last three years...seriously cut[ting] off the supply of diary products;...The soldiers and our allies need wheat;...We must send pork and beef.” Recalling the stirring words of President Woodrow Wilson, the man observed.

If this war is to make the world safe for Democracy, we must show by our actions that Democracy is a success. Democracy means that everyone has a part in the Government. This is not President Wilson’s war or Congress’ war—it is a war of every man, woman, and child in the United States. Everyone of us has a personal responsibility...let us all enlist for this service

and support our soldier boys and our allies...and do our part to help win the war.

Then, he urged the movie-goers to sign a "food pledge" to eat only locally-produced food, to eat "more potatoes every day" and to use "eggs and poultry in plenty whenever obtainable." The government-published bulletin which directed such four-minute speeches professed "a German family can live on the things an American family throws away." With such information bolstering his words, it was easy for the intermission speaker to stand up for "Food Pledge Week."

Who was this unidentified movie theater orator? His name has been lost to history, but a general profile of him can be drawn. He, and thousands like him across the United States, reflected civilian contributions to World War I. In southern California these non-combatant support efforts during the war could be found in local organizations such as the Red Cross, the Los Angeles branch of the State Council of Defense, Women's Committee. The latter having been organized nationally by President Wilson with the express purpose of "mobil[izing] the women of the United States for War Service."² Finally, there was a national cadre of motivational speakers, or "Four-Minute Men," of whom the forementioned orator was but one.

There were 215 identifiable Four-Minute Men who served in Los Angeles County during 1917 and 1918. In considering the known facts about these men, the impact of their chairman, Marshall Stimson (1876-1952), a forty-two year-old Los Angeles attorney, becomes glaringly apparent. At least reasonably sound information has been recovered from local records on ninety-two of these individuals, or about forty-two percent (see Appendix I). The record shows that most of the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County were white, middle-aged, middle to upper income professionals. The majority shared Stimson's political principles, his occupation, and, in many instances, his social and professional affiliations. But, then, Marshall Stimson, as local chairman, in all likelihood recruited most, if not all, of these volunteers.

Where a political preference is recorded, over 75 percent were Republicans. In looking at those whose occupation is known, the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County were dominated by attor-

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neys, followed by businessmen, salesmen, and educators (Appendix II). Others were journalists, ministers, physicians, an investigator for the District Attorney's Office, and other civil servants. Interestingly, these occupational breakdowns quite closely equate with those enumerated by George E. Mowry in his study of California progressives.³ The *Los Angeles Tribune* said of the community's Four-Minute Men, "These speakers are [drawn from] among the men who cannot, for different reasons, shoulder a musket, work in shops or fields. But they can tell the people the facts of the conditions as the government issues them."⁴

With evident professional pride, Los Angeles County Chairman Stimson observed,

We have three or four Superior Court judges and a justice of the peace; we have several leading lawyers and a number of young lawyers. We have four or five insurance men, two or three advertising men, half a dozen real estate men, a singing master, two teachers of elocution, two bankers, a mechanic, a fireman, three ministers of the gospel, two school teachers, and I am attempting to get four or five men from the ranks of labor.⁵

Despite Stimson's efforts to "get four or five men from the ranks of labor," such speakers were generally not found within the Los Angeles or the national file of the Four-Minute Men. In Memphis, for example, a unit of 36 speakers, involved, among others, eleven lawyers, five bankers, two insurance agents, a wholesale grocer, an editor, a physician, a dentist, and several clergymen—but not a single laborer. And the Washington, D.C., Four-Minute Men included a consulting engineer, a banker, a judge, a college professor, and nineteen government employees. In stark contrast to the Los Angeles unit, 30 of the 75 speakers in the nation's capital were African-Americans.⁶ The Los Angeles County records give no indication of even a single African-American.

In fact, local units were *not* expected to represent "cross sections" of their neighborhoods. Business and professional types were actively recruited, but the packing-house worker or the stevedore was not. Local chairmen were encouraged to seek out, first of all, community leaders.

Los Angeles County's Marshall Stimson was a Harvard-educated lawyer. As an independent-minded Republican, he crossed party

lines to support Woodrow Wilson's reelection in the 1916 presidential campaign and, later, directed Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1932 presidential campaign in Los Angeles. Stimson was also known as a reformer who frequently worked for civic betterment.⁷ His professional connections and political savvy allowed him to tap a deep well of talent from among the Los Angeles bar, local businessmen and other professionals to form the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County.

