

WASHINGTON WAITS FOR CAUSE OF WAR

No Action to Be Taken on Technicality.

GERMAN DEFIANCE IS CLEAR

Killing of American Negro Not Reported Officially.

WILSON VISITS ADVISERS

Gerard's Detention Causes Some Uneasiness — Berlin Notified Bernstorff Will Have Safe Conduct — No Ships Seized.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The American Government still is without the official evidence of an overt act by Germany considered necessary to justify President Wilson in going before Congress for authority to use necessary means to protect American seamen and people.

There no longer is any doubt that the ruthless submarine campaign is in full swing, in defiance of the warning of the United States. Everywhere it is believed that if no American ship has been destroyed it is because American ships are lying idle in their harbors instead of plying their usual trade; if no American life has been lost, it is due entirely to chance.

California Case Clear Cut

It is also generally conceded that on the basis of preliminary reports, the torpedoing without warning of the passenger liner California with an American on board makes a clear-cut case of technical violation of the rights of the United States.

President Wilson, however, is represented as determined not to plunge the country into war on the basis of evidence of an outrage about which there can be no question. Then he expects to have the American people and Congress behind him.

Unofficially it is reported today that the killing of an American seaman named George Washington in the sinking of the British steamer Turino. Few details were given and the State Department tonight had heard nothing official. The incident will be considered as soon as reports are received.

President Visits Departments

To get in personal touch with all steps taken to prepare the country for whatever may come the President left the White House this afternoon and made another quick round of the State, War and Navy Departments, visiting Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels. It was stated that he will continue this practice almost every day to save time.

When he returned to the White House it was said officially that information on all the torpedoed vessels involving Americans was being gathered as rapidly as possible, but that up to that time there had been no change in the situation. The President himself said his visits were not due to any new development of importance.

Gerard's Situation Causes Uneasiness

Additional cause for uneasiness was given the Government in the receipt of information regarded as confirming reports that Ambassador Gerard and American consuls in Germany virtually are being detained here because of uncertainty in Berlin over the plans for Ambassador von Bernstorff, and as a result of reports that German ships in American harbors had been seized. It is not understood that there has been any formal action in this connection, the German government merely by delaying arrangements for the departure of Americans.

Word was received from Great Britain and France. In the course of the day that safe conduct for German diplomats in this country would be arranged. This, as well as the fact that German ships here have not been seized, was communicated to the Berlin government and no further difficulty is expected.

Neutral Combination Suggested

From several neutral nations came information that while they would not break diplomatic relations with Germany they had or would send protests which would align them against the new campaign of ruthlessness. Against there were some suggestions of a combination of neutral nations, either to prevent trouble between the United States and Germany or to make clear neutral rights, but no definite plans were made public.

In line with his general policy in the crisis, the President authorized the statement that, even in case of war, bank deposits and other property of foreigners in the United States would be safeguarded and not seized.

In taking stock of a whole new world situation precipitated by the German pronouncement of February 1, official Washington looks upon the German action as having forced the severance of relations and brought this country to the verge of war, as having left 1,000,000 prisoners for whom this country was caring in a serious situation, and as having brought down on Germany the moral indignation of practically all the rest of the world.

Some officials also think that the last three days have shown the possibility that the German threat to isolate England may be made good. With 21,000 tons today and 56,000 tons the

OREGON BOYS MAY START HOME TODAY

TROOPS READY ONCE WHEN ORDERED TO UNPACK.

Second Command Then Comes to Prepare to Leave as Soon as Transportation Is Available.

CALEXICO, Cal., Feb. 8.—(Special.)—After a day of uncertainty and misgivings following an order to unpack just as they were preparing to entrain this morning, the Oregon troops at camp John H. Beacom are happy again tonight.

Orders received late today put them in motion once more and they are scheduled to entrain this morning as transportation is available, which probably means in the morning, as part of the cars are now here and the remainder were expected tonight.

