

# CONGRESS DODGES, HELPING WILSON

## Hides Face and Trembles as Issue of Aggrandized Executive Develops

### CRISIS LIKE THAT OF WAR

By CLINTON W. GILBERT  
Special Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Aug. 8.—The real issue as to whether we are to have a continuance of executive government, whether we will go on having what it has been popular to call a "czar," or a balanced organization of President and Congress, will be settled in the next few weeks.

Will Congress have a policy to meet the situation of sound interest that exists or will it abdicate, or will it, as during the war, simply wait to hear what the President will do with the power, or will it formulate the policies and leave him to execute them?

Congress Glad to Sidestep

There is not a sign that Congress in the existing crisis will show the initiative to act. The letter of Senator Chambliss to the President was sympathetic. Of course there were sound reasons for saying that the executive, through its agents, the director general of railroads, had full power to act. But it was said with too much caution to be a slight relief to the laborer waiting.

Congress was only glad to dodge the responsibility of choosing between a strike that would paralyze the transportation of the country and raising the wages of railroad workers and thus raising prices, hastening a new cycle of advancing prices.

The President politely asked Congress, which has been professing to be "strong," what it would do. He was constitutionally punctilious. Congress would sidestep. It had good legal grounds for sidestepping. But the truth is it has sidestepped with infinite relief.

Crisis as Serious as War

Mr. Plumb intimates to the startled members of the House interstate commerce committee that it would either legislate a strike or a revolution. In other words the country, thanks to the labor conditions, faces in the near future a crisis as serious as war. The same reasons for concentrating power in the hands of the executive that existed during the conflict with Germany are going to be reproduced and perpetuated now that the conflict is over.

What is Congress going to do? Is it going to face the situation courageously? Or is it going to wait until the President, in his task, is his task to deal with a disagreeable and dangerous situation and give him, as during the war, all the authority he asks for?

The President's policy is plain. He will be "gracious" to Congress. As in the case of the war, Congress, then, grants him the authority, the great question whether the concentration of power into executive hands is to go on or will be answered.

Congress will have proved its unwillingness or incompetence to meet emergencies, even in peace. The pretense of strength will have to be dropped. The lovely theory that we can get Congress back upon its feet again by a two-by-four President will be abandoned. The week, all well is a weak President, will have to be abandoned. The week, all well is a weak President, will have to be abandoned.

A view of Congress in this exigency is not reassuring. It is in at least as close touch with the country as the Executive, but it did not discover the social unrest, the political reactions to the high cost of living.

It thought of Atlantic City while the nation drifted, if you believe Mr. Plumb, within sight of revolution. And even when it had been reminded of the crisis, it still, through Mr. Mondell, begged to go for a little while to Atlantic City.

It has no policy. It waited to hear this afternoon from the President. Its organization is weak. The real head of the majority in the House is not the nominal head. The Senate committee system is showing an extraordinary incapacity to function, though the only hope of congressional government lies in a development of the committee system.

Besides, though Congress shows a certain courage in personally facing Mr. Wilson, it has no courage to confront him. It hides its face in its hands, and trembles.

Crisis May Aid Wilson

Politically, some think it wise to throw all responsibility to meet the existing crisis upon Mr. Wilson, on the theory that he cannot meet it. But when that is done deliberately in time of peace, the autonomy issue is destroyed; moreover, it has always been recognized that a grave crisis is the best friend of an administration seeking to continue in power. It is the endless social crisis that perpetuates Lloyd George.

A country does not change administrations during a war. The labor unions promise industrial war. What will be the attitude of the country toward changing an administration which is trying to avert that war?

Moreover, a restoration of war powers over food and fuel, which seems likely to be asked by Mr. Wilson, will put vast opportunity for self-perpetuation into the hands of the administration. It will enlarge its outlook with labor and will increase its paternal relations with the public at large.

If Congress accepts this time the theory that policies must originate in all great emergencies with the executive, Congress has abdicated and abdicated for good. In the years that are coming there is likely to be a prolonged

# BALKAN BOUNDARIES CAUSE STIR IN SENATE

## Republicans Condemn Proposed Award of Thrace to Bulgaria

### GREAT WRONG, SAYS LODGE

By the Associated Press  
Washington, Aug. 8.—Boundary disputes between the Balkan nations were debated in the Senate today.