Nationally, the Committee on Public Information or CPI, established in April 1917, was composed largely of reform-minded intellectuals headed by journalist George Creel. As the nation's propaganda ministry, the CPI bore the responsibility for encouraging American nationalism and popular support of war efforts. To accomplish this end the committee employed an elaborate nationwide publicity apparatus using pamphlets, posters, news releases, motion pictures, and volunteer speakers.

President Wilson's administration, burdened from the outset with an unpopular war, desperately needed to muster public support. Isolationists, socialists, and pacifists were outspoken critics of U.S. involvement in the war on political or moral grounds. Also, German-Americans and Irish-Americans opposed U.S. support of the Allies for ethnic and cultural reasons. So, Creel, the CPI, and the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County all faced a formidable task.⁸

In an effort to reach occasional readers and non-readers with the government's war message, the CPI established the Division of Four-Minute Men. Originating in Chicago in March 1917, the Four-Minute Men grew so rapidly that George Creel likened it to a prairie fire. By the end of 1918 there were nearly 75,000 four-minute speakers involved nationwide.

Four-Minute Men units were organized by each state, which then appointed leaders at the county, city, or town level. Within Los Angeles County there were units of varying sizes in communities like Avalon on Catalina Island (1 man), Glendale (6 men), Long Beach (7 men), Pasadena (9 men), and Santa Monica (12 men), as well as a much larger unit (143 men) covering the city of Los Angeles. Local chairmen were registered in Washington, took an oath, and received documentation confirming their appointments.⁹

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Recruitment, training and local arrangements fell to the chairman, while subject material and supporting literature were provided by national headquarters. Thirty-six distinct drives or campaigns were conducted in 1917 and 1918. Topics ranged from economic and political information on Liberty Loans to a humanitarian Red Cross Drive; from the already-mentioned food conservation drive to a later, but related, Farm and Garden campaign; from a call, in January 1918, for the donation of binoculars in the "Eyes for the Navy" crusade, to a push for universal military registration later that fall.

Some of the four-minute speeches offered dramatic, sometimes fearsome, fare. For instance, "The Danger to Democracy" campaign, conducted early in 1918, attempted to alert Americans to the seemingly-unending threat from German military might. "Militarism appears triumphant," the message warned, "[and] unless its prestige can be broken, the Code of Conquest and Kultur will be taught to another generation of Germans." Part of this drive included a suggestion, possibly with thought in mind of a later insistence upon unconditional surrender, that if "peace were declared with the German militarists [still] in the saddle" then the war would have been senseless.¹⁰

The preferred arena for these four-minute presentations was a local movie theater or other public gathering. "Yes to the war effort was what the public always heard in these "Liberty Theaters." President Wilson readily acknowledged "the debt the country owes to these [cooperative] theater managers."¹¹All, however, were not cooperative. Four-Minute Man John E. Biby reported concerning the Picture Theater in Burbank,

The manager was unwilling for me to speak there. No 4 minute men had been assigned to this theatre [sic] previously and while he made no direct statement that he felt he had been ignored in this matter, I believe that his refusal to permit me to speak was based partly on this ground. I think, however, that a stronger reason in his mind was an absolute disinclination to favor us in any respect.¹²

Other theater-related problems, of a more political nature, occasionally hampered the efforts of a Four-Minute Man. In October 1917, while speaking at Los Angeles' Orpheum Theater, Marshall

Stimson was interrupted by a man "about forty years old [who] spoke with a German accent." The audience was reportedly so aroused by the display that management removed the man from the theater.¹³

The Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County delivered their patriotic speeches at over seventy movie houses. To list but a few, they spoke at the now-famous Grauman's (then located at 3rd and Broadway), the still-popular Pantages, as well as now obscure or non-existent theaters like the Prince, the Hippodrome (presently the site of a Main Street Los Angeles parking garage), and the Navarro. Generally, these intermission or after-the-movie speeches were delivered on Wednesday through Saturday evenings.¹⁴

