

DEBS CHALLENGES ESPIONAGE LAW

U. S. Supreme Court Hears Argument on Validity of Measure

FREE SPEECH INVOLVED

Socialist's Counsel Contends First Amendment to Constitution Is Violated by Act

By the Associated Press
Washington, Jan. 27.—Oral arguments began in the Supreme Court today on the constitutionality of the espionage act, in the case of Eugene V. Debs, socialist leader, convicted of violating the law in a speech at Canton, O., last June, and Jacob Frohwerk, of Kansas City, found guilty of writing alleged seditious articles for the Missouri Staats-Zeitung.

Counsel for the defendants attacked the act as an attempt to abridge the constitutional right of free speech and free press. John Lord O'Brin, special assistant to the Attorney General, having contended that the law obviously was intended to protect the military program against all types of interference.

Seymour Steiman, of Chicago, attorney for Debs, directed especial attention to the amendment passed last May making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$10,000 or twenty years imprisonment to "wilfully utter, print, write or publish any disclosure, profane, scurrilous or abusive language" about the form of government, constitution, or the military or naval forces or for the purpose of interfering or hindering the Government in the prosecution of the war. This, he argued, interfered with freedom of speech and of the press in clear violation of the first constitutional amendment.

Admission as evidence by the trial court of the records in the case of Rose Pastor Stokes, and an interview appearing in a Cleveland newspaper giving Debs's view of the St. Louis Socialist platform was criticized.

BRITAIN TO MAKE SURE OF FRUITS OF VICTORY

Will Maintain Army in Every Theatre of War—Expects U. S. to Do Share

London, Jan. 27.—Anticipating an announcement to be made Thursday by a conference of Sir Eric Geddes, former First Lord of the Admiralty; Field Marshal Haig and Major General Henry H. Wilson, chief of the general staff of the British army, now meeting in Paris, a statement was issued by the War Office.

"The proposals of the conference will make sure that we have in every theatre of the war sufficient forces during the present year to see that we are not robbed of our victories, and the German and their confederates will be made to execute faithfully and punctually the conditions, not only of the armistice, but of the treaty of peace, when that is signed, and they will also enable us to discharge our duty toward our allies and those dependent upon us.

"It must be clearly understood," the statement continued, "that while Great Britain is prepared to do her share of the work still to be done, she will not be asked to do more than her share, and that the United States, France and Italy will act with her in maintaining the common interests and securing the advantages gained together."

SEEK 'WASHINGTON MADMAN' Blockley Inmate, Police Think May Solve Capital Mystery

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Another trail leads into Fairfax County, Virginia, where a hatless stranger appeared Friday in a nervous condition.

Washington is reported to be in a nervous condition over the "madman" case, so much so in fact that a stranger calling at the wrong address narrowly escaped mobbing when a frightened woman, answering the bell, screamed for help.

SWEDISH SOCIALIST HOPEFUL FOR LABOR

Hjalmar Branting Thinks Peace Conference May Fix Minimum Living Standard

By the Associated Press
Bern, Switzerland, Jan. 27.—A tone of carefully modulated optimism as to results to be obtained by the International Labor and Socialist Conference now assembling here characterized the views expressed by Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, who has just arrived to attend the conference.

M. Branting believed the Peace Conference intended to attach weight to the demands of labor and hoped it would find a way to establish a minimum of living standards for workmen. He added, however, that it was utterly out of the question for the European laborer to achieve the American wage scale, because the European cost of living, theoretically at least, was not on a par with the American.

He expressed wholehearted endorsement of President Wilson's ideas, although indicating some doubt that all these would triumph completely.

Although anti-German throughout the war, M. Branting expressed the hope that the Entente would supply food and raw materials to Germany as soon as possible, because these were absolutely essential to the well-being of all working men. He was extremely pessimistic as to the German workmen's future.

Bolshevism was referred to by M. Branting in terms of sarcastic condemnation, although he said he spoke with full realization of its dangerous possibilities. He urged food and supplies for Germany to prevent Bolshevism spreading there and placing France, Belgium, Italy and England in danger of contagion.

He quite obviously disapproves of the Allies conferring with the Bolsheviks, shrugging his shoulders resignedly and saying the Allies would see they had made a mistake.

Regarding the American delegates who had failed to get passports for the labor conference, M. Branting criticized the United States, but said he understood the wide difference between the American Socialist and the European Socialist Democrat. He said he believed there had been a conflict between Samuel Gompers and the leaders of the Berne conference, but hoped the Americans would attend the trades union conference that had been arranged to be convened in France simultaneously with the Berne gathering.

