

# Speeches of Robert M. La Follette

See a lesson plan related to this material on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](#).



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## Student Worksheet

Discussion and Reading Questions for "The Danger Threatening Representative Government Speech"

1. What did Robert M. La Follette blame for the crisis in democracy? What do you think he meant when he stated "the official obeys whom he serves?"
2. La Follette asked the question "What is it that is swelling the ranks of the dissatisfied?" Consult your history textbooks and identify at least three examples of the social unrest that La Follette is alluding to.
3. Define "the machine."
4. Identify any historical references made by La Follette in this speech. In which sections of the speech are they used? Considered one of the great orators of his generation, why do you think La Follette employed history in his speeches?
5. How did La Follette propose to solve the crisis in democracy?
6. Compare and contrast Robert M. La Follette's views with other national political leaders from this era, such as William Jennings Bryan, or Theodore Roosevelt.
7. Are any of the concerns expressed by La Follette analogous to issues in American society today? Explain.

See more classroom materials and lesson plans on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](#).