Regular meetings, for training and planning purposes, were held at the Hill Street headquarters of the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County. A circular from Chairman Stimson dated February 12, 1918, announcing an upcoming meeting, demonstrates the seriousness with which participants were expected to approach their activity in the organization. "If your letter is marked with a cross," Stimson noted, "it indicates that you have not been present at meetings lately, nor have made any reply to our communications." He cautioned, "we [currently] have a number of speakers who desire to serve the Government." Delinquent Four-Minute Men were advised, "we shall understand by the failure to reply to this communication, or to be present at the [next] meeting, that you desire your place to be filled by another."¹⁵

Several Four-Minute Men seem to have been extremely dismayed by Stimson's threat of dismissal or by the charge of irresponsibility. Remember, not only was Marshall Stimson an increasingly influential figure in Los Angeles, but most of these men moved within the same professional, political, and social circles and such negative action could literally destroy a man's future. Also, as successful professional men, most—but clearly not all—Four-Minute Men were responsible people.

When employment or illness caused them to miss speaking assignments or meetings, most members of the Los Angeles County unit went out of their way to justify themselves before the chairman. For example, in February 1918, Seward A. Simons, fifty-nine-year-old Los Angeles attorney, had his secretary notify

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Stimson, "Mr. Simons is in Imperial County at the request of the District Exemption Board and County Council of Defense and will not return unit Monday."¹⁶ Since Simons was performing a war-related duty, his excuse was probably seen as valid.

Responding to Stimson's letter of February 12th, Horace M. Rebok, Superintendent of the Los Angeles Board of Education, wrote, "I have to state that I am leaving for the East and will be away until March 10th. I regret that I cannot attend the meeting Thursday or take part in the campaign during the next four weeks."¹⁷ And L. W. Pierce, a Los Angeles insurance agent, replied with obvious concern,

I am in receipt of your notice of the 12th...I note that this letter is marked with a cross at the bottom, which would signify that I have not been present at the meetings lately.

And I beg to advise you that I have been present at all of the meetings of the Four Minute Men with the exception of the last one, my absence being on account of a death in the family...I am willing at all times to give every aid possible and to do my part of the work of the Four Minute Men,...I shall be pleased to be present at the next meeting and ready to continue in the service.¹⁸

Attorney John L. Fleming expressed a very real concern for many of these middle to upper class professional men when he wrote the following to Stimson: "Not desiring to be classed as a 'slacker' in this regard, and being particularly anxious to have you understand the situation [of my absences], I write this letter." Fleming then pledged a "willingness to cooperate...in any manner possible."¹⁹

For others, such as Sebald L. Cheroske, a lawyer, their absence was said to be a result of a busy work schedule. "I beg to be excused from taking part in this campaign," wrote Cheroske, "as I am digging out a lot of work that has been hanging over me, and will be with you as soon as I possibly can."²⁰ While Stimson's response to such reasoning is unknown, it seems safe to assume that as a fellow attorney he probably sympathized.

As above letters indicate, Marshall Stimson experienced his share of problems in coordinating the efforts of the Los Angeles County Four-Minute Men. Conversely, his incoming correspon-

dence reflects many moments of success as well. F. A. Knight, a Long Beach attorney who oversaw the speaking efforts in his community, wrote in early 1918, "The Four-Minute Men of Long Beach addressed approximately 6900 people last week on the subject of 'Eyes for the Navy.'" Later that summer, Knight reported attendance of over 22,000 at another campaign in Long Beach.²¹

A grateful letter from an officer at the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station in Los Angeles certainly provided a happy postscript to the "Eyes for the Navy" drive:

I wish to thank you for your work in sending in glasses [binoculars], and we are still receiving them in large quantities, and have already shipped very close to five hundred pairs, estimated at, approximately, \$25,000.00

Please convey this, our thanks, to the members of the Four-Minute Men.²²

While such gratitude was most appreciated, Marshall Stimson felt that delivering four-minute speeches was a duty which he and his colleagues were obligated to perform for the war effort. He once said before the Commercial Board of Los Angeles, "It is up to us stay-at-homes to back up the boys in the trenches. It is the least we can do." Stimson closed his presentation with a touch of local boosterism, certainly meant to appeal to this particular group, by referring to himself and his fellow Four-Minute Men as "[we] who live amid the beauties of Southern California, safe from the bombs, submarines and the horrors of war."²³