Senator Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut, called attention to the differences between Bulgaria and Greece over Thrace. Press reports, Senator Brandegee said, indicated that because the American peace commissioners were supporting Bulgaria, Premier Venizelos, of Greece, was insisting in America, and had announced opposition to the league of nations.

"Commenting on President Wilson's statement that a 'new day has dawned' in the world," Senator Brandegee said, "I cannot think its business out or make plans or give intelligent and prudent direction to its affairs, and it has not been possible to administer any anesthetic. It is conspicuous. It even watches the capital operation upon which it knows that its hope of peaceful life depends.

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World Waits for Peace

There can be no confidence in an untested and untried peace, or in a system of buying or system of selling, no certain prospect of employment, no normal restoration of business, no helpful attempt at reconstruction, or the proper disposition of the dislocated elements of an enterprise until peace has been established and so far as may be guaranteed.

Our national life has not been less seriously disturbed and dismembered than the national life of other peoples whom the war more directly affected, with all its terrible ravages and destructive force, but it has been, nevertheless, so seriously and so long disorganized and our industries, our credits, our productive capacity, our economic processes are intricately interwoven with those of other nations and peoples—most in the case of all with the nations and peoples upon whom the chief burden and responsibility of the war fell and who are now most dependent upon the cooperative action of the world.

Foreign Trade Uncertain

We are not now shipping more goods out of our ports, or receiving more goods into our ports, than we did before the war. Our foreign trade, however, is not so secure as it once was, and this is not so much a result of the war as it is a result of the uncertainty of foreign sales and purchases, and the effect of the war upon the supplies and prices.

It is impossible to predict how long or how long foreign purchases will be able to continue, or how long our exports will be able to continue, or how long our exports will be able to continue, or how long our exports will be able to continue.

All these things must remain uncertain until peace is established and the nations of the world have concerted the methods by which normal life and industry are to be restored.

All that we shall do, in the meantime, to restrain profiteering and put the life of our people upon a tolerable footing will be unselfish and provisional.

There can be no settled conditions here or elsewhere until the treaty of peace is out of the way and the work of liquidating the war has become the chief concern of our government and of the other governments of the world.

Business Must Be Uncertain

Until then business will inevitably remain speculative and sway, now this way and again that, with heavy losses of business gains, as it may chance, and the consumer must take care of both the gains and the losses.

There can be no peace prices so long as our whole financial and economic system is on a war basis.

Europe will not, cannot recoup her capital or put her restless, distracted people to work until she knows exactly where she stands in respect of peace, and what she will do is for her to have a certain degree of confidence of mind and confidence of conscience.

While there is any possibility that the peace terms may be changed or may be held long in abeyance or may not be enforced because of divisions of opinion among the powers associated against Germany, it is idle to look for permanent relief.

Would Limit Wheat Shipments

But what we can do we should do, and should do at once. And there is a great deal that we can do, provisionally at least, to help.

Wheat shipments and credits to facilitate the purchase of our wheat can and will be limited and controlled in such a way as not to raise but rather to lower the price of flour here.

The government has the power, within certain limits, to regulate that, we cannot deny, when it comes to people who are in dire need of it, and we do not wish to do so; but, fortunately, though the wheat crop is not what we hoped it would be, it is abundant if handled with providential care. The price of wheat is lower in the United States than in Europe, and we can supply proper management be kept so.

By way of immediate relief, surplus stocks of both food and clothing in the hands of the government will be sold, and of course sold at prices at which there is no profit.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON HIGH LIVING COST

Continued From Page One

That there is no complete immediate remedy to be had from legislation and executive action. The free processes of supply and demand will not operate of themselves, and no legislative or executive action can force them into full and natural operation until there is peace.

There is now neither peace nor war.

World on Operating Table

All the world is waiting—with what suffering fears and haunting doubts who can adequately say?—waiting to know when a peace in which every nation shall make shift for itself as it can, or a peace buttressed and supported by the will and consent of the nations that have the purpose and the power to do and to enforce what is right.