When two troops of General Pershing's cavalry arrived here this morning all was in readiness for the Oregon men to leave. Even the shoes had been pulled from the horses. Trains were divided, beds rolled, rifles and pistols cased and farewells said. Then a mad dashing about of orderlies, a buzz of officers hurrying to and fro and lastly a scurrying of commanders to headquarters, whence they had been summoned for consultation. They emerged trying to look unconcerned and gave the order to unpack.

Captain White spent the afternoon studying the new books of tactics which arrived on this morning's mail. Drill was to be resumed in the morning. Then came a final order from General Funston ordering the men to leave.

Major W. W. Wilson, Acting Adjutant-General of the Oregon National Guard, received a telegram from the Western Department last night saying that Troop A and Battery A of the Oregon National Guard would leave Calexico probably Saturday, February 10.

CONVICTS TO VOLUNTEER

New York Penal Institutions Will Offer Regiment.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A regiment of convicts recruited from the 5000 inmates of this city's penal institutions will be offered to the Government should the President issue a call for a volunteer army.

This plan was announced here today by Burdette G. Lewis, Commissioner of Correction.

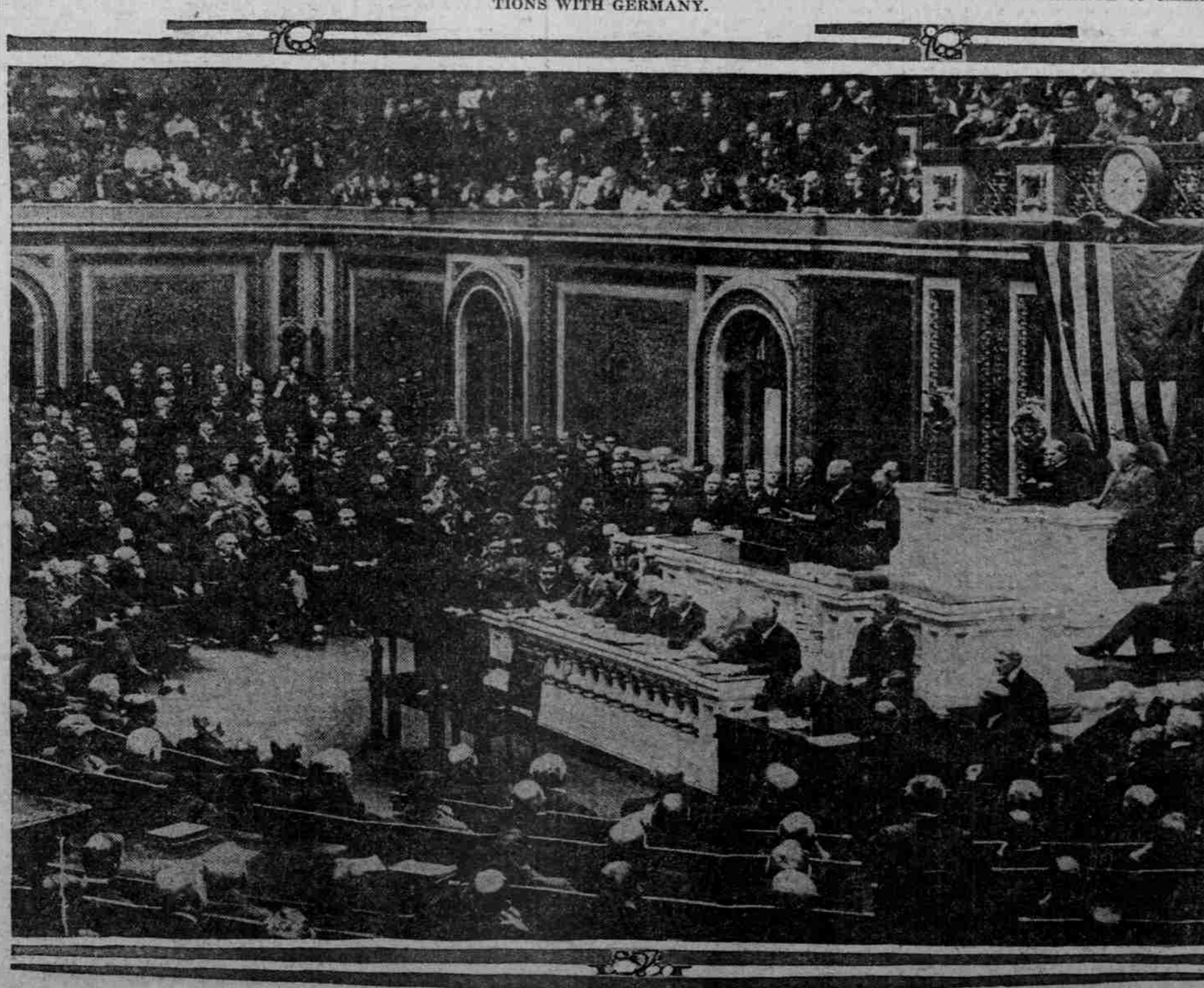
1 SURVIVES RELIEF SHIP

Engineer Confirms Story All His Comrades Were Lost.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The chief engineer and sole survivor on the Belgian relief steamer Lars Kruse has arrived at Copenhagen, according to a Reuter dispatch from that city.

The dispatch says that the engineer confirmed the report that the steamer was sunk without warning and that all his comrades perished.

FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF EPOCHAL EVENT IN CONGRESS WHEN PRESIDENT WILSON NOTIFIED THAT BODY OF SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FEBRUARY 8 OF PRESIDENT WILSON ANNOUNCING TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS THAT HE HAD COMPLETELY BROKEN OFF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.

TEN SHIPS SUNK; AMERICAN KILLED

Negro Fireman Is Victim of Submarine.

ONE SURVIVOR IS UTAH MAN

