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George Sylvester Viereck's Reply  
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Editor, The News:

I ADMIRE the keenness of Gen. Johnson's rapier, even when it is turned against me. However, in the present instance the friendship he avows for Mr. Bernard M. Baruch impairs his fact-finding faculties. In his column of Dec. 21 he brands my contribution to "The Inside Story"—a volume by members of the Overseas Press Club shortly to be published—on the break between Woodrow Wilson and my friend, the late Col. House, as "the most ghoulish piece of muckraking of recent time."

I would not have released the secret of Col. House, altho I had his sanction to publish what he told me after his death, except for the malicious attack upon the Colonel in a recent biographical volume. There is nothing "ghoulish" in my attack. Mr. Wilson and Col. House are historical characters; their lives are pertinent material for the student, no matter how unflattering his conclusion may be. But there is not one unkind word about Mr. Wilson or Col. House in my story.

I reveal the contents of my conversation with Col. House of Oct. 13, 1930, in which he adduced as the three reasons for the break of his friendship with President Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Admiral Grayson and Bernard M. Baruch. Of the three persons thus indicted, only Mr. Grayson is dead. I speak of him, as Col. House did, with the utmost consideration. Both Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Baruch are alive. Neither is tongue-tied. Both have capable spokesmen, like Gen. Johnson, who are able to protect them from "ghouls."

But do they need such protection? I emphatically state that I do not question their good intentions, and I quote Col. House as saying: "Do not attribute to any of these three an ignoble motive. Above all remember that Mrs. Wilson, like every wife, desired to protect her man. She un-

doubtedly resented the stories deliberately spread by our enemies, in order to cause a break between her husband and myself, stories reflecting unkindly and unjustly upon our unique intellectual co-operation." Where in all this is there the shadow of an excuse for accusing me of either muckraking or ghoulishness?

Gen. Johnson can discover from the newspaper columns of the period the veracity of my statement that Mr. Baruch appeared in public as Mr. Wilson's spokesman, altho he preferred as a rule to stay behind the scenes. For whom was he presuming to speak, if not for the stricken President, when he confided to the press that Col. House had "broken the President's heart" by conferring with Sen. Lodge?

Is it fair of Gen. Johnson to ignore my intimacy with Col. House and the fact that I quote, not from memory, but from notes? Much of what I reveal today was foreshadowed in my book, "The Strangest Friendship in History—Woodrow Wilson and Col. House" (New York and London, 1932), published serially in a national magazine. It is here that I first made the assertion that the President of the United States was held practically incommunicado for six and a half months, and that a woman was President of the United States for that period.

My statement is buttressed by facts, documents and by the testimony of Mr. Wilson's friends, including members of his Cabinet. (See pages 293-349). If the General will weigh my evidence, he will discover that it is not "on the face of the record a posterous untruth." Mr. Wilson was incapacitated in the sense of the Constitution after his stroke, from fulfilling the functions of his office. The Vice President was not called upon. The Cabinet had no access to him except thru Mrs. Wilson and Admiral Grayson.

GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK.