

CONGRESS CHIEFS SEE LABOR-CRISIS

Republicans and Democrats Confer on Unionization of Police Forces

AWAIT WILSON'S VIEWS

Washington, Sept. 11.—Believing that a serious crisis has been reached in America's international and domestic affairs, Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate today went across to the chamber of the House and there, hidden from the eyes of the public and newspaper men, discussed the situation with leaders of both parties in the House to see if some plan could be put through to prevent unfortunate consequences.

The peace treaty and the recently developed attitude of labor, particularly the effort to unionize the police forces of the big cities, were the principal topics discussed. The conference followed one held yesterday which was not so well attended and did not consider the questions so seriously as that of today. The conference developed these important facts:

First, That some of the Democrats in the Senate are as angry as the Republicans over President Wilson's harsh criticism of the Senate in his speeches in the West.

Second, The leaders of both parties in the Senate and House fear the consequences of the attitude of organized labor, both for the welfare of labor and the country at large, and are trying to frame some measure to meet the crisis.

Wilson's Attitude is Puzzle

Congressional leaders agree that the national situation is such that political party advantage should be cast aside. It was decided that the Republicans and Democrats of the Senate and House should co-ordinate in an attempt to solve the problems and that neither party would attempt to gain political advantage from any action taken or anything that might result from the conference.

After two hours' discussion the conference broke up with the best of feeling, as it did yesterday, without anything definite being agreed to because the Democrats could not give assurance to the Republicans, who are in control in the Senate and House, that President Wilson would not veto any action taken by Congress or make political capital out of it. Another meeting will be held tomorrow.

Among those in the conferences were Senators Lodge and Smoot, Republicans; Simmons and Thomas, Democrats; and Congressmen Mondell, Republican floor leader; Kitchin, former Democratic floor leader, and Champ Clark, former Speaker and present floor leader. Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, spokesman for the Senate Democrats,

said his colleagues shared the surprise and chagrin of the Republicans over the President's action in deserting the conferences held in Washington between the President and the senators in an effort to reach an agreement on the peace treaty and league of nations, and his bitter personal arraignment of the senators in his western speeches.

Fear Labor is Going Too Far—Congressmen who have ardently supported labor for many years agreed with opponents of organized labor that the movement is going a little too far, and acquiesced in a plan for checking unionizing of the police of Washington as a warning and deterrent.

The friends of labor in Congress, it was said, fear a turn of public sentiment against labor, such as swept the country against organized capital commencing twelve years ago. Unless the attitude of labor is modified, the conference agreed, public feeling may become aroused against all labor unionism, in which case it might be impossible to obtain any legislative or administrative action favorable to labor for many years.

Democrats at the conference proposed that in order to check the unionizing of policemen and to lighten the city officials, it will be passed cutting off the pay of all Washington policemen affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Democratic leaders pledged the Republican leaders a two-thirds vote of the Democrats of the House, and a majority vote of the Democrats of the Senate for such a measure, and promised that the measure would not be made a political issue in Congress.

What Will President Do?—Some Republicans left the conference for a few minutes yesterday night for the purpose of this measure, to talk with their colleagues. Then they said:

Your proposal is satisfactory as far as the Senate and House are concerned, but can you give us assurance that the leader of your party, President Wilson, will not veto such a measure and make a political issue of it?

The Democrats were forced to admit they could not foresee what the President would do under the circumstances. At today's conference, although they had not heard directly from the President, they felt less positive that they could extend the same pledge for the President as for the Senate and House on this measure.

Their uncertainty was caused by the action of President Wilson in sending a telegram last night to Commissioner Rowan suggesting that the issue of police affiliation with organized labor in the District of Columbia be postponed until after the forthcoming industrial conference in Washington.

When the meeting broke up today it was agreed that some definite assurance must be received by the Democrats in Congress before any further steps are taken in this direction.

Honor Keystone Woman—Atlantic City, Sept. 11.—Mrs. Flora Berry, of Pennsylvania, was chosen associate national vice-counselor in the election held yesterday by the National Council, Sons and Daughters of Liberty, which closed its annual convention here with reports showing a heavy gain in membership.

STEEL MEN'S EYES TURNED TO WILSON

President Probably Will Take Some Action to Avert Strike on September 22

TWO AVENUES ARE OPEN

Washington, Sept. 11.—With a strike of organized steel workers called to effect September 22 in disregard of President Wilson's request that the unions postpone action pending the forthcoming industrial conference, speculation as to the next development in the situation centered today on the possibility of the President again taking a hand in the matter, either to urge reconsideration of the strike order by union officials or to endeavor to secure a hearing for the unions by the United States Steel Corporation.

The strike was called yesterday by the executive council of the twenty-four unions embraced in the steel industry, after they had telegraphed President Wilson for a "more definite statement" or the possibility of arranging a conference with steel corporation officials, and the President, in reply, had wired a request that the union accept postponement of the issue of union recognition until after the industrial conference.

As to the probable extent of the strike, union officials refused to indulge in speculation, but they branded as ridiculous a declaration attributed to Judge Gary of the steel corporation that not more than 10 per cent of the steel workers were organized. Officials claimed that in some places the workers are 95 per cent organized and said organizers have been active for months at virtually all mills.

45 ADRIFT IN SMALL BOATS IN OPEN SEA

Hurricane Sweeps Coast of Florida, Sinking Ships and Wrecking Towns

Miami, Fla., Sept. 11.—(By A. P.)—A wireless message received here early this morning said forty-five persons were adrift in small boats between Fowey fifteen miles from Miami. All were reported "in distress" and without food or water.

No details were given and there was nothing to indicate their identity, but it was presumed they were members of crews of ships that went down during the hurricane that swept this section early yesterday. Boats have left here to bring them in.

Key West, Fla., Sept. 11.—(By A. P.)—With daylight today, following the storm of yesterday and a night of darkness, the people of Key West and surrounding territory were able, for the first time, to survey the destruction wrought by the hurricane that swept through here Tuesday night. Not a house in the city had escaped damage.

The harbor presented a tangled mass of fishing vessels and other small craft, but latest reports failed to show deaths other than those on the dredge Grampus. Of the fourteen men on this craft ten were rescued last night, one body was recovered and three are missing. The British tanker Tonawanda, which had to be scuttled to save the liner Comal after that vessel had broken her moorings and gone aground, was reported not in a bad position. The steamer St. Gougal also broke loose.

No vessels had left port early today, nor had any trains come in over the Florida east coast railway. In addition, the temporary stopping of gas and electricity, the telephone service was suspended and newspapers were forced to suspend publication.

MINERS TO VOTE ON LABOR PARTY

Committee Favors Nationalization of Its Industry and Political Co-operation

BRITISH SYSTEM MODEL

Cleveland, Sept. 11.—Resolutions favoring the formation of a National Labor party, nationalization of coal mines at the earliest possible moment and an alliance for co-operative political and economic effort with the railway brotherhoods, freight handlers and other transportation workers' unions have been accepted in principle by the committee on resolutions of the United Mine Workers of America and will be brought before the convention here at an early session.

The proposed alliance with the railroad and transportation workers is modeled upon the lines of the British "triple alliance" of miners, railway men and transportation workers, which have proved such a powerful factor in Great Britain.

All three proposals have been recommended in resolutions from local unions in all parts of the country. The committee has decided to recommend favorably declarations against universal military service or any form of "militarism" in America and against lynching and mob violence, advocacy of 100 per cent Americanization of the United Mine Workers by requiring ap-

plication for first citizenship papers as a condition of membership and indorsement of the league of nations. Proposals to withdraw from the American Federation of Labor or to enter upon the formation of the "one big union," embracing all branches of labor, as advocated by local unions, will be adversely reported. Glenn Plumb has been invited to address the convention Friday afternoon.

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