Judging from extant records, southern Californians appreciated the work of the Four-Minute Men. "You are a real patriot," E. D. Lyman wrote to Marshall Stimson after the war. "The work that you did with the Four Minute Men here, was of splendid character, and did much for every activity connected with the war." Similarly, Clinton E. Miller wrote Stimson, "I desire to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of the sacrifice and devotion to duty that you showed so splendidly in your conduct of the campaign of the Four Minute Men in this city."²⁴ The Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County conducted twenty-four campaigns during 1917-18. It is estimated that they reached 4,550,462 persons in the county.²⁵

Historically, the Four-Minute Men were part of a much larger voluntary, non-combatant effort in support of the war. During the

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war years, the civilians of Los Angeles, the West, and the United States served in many capacities. The records for Los Angeles County show them as patriotic speakers, public health workers, and on the National Defense Council for the county.²⁶ They also reflect early twentieth-century Progressivism in southern California and in the urban West. According to George E. Mowry, a leading authority on California progressivism, progressives tended to be attorneys, journalists, bankers, independent businessmen, and realtors—all of these occupations were heavily represented among the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County.²⁷ Marshall Stimson played an active part in southern California's progressive movement and so, it would seem, did other Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County.

Human nature, as well as the historic record, tells us that participation in the Four-Minute Men may have offered more than a sense of doing one's duty for some of the orators. The desire for community recognition and, perhaps, the expectation of future professional or political rewards was certainly answered for at least some of these four-minute speakers when they took the stage in movie theaters and other public places across Los Angeles County during 1917 and 1918. Again quoting Mowry, California's progressives were "a social group on the march."²⁸ And some may have sought a place on the speaker's podium simply out of self-interest. But, letting history, as recorded in the *Los Angeles Record* of October 16, 1918, speak for itself, the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County offered "strong voices and 100 percent patriotism" to the war effort on southern California's home front.

Appendix I

PARTIAL ROSTER WITH KNOWN IDENTIFYING INFORMATION FOR THE FOUR-MINUTE MEN OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY JANUARY-OCTOBER 1918

O-Occupation

P-Politics

DOB-Date of Birth, place of birth and age in 1918

Other known information (religion, socio-political affiliations, clubs, etc.)

Sources: Program for the "Demobilization Banquet" [for] the Four-Minute Men of Los Angeles County, Marshall Stimson Papers, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California; *Los Angeles City Directory, 1918* (Los Angeles Directory Company, 1918); Great Register of Voters, Los Angeles County, 1918, Seaver Center of Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; *Who's Who in the Pacific Southwest* (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Corporation, 1913); Oscar T. Schuck, *History of the Bench and Bar of California* (1901); *Press Reference Library: Notables of the Southwest* (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror corporation, 1912).

Abbott, S. Manson [Masson?]

O-Christian Science Practitioner

Alexander, Chas

O-Editor, *The Christian Advocate*

Anderson, William H.

O-Attorney

P-Progressive

DOB-1866, Tennessee, 52-years-old

Other-Assistant attorney General of
California, 1895-99,
Jonathan Club

Askenanazy, Al.

O-Salesman

Avery, Russ

O-Judge, Superior Court of
Los Angeles

DOB-uncertain, Washington

Barnum, Oliver S.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

Battelle, W.P.

O-Secretary, M. Whitaker & Co. [?]

P-Republican

Beecher, Daniel

O-Attorney

Bent, Charles E.

O-Insurance salesman

P-Republican

DOB-1879, Los Angeles, 39-yrs-old

Other-Los Angeles Chamber of
Commerce; Rotary Club

Berkebile, Thomas A.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

DOB-1871, Pennsylvania, 47-yrs. old

Other-Mason

Biby, John E.

O-Attorney

Billig, Clinton A.

O-Teacher

Blair, Frank W.

O-Attorney

DOB-1859, Illinois, 59-yrs. old

Other-Mason, Baptist

Bledsoe, Benjamin F.

O-Attorney

P-Democrat

DOB-1874, California, 44-yrs. old

Other-Mason, University Club

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Bowen, William Miller

O-Attorney
P-Republican
DOB-1862, Indiana, 56-yrs. old
Other-Mason, Jonathan Club

Bowman, Denis Evarts

O-Attorney
DOB-1871, Maine, 47-yrs. old
Other-University Club

Bronson, Carl G. [a.k.a. George Cathcart]

O-Music teacher and author
DOB-1870, California, 48-yrs. old
Other-Methodist

Burks, Paul

O-Attorney
P-Republican
DOB-1870, Kentucky, 48-yrs. old

Burnett, C. H.

