

Primary Source - Anna Howard Shaw, NAWSA Convention Speech (1913)

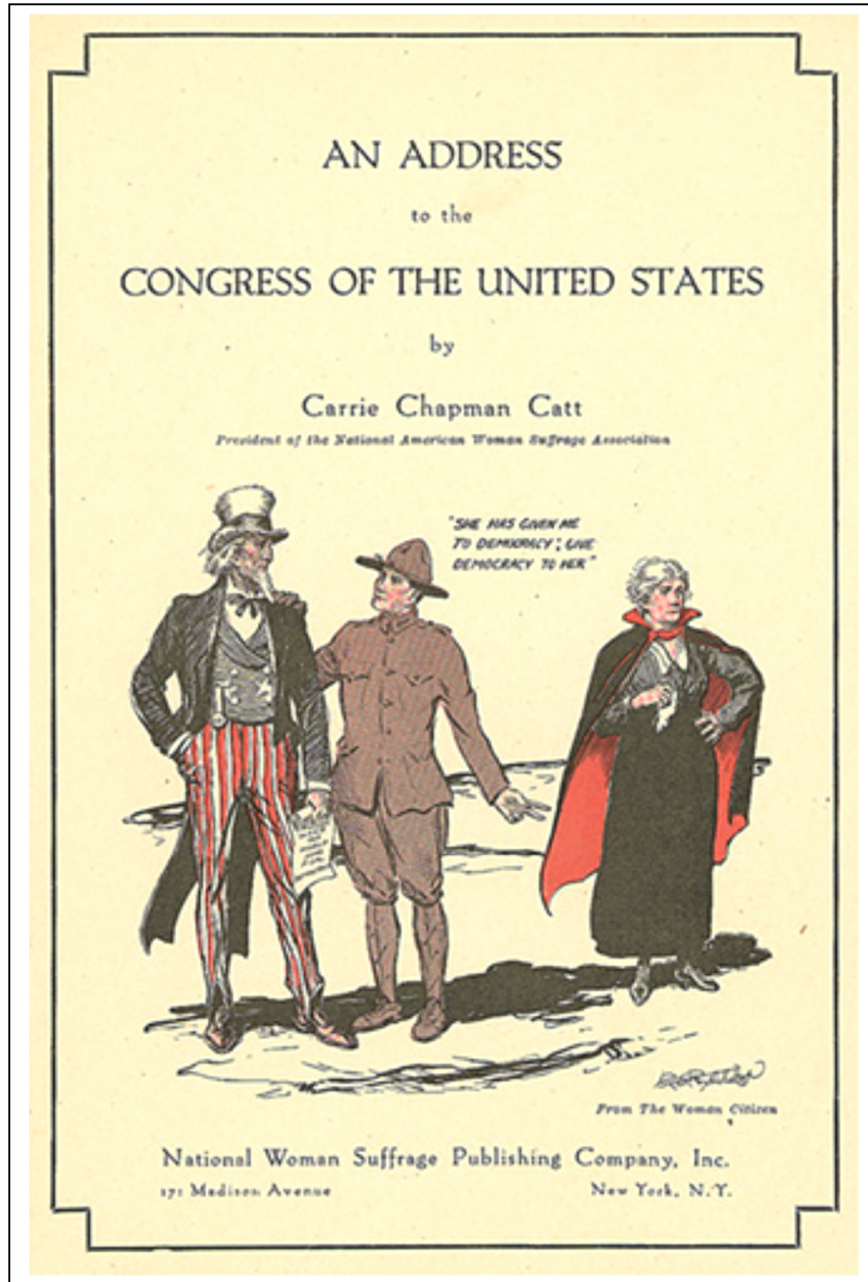
Source: Anna Howard Shaw, "Remarks on Emotionalism in Politics Given at the National American Women Suffrage Association Convention in 1913," in *History of Woman Suffrage*, Susan B. Anthony ed. (Indianapolis: Hollenbeck Press: 1920), 5.

By some objectors women are supposed to be unfit to vote because they are hysterical and emotional and of course men would not like to have emotion enter into a political campaign. They want to cut out all emotion and so they would like to cut us out. I had heard so much about our emotionalism that I went to the last Democratic national convention, held at Baltimore, to observe the calm repose of the male politicians. I saw some men take a picture of one gentleman whom they wanted elected and it was so big they had to walk sideways, as they carried it forward; they were followed by hundreds of other men screaming and yelling, shouting and singing the "Houn' Dawg;" then, when there was a lull, another set of men would start forward under another man's picture, not to be outdone by the "Houn' Dawg" melody, whooping and howling still louder. I saw men jump upon the seats and throw their hats in the air... Then, when those hats came down, other men would kick them back into the air, shouting at the top of their voices. No hysteria about it - just patriotic loyalty, splendid manly devotion to principle. And so they went on and on until 5 o'clock in the morning ... I saw men jump up on their seats and jump down again and run around in a ring. I saw two men run towards another man to hug him both at once and they split his coat up the middle of his back and sent him spinning around like a wheel. All this with the perfect poise of the legal male mind in politics!

I have been to many women's conventions in my day but I never saw a woman leap up on a chair and take off her bonnet and toss it in the air and shout: "What's the matter with" somebody. I never saw a woman knock another woman's bonnet off her head as she screamed: "She's alright!" I never heard a body of women whooping and yelling for five minutes when somebody's name was mentioned in the convention. But we are willing to admit that we are emotional. I have actually seen women stand up and wave their handkerchiefs. I have even seen them take hold of hands and sing, "Blest be the tie that binds. Nobody denies that women are excitable. Still when I hear how emotional and excitable we are, I cannot help seeing in my mind's eye the fine repose and dignity of this Baltimore and other political conventions I have attended.

Primary Source - Carrie Chapman Catt. An Address to the Congress of the United States Program (c. WWI)

Source: Bryn Mawr College Library



Text: *"She has given me for democracy, give democracy to her"*