

CONGRESS IN REVOLT AGAINST PRESIDENT ON GERMAN POLICY

Continued from Page One

But should be the sober judgment and mature decision of the people through their Representatives in Congress of the causes and justification for such declaration; and...

This would give us more time for consideration of the situation. "We assured the President that in the event of such a postponement all action in Congress certainly would be postponed...

NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

A motion to discharge the Foreign Affairs Committee from consideration of the resolution and thus force it on the floor would only be in order on the first and third Mondays of the month, the Speaker said. There was no means, he said, of obtaining special consideration for the resolution...

The action of the President in declaring that the entire submarine question was one affecting the national honor instead of a struggle to force action on a technicality also was expected to have a strong influence in permitting the executive branch of the Government to settle the question free from legislative interference.

LETTER FROM STONE

Senator Stone's letter to the President, to which Mr. Wilson replied, was as follows:

"Dear Mr. President—Since Senator Kern, Mr. Stone and I have been together on Monday evening, I am more troubled than I have been for many a day. I have not felt authorized to repeat our conversation, but I have attempted, in response to numerous inquiries from my constituents, to state to them, within the confidence that they should observe, my general understanding of your attitude. I have stated my understanding of your attitude to me substantially as follows:

"That while you would deeply regret the rejection by Great Britain of Mr. Lansing's proposal for the disarmament of merchant vessels of the Allies, with the understanding that Germany and her allies would not fire upon a merchant ship if she hailed to when summoned, not attempting to escape, and that the Germany warships would only exercise the admitted right of visitation and capture, and would not destroy the captured ship except in circumstances that reasonably assured the safety of passengers and crew, you would feel disposed to allow armed vessels to be cleared from our ports; also that you are not favorably disposed to the idea of this government taking any definite steps toward preventing American citizens from embarking upon armed merchant vessels. Furthermore, that you would consider it your duty, if a German warship would fire upon an armed merchant vessel of the United States, to order the vessel to be passengers, to hold Germany to strict account.

"Numerous members of the Senate and the House have called to discuss this subject with me. I have felt that the members of the two houses who are to deal with this grave question were entitled to know the situation we are confronting as I understand it to be. I think I should say to you that the members of both houses feel deeply concerned and disturbed by what they read and hear. I have heard of some talk to the effect that some are saying that after all it may be possible that the program of preparedness so called, has some relation to just such a situation as we are now called upon to meet.

"I have conversed with all who have talked with me to the effect that this whole business is still the subject of discussion, and that you are striving to the utmost to bring about some peaceable adjustment, and that in the meantime Congress should be careful not to take any diplomatic situation by any kind of hasty and ill-considered action. However, the situation in Congress in such as to excite a sense of deep concern in the minds of careful and thoughtful men. I have felt that it is due to you to say this much.

"I think you understand my personal attitude with respect to this subject. As much as I deeply as I would hate to radiate directly with you, I feel it incumbent upon me to state to you my attitude with respect to this subject. I feel that it is due to you to say this much.

"I want to be with you and to stand by you, and I mean to do so up to the last limit; and I want to talk with you and...

"We told the President how the House felt. In our judgment, I told him that this warning resolution would carry two to one if it ever reached a vote on the floor. Some of its supporters, I said, thought it would carry by three to one.

"Of course, there was a great deal of talk about international law as to the rights of Americans on the seas and international precedents. When the conference closed it was very clear to all of us that the President stands firmly on his letter to Senator Stone.

"But there were mentioned and discussed certain rumors that Germany may postpone enforcement of the new Admiralty order to sink all armed ships from March 1 to March 15 or until April 1. I think the chances are that Germany will postpone the threatened performance.

'TO FORBID OUR PEOPLE TO EXERCISE RIGHTS WOULD BE DEEP HUMILIATION'

—WOODROW WILSON

President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone on the submarine warfare controversy follows:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1916. My Dear Senator—I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply. You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface, and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed.

The course which the Central European Powers have announced their intention of following with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles; but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those Powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect upon it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

But in any event, our duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has the right, while war is in progress, to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be.

For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation are involved. We covet peace and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor. To forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit—all but explicit—acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen even amidst the turmoil of war for the law and the right. It would make everything this Government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations meaningless and futile.

It is important to reflect that if in this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle the door would inevitably be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abatement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow, and the whole fine fabric of international law might crumble under our hands piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own impotency as a nation and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world. I am speaking, my dear Senator, in deep sympathy, without heat, with a clear consciousness of the high responsibilities of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should unhappily differ, we shall differ as friends; but where issues so momentous as these are involved we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation.

Faithfully yours, WOODROW WILSON.

Secretary Lansing with the utmost frankness—to confer with you and have your judgment and counsel—and I want to be kept advised as to the course of events, as it seems to me I am entitled to be. In the meantime, I am striving to prevent anything else being done by any Senator or member calculated to embarrass our diplomatic negotiation. Up to the last you should be left free to act diplomatically as you think for the best to settle the questions involved. I need hardly say that my wish is to help, not to hinder you.

"With the highest regard and most sympathetic consideration, I have the honor, Mr. President, to be.

"Very sincerely yours, WILLIAM J. STONE."

PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESSMEN DIVIDED ON RESOLUTION

Majority of Republicans Against It, While Democrats Are Split

By a Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Virtually every Republican member of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation is opposed to the passage of a resolution calling on the President to warn Americans to stay off the postoffice, also at a time when the President has so many different phases and so many elements of danger that it would be his opinion that Congress should not take any action unless it finds such action absolutely necessary to keep the country from war.

Representative Peter E. Costello: "I am not going to commit myself on this question because I believe the controversy will work itself out. Intimations have been given from the White House that the situation with Germany is not so serious."

Representatives John R. K. Scott, William S. Vane and George H. Graham were not in Washington today.

Representative A. G. Dewalt, Democrat, of Allentown, said: "I don't believe there is any revolt in case this resolution is brought up on the floor. I shall listen patiently to both sides, then vote as I see fit."

Representative Henry J. Steele, Democrat, of Easton, declared he had just returned to Washington and had not had time to "get the inside" of the discussion. He said he had not read the proposal of reviving members of Congress.

Representative Louis T. McFadden, Republican, of Canton: "I have talked to most of the Republican members of the Pennsylvania delegation, and I feel certain that almost every one is opposed to the passage of the proposed resolution. I am in favor of supporting the President at this time. If you break down international law in one instance, you cannot stand up to it later."

Representative Worth Bailey, Democrat, of Johnstown: "It is only common horse sense to keep Americans off armed vessels during a war. The resolution should be passed."

NEW HAVEN WRECK STARTS PROBE OF SIGNAL SYSTEM

More Testimony on Burst Air Hose in Milford Crash

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 25.—Testimony concerning the condition of the burst air hose, which was the primary cause of Tuesday's triple crash on the New Haven road at Milford, Conn., when 10 persons were killed and three scores or more injured, was brought out at the adjourned session of the joint investigation of the Interstate Commerce Commission under the Public Utilities Commission of Connecticut into the cause of the wreck. It was announced by Inspector H. W. Belnap, who is conducting the inquiry for the Federal Commission, that the investigation which would include tests of the signal system on the New York division might last for a week.

Representative Henry W. Temple, Republican: "I am not in favor of the passage of such a resolution at this time. I do not believe it will ever come to a vote in the House."

Representative George P. Darrow, Republican, Philadelphia: "We don't want to pass any resolution that would legalize a heretofore prohibited practice. At the same time, we must get a clear understanding as to when a vessel is armed for offensive or defensive purposes."

Representative John R. Parr, Republican, Scranton: "I am with the President on this matter."

Representative M. McFarland, Republican, Pittsburgh: "I think I am for the resolution. I am opposed to war on any excuse. The mere exercise of a right a man may have to travel on an armed ship and thereby endanger the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, does not warrant him in exercising that right."

Representative Benjamin K. Focht, Republican, Lewisburg: "I believe that most if not all of this furor is due to Congress being in the dark about the real situation. We have had our only information from the papers. We are told in one minute there is no danger and in another, that there is a crisis. I think this resistance is resistance of a straw man, and due largely to the imminence of a presidential campaign."

Representative John J. Casey, Democrat, of Wilkes-Barre: "I have some very decided views on this question, but feel it would be unwise to state them at this time when the President faces a serious situation."

