

# DELAYED PARLEY SUITS PRESIDENT

## Wilson, Studying Peace Views, Is in No Hurry for Conference

### MAY PROLONG HIS STAY

#### Likely to Remain Abroad Till February—No Itinerary Formed Yet

**By RICHARD V. OULAHAN**  
*Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger*  
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Paris, Dec. 19. I have talked with a considerable number of prominent persons and through this and other means I have obtained an idea of the general situation involved in the making of peace. President Wilson yesterday afternoon had his first conference with the other American plenipotentiaries since his arrival in Paris.

The President has taken his own time and ways of getting at what he desires to know, the better to prepare him for dealing with the representatives of the Allied governments.

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#### Favor Sinking Foe's Ships

The American delegates to the Peace Conference have resolved to advocate the sinking of the surrendered enemy warships and resist any proposition to distribute them on the basis of naval losses.

#### Find More Time Needed

This intended prolongation of the President's stay carries some significance. It is apparent that he finds it necessary to devote more time than he originally estimated for the purpose of conferring with his fellow plenipotentiaries and those who, like Colonel House, Mr. Hoover and Mr. Hurley, have had an opportunity to study the situation prior to the President's arrival.

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At the same time the persons who are in position to know the sentiment of the American delegation express confidence that Wilson and Lloyd George are not far apart in their views as to what extent material damages shall be assessed against Germany.

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# Lodge Asks Wilson's Stand on Sinking German Ships

## Washington, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—A resolution asking the State Department to inform the Senate whether the American peace commissioners are advocating destruction of German warships or other enemy property, and, if so, by what authority, was introduced today by Minority Leader Lodge, and, without discussion, was left on the table.

### HOUSE OPENS PROBE OF SECURITY LEAGUE

#### Committee Starts Investigation of Charges Against Members of Congress

Washington, Dec. 19. Investigation of the National Security League of New York, with respect to its alleged reflections during the last campaign upon the loyalty of members of Congress, was begun today by a special House committee, headed by Representative Johnson, of Kentucky.

Officers of the league appeared for examination, bringing with them many of the league's papers and records. In the delegation were Colonel Charles E. Lydecker, president; Dr. Robert M. McElroy, educational director; Henry L. West, executive secretary; Lloyd Taylor, chairman of the universal military training committee; E. L. Harvey, publicity director, and P. D. Calhoun, cashier.

Colonel Lydecker was questioned by Chairman Johnson as to whether the league had taken a partisan or political stand or interfered in any way with the election of any officials.

"The aim of the league since its organization, and its only aim," Colonel Lydecker said, "has been to win the war. I can say with all sincerity that there has never been any discussion from this aim. The league has made every effort to keep entirely out of politics. Its hands are clean."

Asked by the chairman if any members of the league had entered the political field, Colonel Lydecker said that as the membership extended over the entire country, it would be impossible to keep in close contact with all, but that as far as he knew, every member had followed the desire of the league in that respect.

Colonel Lydecker said he knew of no financial aid rendered to any large preparedness mass-meetings in New York city or elsewhere.

As to salaries, he said Dr. Robert M. McElroy, educational director, receives \$10,000 a year; Henry L. West, executive secretary, \$8400; E. L. Harvey, publicity director, \$4160; Miss Lucia Y. Layton, director of American naturalization bureau, \$2400, and P. D. Calhoun, \$2050.

Contributions of \$150,000 from the Carnegie corporation and \$25,000 from John D. Rockefeller, were received by the league, Colonel Lydecker testified.

### BRITAIN PREPARES TO WELCOME WILSON

#### London, Dec. 18.—(By A. P.)—King George, who will find England holiday-making as the day after Christmas is next day, has issued an order that the King's household will be at a standstill from December 26.

#### If President Wilson arrives in England Thursday next week, as anticipated, he will find England holiday-making as the day after Christmas is next day. Throughout the King's household will be at a standstill from December 26.

#### The President also will find that many people are away from London because this year many business houses are giving their employees the week's vacation to enable them to spend the holidays in the country.

#### Neither the President's arrival nor the fact that protection is necessary for his normal development and for the protection of agricultural effort in regions devastated by the war.

#### Hostages to See Wilson

Civilians seized by the Germans in occupied French territory and sent to a camp at Helmsland, Germany, will appoint a delegation to call upon President Wilson to tell them something of what they suffered, morally and physically, while detained by the Germans. It is announced.

#### Plan was formed at the suggestion of Dr. Henry van Dyke, of Princeton University, who met some of the people in the association at a reunion held recently. He was so struck by their accounts of the treatment given hostages that he proposed to call upon President Wilson.

#### COURIER GOES TO PARIS FOR WILSON SIGNATURE

Washington, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The first resolution of Congress regarding the President's signature adopted since President Wilson sailed for the Peace Conference has reached him in Paris and word that it has been signed is expected momentarily at the White House.

#### Secretary Tumulty was notified by cable today of the arrival of a State Department courier who had in his pocket the joint congressional resolution authorizing the usual Christmas time advance payment of December salaries to Government employees.

#### Without the President's signature, it would become law Saturday in time for the payments, but the signature probably already has been attached.

#### This procedure is to be followed in the case of all actions of Congress while the President is absent. The State Department messengers travel to and from Europe at frequent intervals, making the trip across in about a week. Before they start the President is given a comprehensive outline of the legislation by cable or wireless so that he is prepared to act as soon as the document reach him.

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