KING PETER SERIOUSLY ILL

Serbian Monarch Suffers Relapse, Says Laibach Dispatch

Basel, Jan. 27.—(By A. P.)—King Peter of Serbia, who has been ill, has suffered a new attack and is said to be in a serious condition, according to advices from Laibach.

Prince Boris Alexander is on his way to his father's bedside.

BIG U. S. MERGER URGED BY M'ADOO

Fusion of Railroads, Inland Waterways and Merchant Marine His Scheme

5-YEAR CONTROL PLEA

Government Needs More Time to Unify National Transportation System, He Says

By the Associated Press
Santa Barbara, Cal., Jan. 27.—Coordination of railroads, inland waterways and merchant marine on one vast single transportation system, under Federal supervision, is the project outlined here by William Gibbs McAdoo, twenty-first director general of railroads who urged it as the main reason for a five-year extension of government rail-control.

Mr. McAdoo's new railroad statement was made in a telegram made public today addressed to Albert Kroll, chairman of the Inland and Erie Improvement Committee of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, and was sent in response to an invitation to attend an inland waterways meeting today in Defiance, Ohio. "The message said:

"Regret it is impossible for me to attend your inland waterways meeting at Defiance, Ohio, on Jan. 27.

"It seems to me futile to expend great sums of money on the development of our inland waterways unless our government adopts an intelligent policy about railroad control. The future of waterways development is absolutely dependent on a government control which will enforce the operation of the waterways and the railroads as a co-ordinated and articulated system which will give the people the benefits of an efficient combination of water and rail facilities.

21 Months Not Long Enough
This cannot be accomplished under the present railroad law, which provides that the railroads cannot be controlled by the government for a longer period than twenty-one months after the return of peace. Within a twenty-one-month period no substantial development of waterways can be made, nor can their operation in so brief a period afford any adequate test of their value.

"On the return of the railroads to private ownership, which must be made within the twenty-one-month period as the present law provides, the cut-throat competition of the railroads under private control, with the partly developed waterways, will effectively deprive water transportation as heretofore, and the people's investment in these facilities will continue to be of little if any value.

To Develop Waterways
"I have urged the Congress to extend the period of Federal control of the railroads for five years because that will give us time to develop some of the most important existing water routes, co-ordinate them with the railroads and prove their worth as a part of a great American transportation system.

"I also feel that the government should control the railroads and the inland waterways for a period of five years so that they may in turn be co-ordinated with our government merchant marine, which has been built at a cost of more than two billion dollars and which under existing law the government controls for a five year period.

"Unless we look at this great problem with vision and from the standpoint solely of the American people instead of from the standpoint of the selfish interests of private owners, private steamship owners, private shippers, private investors, or any other single class, we shall not measure up to our obligations to the American people, nor realize the great opportunities and destiny that lie ahead of us.

Co-ordination With Merchant Marine
"The confusion of counsel about the railroad problem, made daily more evident by the great variety of conflicting views and opinions now being presented at the hearing before the Interstate Commerce Committee of the Senate at Wash-

ington, makes it more and more clear that the course of wisdom, necessity and prudence is to extend government control of the railroads for five years, that our inland waterways be developed to the largest possible extent during that period, and that these inland waterways and rail facilities be co-ordinated with our great merchant marine in an endeavor to get for American business enterprises a fair participation in the benefits of world commerce.

U. S. HESITATES AT MORE LOANS

American Financiers Believe Europe Can Best Borrow Privately

CREDIT READY HERE

Allied Idea America Share War Debt for Ideals Finds No Favor

By RICHARD V. OULAHAN
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Jan. 27.—More and more it has been impressed on American officials here that the best way to get the world back to normal conditions is to put an end to everything that suggests war, and with that thought in mind they are seeking to arrange side agreements separate from the peace treaty that will start business going again on a firm foundation.

The United States has loaned immense sums of money to some of the associated governments to carry on the war, and those governments still believe it is essential to their future happiness that our government shall continue to advance loans during the period of reconstruction.

But here is a divergence between the American and foreign view. It is felt by the American representatives that the best method of readjustment is to have the nations which have suffered most by the ravages of war undertake their own salvation—that is, begin to re-establish themselves on a self-supporting basis instead of getting direct governmental help from Washington.

Wants Europe to Go to Work
To put the matter bluntly, our representatives take the view that the sooner Europe goes to work the better it will be for Europe.

Take, for example, the suggestions that have been put before American officials here in a way to indicate that they are intended to be taken seriously, that the United States consider itself as having been in the war since August, 1914, and agree to take over a proportionate share of the expense incurred by the other Allies in fighting the Central powers during the period of more than four years. Our officials are satisfied that American public opinion will not

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