Other members of the Pennsylvania delegation were not at the Capitol today. Republican Leader Mann declined to make any statement as to what the Congressmen of his party would do on the resolution when it reaches the floor of the House. It is generally understood that Mr. Mann would attempt to line his party workers up against the passage of the resolution.

PEG IN SHOE CAUSES DEATH OF VETERAN POSTAL EMPLOYEE

Pierces Monterey F. Claridge's Foot and Poisoning Ensues

Monterey F. Claridge, of 2151 North Woodstock street, for 33 years an employee of the postoffice, died at his home early today from poisoning caused by wearing a pair of new shoes that were defective. Two weeks ago Mr. Claridge purchased the shoes and wore them to the postoffice to work.

He came home at night limping and an examination showed that a peg protruding from the sole of one shoe had pierced his foot. Physicians advised an operation, but Mr. Claridge refused to agree to this. His condition became constantly worse until he died last night.

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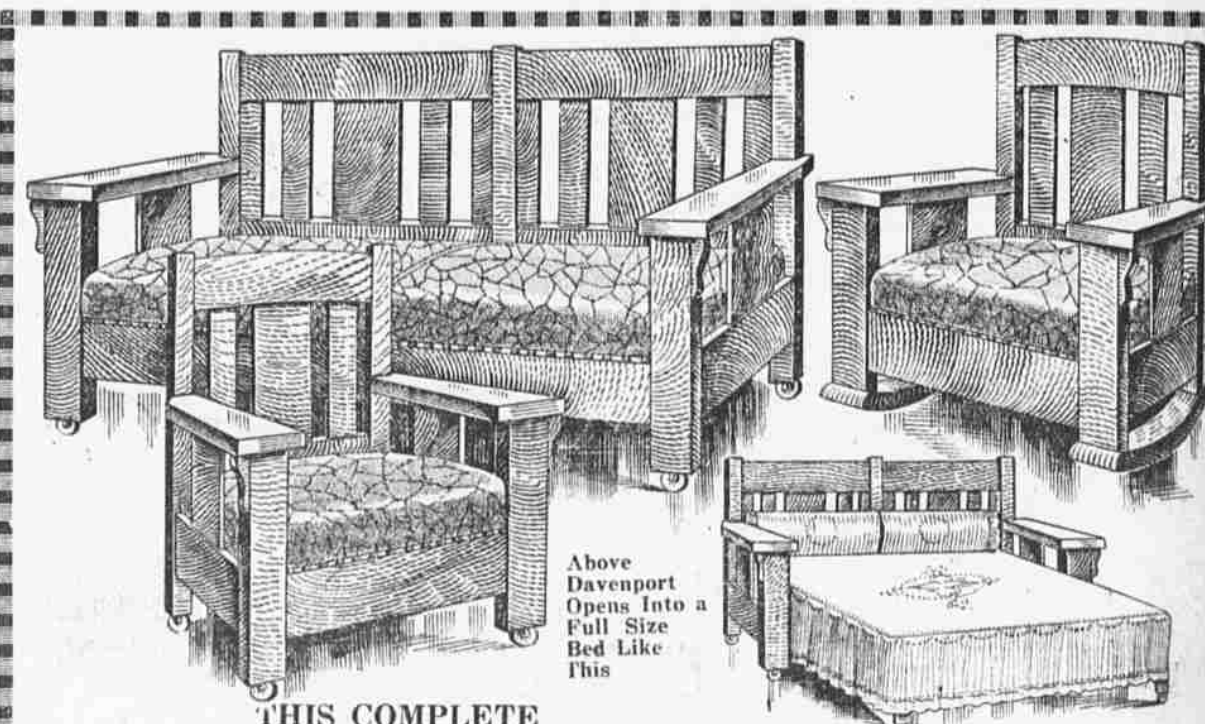


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Bed Davenport Library Suite The illustration suggests the wonderful utility of this suite—look at it carefully and you will see that the luxurious davenport opens automatically into a full-sized bed. Realize what a real help this suite would be when you entertain an unexpected guest—for it means that you will always have room for one more. The splendid chair and rocker help to make up one of the most magnificent library suites that we have ever offered at \$49.75. Solid oak in rich fumed and early English finish.

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