Politically, economically, socially, the world is on the operating table, and it has not been possible to administer any anesthetic. It is conspicuous. It even watches the capital operation upon which it knows that its hope of peaceful life depends.

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# LIFT UNDERSTUDIES TO FAME BY WALKOUT

## New York Theatres, Closed Last Night, Will Reopen With New "Stars"

### MANAGERS FIGHT STRIKERS

By the Associated Press  
New York, Aug. 8.—Understudies, who hardly hoped to appear in first night performances or even to be thrust into the spotlight of a new play during its summer debut, suddenly became the objects of much attention from Broadway theatre managers today.

In several of the thirteen theatres where the strike called by the Actors' Equity Association, under stars will appear with hastily arranged casts for tonight's performances, if the plans of the managers mature.

The strike is confined so far to performers of the legitimate stage in this city alone.

In the thirteen houses where the strike was called more than 300 performers were prevented from appearing. This affected such well-known players as Frank Bacon, Fay Bainter, Holbrook Blinn, Olive Wyandham, Harry Kelly, Frank Fay, Frederick Santley, Newbold Robinson, Tessa Kosta and Ralph Morgan. Not all these players struck of themselves, but were kept from performing by the closing of their theatres last night.

More than 15,000 persons, including many who had braved the Brooklyn street-car strike in order to reach the theatres, were disappointed. In most cases the suspension of performances followed by the strike stage after managers had waited from fifteen to thirty minutes to see whether the actors would put in an appearance.

The following theatres were affected:

Thirteen Theatres Closed

Broadhurst, showing "The Crimson Alibi"; Forty-fourth Street, showing "The Gaieties of 1919"; Booth, "The Better Ole"; Shubert, "Oh, What a Wonderful World It Is"; Astor, "East Is West"; Princess, "Nightie Night"; Republic, "A Voice in the Dark"; Lyric, "The Pledge"; Selwyn, "The Challenge"; Cohan & Harris, "A Royal Vagabond"; Playhouse, "At 9:30"; and Knickerbocker, "Listen, Lester."

The strike order followed close on the heels of rejection by the Producing Managers' Protective Association, of an ultimatum demanding action by 7 p. m. on demands which had been submitted several days ago.

These demands included recognition of the Actors' Equity Association, which recently was affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, extra compensation for performances in excess of eight a week and continuation of the standard "equity" form of contract in use since 1917.

Managers to Retaliate

Officials of the Managers' Association have announced that they are ready for a fight, and that steps have been taken for an organization of the "legitimate" vaudeville, burlesque and moving picture interests to combat the efforts for unionization of stage and screen artists.

Efforts were made at several of the theatres offering musical attractions to continue the performances with chorus girls and performers of lesser parts, but large sections of the audience started toward the box office windows to obtain refunds and this plan was called off.

The rising curtain at the Cohan & Harris Theatre disclosed the chorus in street costumes, and Sam Forrest, stage director, addressed the audience, informing them of the strike and asserting it was working a great injustice to the chorus girls.

"You have no grievance against Cohan & Harris, have you?" he asked, turning toward the girls, who replied in chorus:

"No sir."

This ended the evening's performance and the audience, after collecting refunds at the box office, joined the Broadway throng of those who were "all dressed up and no place to go."

# MEXICAN PROBE BILL PASSED BY SENATE

## King Resolution Broadened for Committee Hearings at Any Time and Place

### VILLA ON RUN, SAYS MEXICO

By the Associated Press  
Washington, Aug. 8.—Without opposition or debate, the Senate today adopted a resolution authorizing the foreign relations committee to make a sweeping investigation of outrages against Americans and American property in Mexico and "to report what if any means should be taken to prevent such outrages."

The resolution of Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, proposing the investigation, was broadened so that the committee could take testimony at any place and at any time. Senator Lodge is chairman of the committee. The measure was passed a few minutes after it was unanimously reported in the Senate.

