



RELATIONS WITH GERMANY SEVERED; ON VERGE OF WAR

PRESIDENT TELLS CONGRESS HE WILL ASK USE OF ARMED FORCES TO PUNISH FIRST OVERT ACT OF GERMAN ARMS AGAINST U. S. SHIPPING

CONGRESS GRIMLY LISTENS AS WILSON RECITES ACTIONS LEADING UP TO SEVERANCE

Long List of Outrages Impassionately Recited by President; Break Only Course Possible Consistent With the Dignity and Honor of the United States After Note Declaring Stand on Ruthless U-Boat Warfare; Says He Cannot Believe Germany Will Do in Fact What They Have Warned

EARNESTLY DESIRE TO REMAIN AT PEACE WITH IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT DECLARES

But Will Again Appear Before Congress if Any Overt Act Is Committed by Germany; Country Serves No Selfish Ends, but Stands True to the Immemorial Principles of People; Presence of Justices of Supreme Court and Practically All Neutral Diplomats Added Touch of Gravity to Scene

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3.—The severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally announced to the country and the world by President Wilson at a joint session of Congress to-day at 2 o'clock.

The United States now stands on the verge of war, with all the historic precedent of centuries pressing it forward.

Fervently invoking the guidance of Almighty God in the step he had taken, President Wilson detailed to the Congress why the United States could not continue relations with a warring power which repeatedly invades its sacred rights and takes the lives of its citizens.

Calm, with a sense of right in what may prove the most somber moment of American history, the President stood in the historic hall of the House of Representatives, and with Senators and Representatives before him, spoke the words which may carry the country into the world conflict, not for aggression and not for power; only for law and humanity.

Silent and attentive, the grim company of the nation's lawmakers listened with rapt attention while President Wilson told of America's course in the now unsuccessful diplomatic struggle to dissuade Germany from her campaign of ruthlessness.

SERVE NO SELFISH ENDS

"We wish to serve no selfish ends," the President stated. "We seek merely to stand true alike in thought and in action to the immemorial principles of our people * * * * * seek merely to vindicate our right to liberty and justice and an unmoled life. These are the basis of peace, not war. God grant that we may not be challenged to defend them by acts of wilful injustice on the part of the government of Germany."

While the President was addressing Congress, Law Adviser Woolsey, of the State Department, was at the German embassy with a communication for Count Von Bernstorff. There seemed no room for doubt that the communication contained his passports.

There was an unusual attendance of diplomats to hear the President's address. Practically all the South Americans were represented and many other neutrals, impressed with the significance of the President's action for their own countries, came to the reserved places to listen to the historic making address. The gravity of the occasion was further pictured by the presence of the justices of the Supreme Court upon the floor. Members of the cabinet also were present.

Tense Silence

The assemblage arose as the President entered the chamber. Then it burst into cheering and handclapping as the President, his face set and without the suggestion of a smile, bowed and began reading his address very slowly. There was tense silence in the great room as he proceeded. Then the assemblage burst into applause when the President declared he had directed the Secretary of State to announce to his Excellency the German ambassador, that all diplomatic relations between the United States and the German empire are severed."

There were cheers and handclapping on both sides of the chamber. Republicans and Democrats joining in the demonstration.

Again the Congress and the galleries cheered when the President declared he could not believe that Germany would not regard her obligations and intended to destroy American ships and take the lives of American citizens."

Louder and more widespread cheering greeted the announcement that the President would come to Congress again to ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people should American ships and American lives" be sacrificed by German naval commanders in "heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understanding of international law and the obvious dictates of humanity."

When the President concluded, Congress rose again and cheered and remained standing while the President left the chamber.

Back to White House

The Senate returned immediately to its wing of the Capitol, justices went to the Supreme Court and Cabinet officials filed out. The House resumed its routine work as though nothing unusual or disturbing had occurred.

The President hurried back to the White House. Before leaving, the President went to Speaker Clark's office with the committee of Senators and Representatives who escorted him and each shook hands with him.