O-Department Manager,
Pacific Electric

Chapelle, Albert

O-Investigator, District
Attorney's Office

Chase, Ralph A.

O-Attorney

Cheroske, Sebald L.

O-Attorney and businessman

Clark, George B.

O-Bonds [stock broker]

Clarke, F. A.

O-Manufacturing

Cline, William G.

O-Business manager

Coffman, Carey A.

O-Insurance salesman

Collier, Frank C.

O-Attorney
DOB-1878, Colorado
Other-Mason, Jonathan Club

Collings, Lewis D.

O-Attorney

Conlin, Clarence B.

O-Attorney

Cornish, Herbert A.

O-Realtor

Crail, Charles S.

O-Attorney

Crail, Joe S.

O-Attorney

Cranston, Andrew D.

O-Chiropractor

Crider, Joseph, Jr.

O-Attorney

Criswell, Ralph L.

O-Member of City Council
P-Reportedly a socialist

Culver, Harry H.

O-Realtor
P-Republican

Cummings, Frank M.

O-Stockbroker

Daley, Joseph A.

O-Grocer

Davis, John A.

O-Attorney

Dennis, Alfred E.

O-Attorney

Dillon, R. J.

O-Businessman

Dominguez, Frank Edward

O-Attorney
DOB-1876, Los Angeles, 42-yrs. old
Dominguez was said to have
"won recognition as an ora-
tor." (*Press Reference Library*,
289)

Easton, William E.

O-Custodian, State Office Building

Edmonds, Douglas

O-Attorney

Edson, Charles Farwel

O-Music teacher

Edwards, Noel C.

O-Attorney

Evans, David

O-Attorney

Southern California Quarterly

Faries, David R.

O-Deputy County Counsel

Feider, Charles M.

O-Attorney

Ferguson, Morris M.

O-Attorney

Findlay, Paul

O-Editor

Fischer, Will H.

O-Assistant Director, Taxpayers
Association of California

Fleming, John L.

O-Attorney

Forker, Will R.

O-Businessman

Freston, Herbert

O-Attorney

Fritz, Thadeus S.

O-Lecturer

Frye, Anthony W.

O-Banker

P-Republican

Garvey, Richard, Jr.

O-Attorney

Gordon, Hugh T.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

Goudge, Herbert

O-Attorney

P-Republican

DOB-1863, London, England,

55-yrs. old

Other-Union Club, Sunset Club

Greer, Harry B.

O-Retail sales

Guernsey, Louis Gildersleeve

O-Political Editor *Los Angeles Times*

P-Democrat

DOB-1883, New York, 35-yrs., old

Hammon, Percy V.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

DOB-1873, Iowa, 45-yrs. old

Other-Mason

Handley, Orrin A.

O-Attorney

DOB-1881, Indiana, 37-yrs. old

Other-Los Angeles City Clerk

c. 1910

Hardy, Carlos S.

O-Attorney

P-Progressive Republican

DOB-1866, Louisiana, 52-yrs. old

Other-Mason, Theosophist

Hazlett, William

O-Attorney

DOB-1869, Iowa, 49-yrs. old

Other-Sierra Madre Club,

Presbyterian

Hubbard, Robert Lincoln

O-Attorney

DOB-1862, Missouri, 56-yrs. old

Other-B.P.O.E., Chamber of

Commerce

Huey, Charles P.

O-Attorney

P-Democrat

DOB-1849, So. Africa, 69-yrs. old

Other-Episcopalian

James, Frank

O-Attorney

DOB-1863, New York, 55-yrs. old

Other-Jonathan Club, Chamber of

Commerce

Kemp, John W.

O-Attorney

R-Los Angeles

P-Republican

DOB-1863, Wisconsin, 55-yrs. old

Other-Mason, Jonathan Club

Leavitt, F. J.