The text of the resolution follows:

"Resolved, That the committee on foreign relations, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized and directed to investigate the matter of damages and outrages suffered by citizens of the United States in the republic of Mexico, including the number of citizens of the United States who have been killed or suffered personal outrages in Mexico, and the amount of proper indemnities for such murders and outrages; the quantity of damages suffered on account of the destruction, confiscation and larceny of personal property and the confiscation and deprivation of the use of lands and the destruction of improvements thereon.

"The number of citizens of the United States residing in Mexico at the time Porfirio Diaz retired from the presidency of Mexico and the number of citizens of the United States at present residing in Mexico and the nature and amount of their present holdings and properties in said country and in general any and all acts of the government of Mexico and its citizens in derogation of the rights of the United States or of its citizens.

"And for this purpose to sit at any time or place during the sessions of Congress or during recess and to subpoena such witnesses and documents as may be necessary and to make a report of its findings in the premises to the Senate."

Extermination, with slight exception, of all Villista forces in the state of Chihuahua, was reported in a statement issued yesterday by the Mexican embassy. The statement was as follows:

"Diverse news having been published lately stating that the bandit Villa has under his orders more than 4000 men in Chihuahua, the Mexican embassy requested reliable official information and it takes pleasure to announce that the Villistas have been completely dispersed, and that at the present time there only exist in Chihuahua small and insignificant bands engaged in acts of banditry, which are being strongly persecuted by government forces."

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# Speculation which always results from uncertainty.

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Great surpluses were accumulated because it was impossible to foresee what the market would disclose and dealers were determined to be ready for whatever might happen, as well as eager to reap the full advantage of rising prices.

They will now see the disadvantage as well as the danger of holding off from the new process of distribution.

More Food Than Last Year

Some very interesting and significant facts with regard to stocks on hand and the rise of prices in the face of abundance have been disclosed by the inquiries of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor and the federal trade commission.

They seem to justify the statement that in the case of many necessary commodities effective means have been found to prevent the normal operation of the law of supply and demand.

Disregarding the surplus stocks in the hands of the government, there was a greater supply of foodstuffs in this country on June 1 of this year than at the same date last year.

In the combined total of a number of the most important foods in dry and moist storage the excess is quite 19 per cent. And yet prices have risen.

The supply of fresh eggs on hand in June of this year, for example, was greater by nearly 10 per cent than the supply on hand at the same time last year, and yet the wholesale price was forty cents a dozen, as against thirty cents a year ago.

The stock of frozen fowls had increased more than 238 per cent, and yet the price had risen also from thirty-four and a half cents per pound to thirty-seven and a half cents.

Larger Stocks; Higher Prices

The supply of creamy butter had increased 129 per cent and the price from forty-one to fifty-three cents per pound.

The supply of salt beef had been augmented 3 per cent and the price had gone up from \$34 a barrel to \$36 a barrel.

Canned corn had increased in stock nearly 92 per cent and had remained substantially the same in price. In a few foodstuffs the prices had declined, but in nothing like the proportion in which the supply had increased.

For example, the stock of canned tomatoes had increased 102 per cent and yet the price had declined only twenty-five cents per dozen cans.

In some cases there had been the usual result of an increase of price following a decrease of supply, but in almost every instance the increase of price had been disproportionate to the decrease in stock.

Prosecutions Promised

The attorney general has been making a careful study of the situation as it applies to the numerous and varied cases of the kind in which foreign manufacturers can resume their former production, foreign farmers get their accustomed crops from their own fields, and foreign manufacturers set up again their old machinery of trade with the ends of the earth.

All these things must remain uncertain until peace is established and the nations of the world have concerted the methods by which normal life and industry are to be restored.

All that we shall do, in the meantime, to restrain profiteering and put the life of our people upon a tolerable footing will be unselfish and provisional.

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By way of immediate relief, surplus stocks of both food and clothing in the hands of the government will be sold, and of course sold at prices at which there is no profit.

# WITHHOLD COLOMBIA PACT CONFIRMATION

## Senate Committee See Measure to Vast American Oil Holdings

Washington, Aug. 8.—(By A. P.)—A presidential decree issued by the Colombian government last June 20, declaring petroleum lands of Colombia to be "the property of the nation," was laid before the Senate foreign relations committee here today, and resulted in indefinite postponement of committee approval of the Colombian treaty.