A few minutes after Secretary Baker

went into conference with the President at the White House, Secretary Daniels arrived. Precautionary measures to be taken were under discussion.

The President spoke as follows: Gentlemen of the Congress: The Imperial German government on the thirty-first of January announced to this government and to the governments of the other neutral nations that on and after the first day of February, the present month, it would adopt a policy with regard to the use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass through certain designated areas of the high seas, to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention.

Brings Up Sussex "Let me remind the Congress on the eighth of April last in view of the sinking on the twenty-fourth of March of the cross-channel passenger steamer Sussex by a German submarine, without summons or warning, and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States who were passengers aboard her, this government addressed a note to the Imperial Government in which it made the following declaration:

"If it is still the purpose of the Imperial German government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the Imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against freight carrying vessels of the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether."

The German Reply "In reply to this declaration the Imperial German government gave the government the following assurance:

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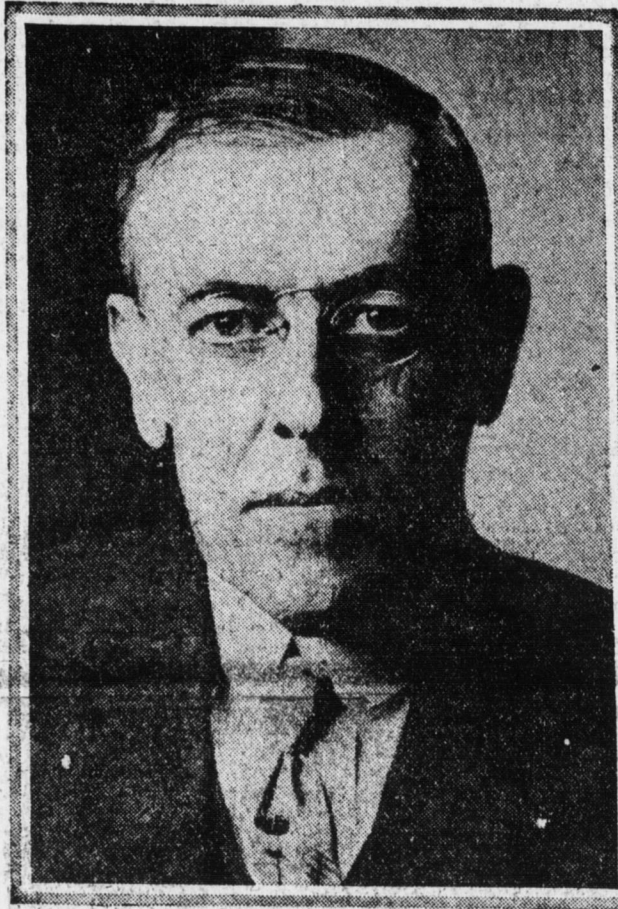
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OUR PRESIDENT



WOODROW WILSON

President Wilson will have the support of every true American in the difficult situation in which he now finds himself. Americans of foreign birth as well as those who trace their lineage back to the Mayflower are sending the President their pledges of support. Leaders of the German-American alliances in this city to-day gave assurances to the Telegraph that they would fight Germany or any other nation that might attack the United States.

REGIMENT CAN BE RAISED AT ONCE IN CITY

Nucleus of Volunteer Organization Already Formed For Service

In the event that military preparations are made in this country following the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany and the imminent danger of the United States being precipitated into hostilities with the Central Powers, it is more than likely that a volunteer organization will be formed in Harrisburg with the Harrisburg Military Association as the nucleus for a skeleton regiment.

The regiment, if formed, would be composed of Harrisburg young men under direction of one or more capable army officers, and members of the association are confident that a war strength regiment could quickly be recruited from the available material in this city.

Training For Year The Harrisburg Military Association has been formed for almost a year, its purpose being to train its members and in the army drill regulations, that in time of war they might have a basis of training that would enable them to be of service to their country in the capacity of officers.

