



## Max M. Kampelman Papers

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## **The Complex Legacy of Woodrow Wilson**

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of its founding

The Woodrow Wilson  
International Center for Scholars

cordially invites you to attend

the third in a series of lectures

inspired by the life of President Woodrow Wilson

**"Is History Repeating Itself in Europe?"**

**The Honorable James A. Baker, III**

61st United States Secretary of State and a

Trustee The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Monday, May 9, 1994, 6:30 p.m.

Carmichael Auditorium

National Museum of American History

12th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

For Reservations

Call (202) 357-4335

**INTRODUCTION OF**

**JAMES A BAKER III**

**BY**

**MAX M. KAMPELMAN**

**WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS**

**25th ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES**

**Washington, DC**

**May 9, 1994**

**My task this evening is to introduce to you James A. Baker III, lawyer-diplomat-public servant-financier, who, in serving three Presidents and the American people, was the 61st Secretary of State, the 67th Secretary of the Treasury, former White House Chief of Staff, former Under Secretary of Commerce, the winner of the highly valued Presidential Medal of Freedom and, among other achievements, the recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees. And I suspect that his days of public service are not over.**

**But, as I thought of this privileged task assigned to me, it became clear that anyone, including a stranger to Jim Baker, could stand here and read his biographical sketch. There was more to be said; and, as a friend of Jim's, I want to say more -- not only about him, but about this outstanding institution, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which Jim and I both cherish.**

**Jim and I first became acquainted in 1979 when I was appointed by President Carter to serve as this Center's third chairman, an appointment I considered to be among the proudest of my public life. The first chairman had been my colleague and friend, Hubert Humphrey, a teacher throughout his life,**

who felt that the challenge of creating a living memorial to Woodrow Wilson by strengthening the interrelationship between "the world of learning" and "the world of public affairs" was one he wanted to undertake as he left the Vice Presidency following his defeat in the election for President. I was grateful at the opportunity to follow in his footsteps and that of my good friend, William Baroody, the second Chairman.

Upon joining the Woodrow Wilson Board in 1979, I found Jim Baker on the Board. He had joined it in 1977. When I left the chairmanship in 1982, Jim Baker was on the Board. When I left the Board in 1991, Jim Baker was on the Board. Today, Jim Baker is on the Board. He is the longest standing board member in its 25-year history. He is the only member of the Board whose tenure includes serving in all three of its categories -- a private member, a public designee and a representative of the President. His service has been a blessing to the Center.

This brings me to a manuscript I read this past weekend, because Jim Baker was not asked to help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary only because of his loyal, dedicated and invaluable service on the Board. Nor was he invited to lecture because he studied Woodrow Wilson at Princeton University. He was asked to lecture to us this evening because his training, his career, his very being, represent the vision of Woodrow Wilson and the motivation that led Senator Pat Moynihan to originate and develop the idea of a living memorial to Woodrow Wilson.

The manuscript to which I referred, prepared by a friend of mine now teaching at Harvard, deals with the diplomatic steps that preceded and

surrounded the most significant post-cold war development of our day, namely the unification of Germany without violence and with a broad European consensus. The hero of that brilliant saga as I read the details was our lecturer, Secretary of State Baker, who, with President Bush, patiently, persistently and persuasively led our allies and our former enemies in a bold direction which made it possible for us all to believe that we could enter an exciting, peaceful and democratic new world.

Our theme for this 25th Anniversary celebration is "The Complex Legacy of Woodrow Wilson", an apt recognition of the complex world problems our nation faces in this post-cold war period. Are we entering a new world order based on human dignity? Or, is our future one filled with a repeat of yesterday's savagery, with xenophobia emphasizing our racism, tribalism, differences, rather than our unity as human beings and as children of God.

The United States can help influence that decision if we raise our sights above partisan loyalties and institutional rivalries. The American people join the world in looking for and expecting leadership from the American government. They and we are not looking for Democratic or Republican solutions. We all yearn for a united American sense of direction and purpose.

Woodrow Wilson understood the responsibility of the United States to lead. Whether we have the wisdom, the will, the maturity to fulfill that responsibility is not yet evident. Jim Baker's theme for this evening "Is History Repeating Itself in Europe?" appropriately addresses that question.

It is my privilege to introduce to you tonight former Secretary of State James A. Baker.