Under the decree, a copy of which was sent to the committee by the State Department, vast American oil holdings in Colombia would be threatened with confiscation, members of the committee said. The closest government supervision in all oil operations acquired under a complicated licensing system.

There appears to be some doubt that the decree will become effective, as the Colombian Supreme Court, to which it was submitted, has failed to approve it.

Washington, Aug. 8.—(By A. P.)—We are dealing, gentlemen of the Congress, I need hardly say, with very critical and very difficult matters which I should go forward with confidence along the road we see, but we should also seek to comprehend the whole of the scene amidst which we act. There is no ground for some of the fearful forecasts I hear uttered about me, but the condition of the world is unquestionably very grave and we should face it comprehensively.

The situation of our own country is exceptional and very serious. We of all peoples can afford to keep our heads and to determine upon moderate and sensible courses of action which will insure us against the passions and distempers which are working such deep unhappiness for some of the distressed nations on the other side of the sea.

But we will be involved in their distress and we will be helped and help with energy and intelligence.

The world must pay for the appalling destruction wrought by the great war, and we are part of the world. We must pay our share. For five years now the industry of all Europe has been slack and disordered. The normal crops have not been produced; the normal quantity of manufactured goods has not been turned out.

Aid Europe or Face Chaos Here

Not until there are the usual crops and the normal production of manufactured goods on the other side of the Atlantic can Europe return to the former conditions; and it was upon their electric fans to buzzing.

The thermometer registered 86 degrees at 1 o'clock, and it had descended to 84 degrees at 3 o'clock, but to most people it seemed hotter than yesterday when the temperature was averaging three or four degrees higher, but then a breeze cooled the pavement's trifle.

The weatherman said, "Cool today," but humidity came on the stage and made its uncomfortable presence felt to such a degree that people sweated and set their electric fans to buzzing.

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# THREATENED TO END

## Strikes Against Government, Which is Trying to Avert that War?

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# JAMES B. HILL BURIED

## Funeral Held Here for Lieutenant Commander, Who Died at Sea

Lieutenant Commander James B. Hill, commander of the transport Finland, who died during the vessel's last trip from France, was buried today, with full military honors, in the West Laurel Hill Cemetery. The Rev. John Graham, of the Bethany Presbyterian Church, of Chester, officiated.

Following the services, which were held from an undertaking establishment at Eighteenth and Chestnut streets, the body was escorted to the cemetery by a battalion of sailors from the navy yard, under the command of Commander A. H. Miles, and was laid to rest in a grave near the officers' section.

Lieutenant Commander Hill was a member of the naval reserve. His home was 2405 North College avenue. He leaves a son, Robert, twenty-one, and twin daughters, Esther and Mildred, seventeen. He had the record of having carried 60,000 American soldiers across the ocean to fight in France.

# STOCKS DROP, THEN RALLY

## Market Opens Strong, Slumps and Finally Regains Strength

New York, Aug. 8.—(By A. P.)—After the slump in the final hour of trading yesterday the stock market opened today with gains of from 2 to 3 points in those issues which were weakest at the close of the previous session.

The recovery proved to be of short duration, however, and a new selling movement developed after the market had absorbed first offerings, United States Rubber lost its early gain and an additional 2 points, while Baldwin locomotive fell under yesterday's lowest.

Pressure against United States Steel was resumed and it lost a 2 1/2 point minimum. Elsewhere in the active list reactions extended from 2 to 3 points.

More orderly conditions prevailed at the end of the session and a firm tone ruled at the close. Extreme rallies ranged from two to ten points. Sales approximated 2,000,000 shares.

There was nothing in the monetary situation to cause apprehension. Call loans opened at 5 to 5 1/2 per cent.

# BUZZ-Z GO ELECTRIC FANS

## Weatherman Says Cool, but Humidity Comes on Today

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# OHIO MILKMEN INDICTED

## Plot to Raise Prices and Prevent Competition Is Charged

Cleveland, Aug. 8.—(By A. P.)—Seven indictments, charging violation of the Valencia anti-trust law, were returned today against the president and six other officials of the Ohio Farmers' Co-operative Milk Company, an organization of 2000 farmers and dairymen, by the Cuyahoga county special grand jury investigating milk conditions.