O-Medical Doctor

McCallum, Harry S.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

DOB-1857, Iowa, 61-yrs. old

Other-Episcopalian

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- Meserve, Edwin A.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1863, California, 55-yrs. old
 Other-California Club
- Miller, Clinton E.*
 O-Land Developer
 DOB-1877, California, 41-yrs. old
 Other-Order of the Golden Bear,
 Rotary, Chamber of
 Commerce
- Newby, Nathan*
 O-Attorney
 P-Democrat
 DOB-1868, No. Carolina, 60-yrs. old
 Other-Methodist
- Newlin, Gurney E.*
 O-Attorney
 DOB-1880, Kansas, 38-yrs. old
 Other-Bohemian Club, Quaker
- Palmer, William Fleet*
 O-Attorney
 P-Democrat
 DOB-1885, Indiana, 56-yrs. old
 Other-Mason
- Rebok, Horace M.*
 O-Educator
- Salzman, Maurice*
 O-Attorney
 DOB-1885, Arizona, 33-yrs. old
 Other-B'nai B'rith, Mason
- Schweitzer, Dell A.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1877, Iowa, 41-yrs. old
 Other-Mason, Union League Club
- Scott, Joseph*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1867, England, 51-yrs. old
 Other-A "fluent and versatile speaker" (*Press Reference Library*, 17; involved for the defense in the famed "McNamara Case" of the L.A. Times Building bombing;
- California and Union League clubs.
- Shelton, W. C.*
 O-Attorney
 DOB-1882, Tennessee, 36-yrs. old
- Simons, Seward A.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1859, New York, 59-yrs. old
 Other-Jonathan Club
- Stephens, Jesse E.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Democrat
 DOB-1874, Indiana, 44-yrs. old
 Other-Mason, Chamber of
 Commerce
- Stimson, Marshall*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1876, Mass. 42-yrs. old
 Other-Union League Club, University Club, City Club,
 Chamber of Commerce
- Variel, William J.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1861, California, 57-yrs. old
 Other-Retired Captain of the State Militia, Mason, Native Sons of the Golden West, "industrious, able, and successful" (Shuck, 1084)
- Variel, R. H. F.*
 O-Attorney
 P-Republican
 DOB-1849, Indiana, 69-yrs. old
 Other-Stephen M. White's law partner; Mason; Jonathan Club. Said to be an "excellent public speaker" (Shuck, 949)
- Weller, Dana Reid*
 O-Attorney
 DOB-1874, Minnesota, 44-yrs. old
 Other-Mason, Union League, Spanish-American War veteran

Southern California Quarterly

Weyl, Bertin A.

O-Attorney

DOB-1877, California, 41-yrs. old

Wharton, L. R.

O-Attorney

P-Republican

DOB-1874, Illinois, 44-yrs. old

Williams, Gesner

O-Attorney

DOB-1867, Alabama, 51-yrs. old

Woolwine, Thomas Lee

O-Attorney

P-Democrat

DOB-1874, Tennessee, 44-yrs. old

Other-City and University clubs

Appendix II

IDENTIFIABLE POLITICAL PREFERENCE, OCCUPATION, AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE FOUR-MINUTE MEN OF LOS ANGELES

Sources: *Los Angeles City Directory* (1918); Great Register of Voters, Los Angeles County, 1918; *Who's Who in the Pacific Southwest* (1913); Oscar T. Shuck, *History of the Bench and Bar of California* (1901); *Press Reference Library: Notables of the Southwest* (1912).

Identifiable Political Preference

Republican—22 (75.86%)*

Democrat—7 (24.14%)

Total—29 (13.48% of identifiable
total Los Angeles County
Four-Minute Men)

Identifiable Occupation

Attorney—60 (65.2%)*

Businessman—12 (13.1%)

Salesman—4 (4.3%)

Educator—4 (4.3%)

Doctor—2 (2.2%)

Other—10 (10.9%)

Total—92 out of 215 (42.79%)
of total identifiable Los Angeles
County Four-Minute Men

Identifiable Social and Professional Affiliations [Clubs]

Masons—12

Jonathan Club—6

Chamber of Commerce—5*

Union League Club—4*

University Club—4*

City club—2*

Rotary club—1

Sunset Club—1

Sierra Madre Club—1

B.P.O.E. [Elks club]—1

California club—1

Order of the Golden Bear—1

Bohemian Club—1

B'nai B'rith—1

Native Sons of the Golden West—1

Total—48 (19.9% of total identifiable
Los Angeles County Four-
Minute Men)

*Marshall Stimson was in these categories.