The association was formed under the direction and with the guidance of George F. Lumb, of the Pennsylvania State Police. From a few members it has grown until forty young men are enrolled, and drill has been held every Friday evening for the past eight months on the floor of the City Gray's Armory. Practically every member is affiliated with the Harrisburg Rifle Association and each is possessed of a regulation Krag Army rifle.

Captain Lumb refused to comment on the possible situation, when interviewed this morning, but expressed his opinion that any hasty action at this time would be premature.

"It is a time to think, not act," was his remark when asked about the possible formation of a volunteer regiment. Members of the association this morning declared themselves as being heartily in favor of such a plan as above stated, if exigencies demand it.

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WILSON GIVES VON BERNSTORFF HIS PASSPORTS

Decision to Sever Diplomatic Relations Reached After Conference With the Cabinet and Members of the Senate; President Believes Whole Country Will Stand Solidly Behind Him

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3. Ambassador Gerard has been instructed to ask the German Foreign Office for his passports. Passports have been sent to Count Von Bernstorff.

Confident that the sentiment of the entire country is behind him and assured of the united support of Congress, President Wilson after his conference yesterday with the

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ATTEMPT TO SINK U. S. TORPEDO BOAT PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 3. — ACCORDING TO A REPORT AT THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO-DAY TO SINK THE TORPEDO BOAT JOSEPH JONES.

U. S. AGENTS TO DROP GERMANY'S INTERESTS

Washington, Feb. 3. — American ambassador, ministers and consular representatives in England, France, Russia, Japan, Rumania, Serbia, Greece, Egypt and Morocco were to-day instructed by the State Department to suspend all activities in relation to the German interests which they have taken over and to await information to be conveyed through some neutral government as to whom Germany wishes those interests entrusted. Thus comes to an end the great humanitarian work the United States has been doing in caring for German prisoners in those countries as well as the practical task of handling Germany's diplomatic interests.

AUSTRIAN SHIP DISABLED

New York, Feb. 3. — Word reached the police to-day that coincident with the publication of the news of the rupture with Germany the Austrian freighter Himalaya, which has been lying in Newark Bay, an estuary harbor, has been put out of commission. The report had it that the piston heads and other parts of her engines had been smashed by crowbars and axes.

Washington, Feb. 3. — Senator Thomas to-day introduced an amendment to the House Revenue bill proposing an issue of \$500,000,000 noninterest bearing treasury notes to put the nation in a "state of naval and military preparedness." The amendment was read but not discussed. The notes would be payable to persons from whom the government purchased munitions, could be used to pay taxes and would be redeemable in 1935.

Washington, Feb. 3. — Convoying of American merchantmen through European waters with warships is being considered by the government.

Washington — A long dispatch received to-day from Ambassador Penfield at Vienna is understood to announce the adhesion of Austria to Germany's course.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Mervin Brumbaugh Richwine and Emma Barbara Fleandt, Hummelstown. Martin Konrad and Mary Plankovits, Harrisburg. Gustaf Arthur Anderson and Geneva Kathryn Banker, Harrisburg. Frederick Herbert Davis Weidman and May Elizabeth Senft, Penbrook. Ira Eugene Shav, Lewistown, and Tura Mae Gross, Allen.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair to-night and Sunday, with slowly rising temperature; lowest temperature to-night about 6 degrees.

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Partly cloudy to-night and Sunday, with slowly rising temperature. A strong wind from the northwest to west winds.

River The Susquehanna river and all its branches will fall slowly or remain stationary, except local rises may occur where the channel becomes clogged with ice. Ice will continue to increase. A stage of about eight feet may be expected at Harrisburg Sunday morning.

General Conditions A further fall of 2 to 20 degrees in temperature has occurred east of the Lake Region and south and east of the Ohio river in the last twenty-four hours, with readings four degrees below zero in Southwest Virginia and Western North Carolina. Temperatures this morning are the lowest of the winter generally over the eastern part of the country.

Temperature: 8 a. m. 4 above zero. Sun: Rises, 7:11 a. m. Moon: Full moon, February 6, 10:25 a. m. River Stage: 8.4 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 35. Lowest temperature, 11. Mean temperature, 14. Normal temperature, 24.