H. W. Ingersoll, attorney and farmer, president of the company and six members of the sales committee of twenty-one were indicted. Capses were issued for seven men. The indictment charges the men with conspiracy to raise prices and prevent competition.

# TREASURY REPORTS OF DESTRUCTION OF SEA FOOD

## Investigation of Sea Food

Trenton, Aug. 8.—In calling attention to the campaign against food hoarding and profiteering, United States District Attorney Joseph L. Rodine issued a statement today, in which he declared that Department of Justice agents are investigating reports of destruction of fish foods along the Atlantic coast for the purpose of keeping up the price of fish.

Reports that certain farmers who cannot readily dispose of their produce feed it to the pigs are also being investigated, the statement says.

# THIEF SUSPECT RETURNED

## Discharged Soldier Brought Back From Columbus in Hanover Case

Edward S. Cambell, a discharged soldier, who is said to be a son of a deputy United States marshal of Pittsburgh, was brought back to Philadelphia today from Columbus, O., on suspicion that he was the thief who stole the Hanover Hotel. Twelfth and Arch streets, on June 26.

Cambell returned in the custody of Detective William Moriarty.

The Hanover Hotel thief carried off loot valued at about \$600, including a diamond pin and \$300 in cash.

The police say Cambell admits the theft of clothing valued at \$200 from a Red Cross nurse who lives at Eleventh and Vine streets.

He will be examined by Magistrate Pennock today.

# WHAT ARE LABOR'S RIGHTS?

## FORMER President William Howard Taft in a brilliant editorial has analyzed the demands of the railroad men as presented to the administration.

The subject is complex. The keen, analytic mind of the former President has reduced it to simplicity.

Mr. Taft's editorial will appear tomorrow morning in the

# SEASHORE EXCURSIONS TO ATLANTIC CITY OCEAN CITY WILDWOOD AND CAPE MAY EVERY DAY

Luncheon and Ice Cream of the same high quality you have also associated with Whitman's Candles.

Open in the evening till eleven-thirty for soda and for candies

1116 Chestnut St.

# ONE-DAY OUTINGS

FROM MARKET STREET WHARF

DAILY EXCURSIONS

Atlantic City

Market Street Wharf - 7:00 A.M.

Additional train to Atlantic City Saturdays and Sundays only 7:30 A.M.

Philadelphia - 10:30 A.M. - 6:45 A.M.

Special late train returning from Atlantic City - 8:15 P.M.

Market Street Wharf - 7:00 P.M.

Sundays and Thursdays until September 7, Inc.

\$1.50 Pine Beach, Ocean City, Beresford Pier, Seaside Park, Lavaca Beach, Manokin, Atlantic City, Wildwood, Wildwood only - 6:45 A.M.

\$1.75 Asbury Park, Ocean City, Long Beach, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wildwood, Wildwood only - 7:30 A.M.

Additional train 7:00 A.M. for Point Pleasant and beach and principal intermediate stations.

Pennsylvania R. R.

# J.E. CALDWELL & CO.

CHESTNUT AND JUNIPER STREETS JEWELERS-SILVERSMITHS

HALL CLOCKS

FAITHFULLY REPRODUCING THE BEAUTIFUL MARQUETERIE CASES OF THE PERIOD OF QUEEN ANNE

SHOWN BY THIS HOUSE EXCLUSIVELY.

Public Ledger

Seashore Excursions to Atlantic City, Ocean City, Wildwood and Cape May Every Day

7:00 A. M. from Chestnut or South St. Ferry, bet. 11th and 12th Sts., Market St. and P. M. ADDITIONAL TRIPS SATURDAYS from Atlantic City at 7:30 A. M. For Wildwood and Cape May (Schedule) at 11:30 A. M. Returning additional train leaves Atlantic City only at 8:15 P. M.

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Seashore Excursions to Atlantic City, Ocean City, Wildwood and Cape May Every Day

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