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Appendix III

KNOWN AGES OF THE FOUR-MINUTE MEN OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Youngest—33 years of age
Oldest—69 years of age

31 to 39-years-old—6 (15.38%)
40 to 49-years-old—17 (43.58%) *
50 to 59-years-old—12 (30.76%)
60 to 69-years-old—4 (10.25%)

total known ages—39 (18.13% of
identifiable total of Los Ange
les County Four-Minute men).

*Marshall Stimson's age range.

NOTES

¹"Four-Minute-Speech," typescript, World War I Manuscript Collection, no author, n. d., Seaver Center for Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California (hereafter Seaver Center). See also Division of Four Minute Men, "Food Pledge Week," Bulletin No. 18 (October 29, 1917), Four-Minute Men Collection, Box 9, Seaver Center. Hereafter cited as 4MM.

²State Council of Defense, Women's Committee Records, Box 6, Seaver Center.

³Demographic information compiled from the Marshall Stimson "Scrapbook," Vol. III. 1911-1926: 140, Program for the "Demobilization Banquet" [for] the Four Minute Men of Los Angeles County," February 15, 1919, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, which lists 273 members. Occupational information was found in the *Los Angeles City Directory 1918* (Los Angeles: Los Angeles Directory Company, 1918). See also George E. Mowry, *The California Progressives* (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, Inc., 1963; original ed., Berkeley: University of California Press, 1951), pp. 87-88.

⁴*Los Angeles Tribune*, October 6, 1917.

⁵Cited in Wayne Alfred Nicholas, "Crossroads Oratory: A Study of the Four Minute Men of World War I" (Ph. D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1953), p. 80.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 79-80.

⁷See "In Memory of Marshall Stimson," *Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly*, XXXIV (March 1952): 81-85.

⁸See James R. Mock and Cedric Larson, *Words that Won the War: The Story of The Committee on Public Information 1917-1919* (New York: Russell and Russell, 1939, reprint 1968); Stephen Vaughn, *Holding Fast the Inner Lines: Democracy, Nationalism, and the Committee on Public Information* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1980); and Daniel M. Smith, *The Great Departure: The United States and World War I 1914-1920* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1965), pp. 2-5.

⁹Vaughn, *Holding Fast*, pp. 30, 37, and 116-17; Jeanne Graham, "The Four Minute Men: Volunteers for Propoganda," *Southern Speech Journal*, 32 (Fall 1966): 50.

¹⁰"The Danger to Democracy," Bulletin No. 24 (February 18, 1918), 4MM.

¹¹Craig W. Campbell, *Reel America and World War I: A Comprehensive Filmography and*

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History of Motion Pictures in the United States, 1914-1920 (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Publishers, 1985), p. 71; Woodrow Wilson to William McCormick Blair, February 20, 1918, copy in 4MM, Box 10.

¹²John E. Biby to Marshall Stimson, February 19, 1918, 4MM, box 9.

¹³See Stimson "Scrapbook" III: 113.

¹⁴See, for example the lists of speaking locations found in the 4MM.

¹⁵Marshall Stimson to Four-Minute Men, February 12, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

¹⁶M. Robertson, for Seward A. Simons, to Marshall Stimson, February 14, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

¹⁷Horace M. Rebok to Marshall Stimson, February 18, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

¹⁸L. W. Pierce to Marshall Stimson, February 13, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

¹⁹J. L. Fleming to Marshall Stimson, February 14, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

²⁰Sebald L. Cheroske to Marshall Stimson, February 13, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

²¹See F. A. Knight to Marshall Stimson, February 19, 1918; July 22, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

²²Chas. A. Harris to Marshall Stimson, March 6, 1918, 4MM, Box 9.

²³Stimson, "Scrapbook" III: 112.

²⁴Ibid. III: 131 and 135.

²⁵Ibid. III: 139.

²⁶See the Four-Minute Men Collection, Home Front Collection, State Council of Defense Collection, World War I Manuscript Collection, land War History committee Records at the Seaver Center for examples of civilian war efforts.

²⁷Mowry, *The California Progressives*, pp. 87-88.

²⁸Ibid., p. 97.