Great Britain Loses Six More Merchant Vessels.

2 UNDER NEUTRAL FLAGS

French and Russia Lose One Each.

Captain of Steamer Dauntless Is Seriously Injured and Two Members of Crew Killed.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Ten merchant vessels were listed today by Lloyd's as having been sunk by German submarines. One American life was lost.

Six of the destroyed vessels were British, and one each French, Russian and Swedish.

The new submarine victims follow: British—Turino, steamer, 2705 tons, three of crew (one an American) killed; Hollinside, steamer, 2682 tons; Boynecastle, 245 tons; Saxonian, tank steamer; Vedamore, 4122 tons; Dauntless, two killed, captain wounded.

French—Yvonne, trawler.

Russian—Bonaparte, schooner.

Swedish—Varin, schooner.

Norwegian—Songelo, sailer, 2963 tons.

American Negro Killed.

An American negro fireman on the Turino, George Washington, was killed, according to a report received today by the American Embassy from Queens-town.

One of the survivors is Calvin Bay, an American citizen of Fillmore, Utah.

Washington was one of three firemen who were killed. According to the information received by the Embassy, his wife is now in Liverpool. An effort is being made by the Embassy to find her.

Six Men Picked Up

Six men of the British vessel Dauntless were picked up after she was torpedoed by a German submarine, the Havas Agency announced at Paris today. Two members of the crew were killed and the captain seriously wounded.

The crew of the Hollinside left the vessel in boats. The captain has been landed.

Submarine Reward Fund Started

PARIS, Feb. 8.—The French Navy (Concluded on Page 4, Column 2.)

BOMB ROCKS HALL OF NON-UNION MEN

EXPLOSIVE THROWN ON ROOF OF SEATTLE HEADQUARTERS.

Fifty Longshoremen Are Routed by Detonation—None Is Hurt.

Police Suspect I. W. W.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 8.—(Special.)—A bomb, thrown on the roof of the waterfront Employers' Association building, Western avenue and Marion street, headquarters for non-union men, exploded and shook the waterfront in that vicinity tonight at 7:30 o'clock. It caused a panic among 50 longshoremen in the building. The men hurried into the street in the belief that the structure was about to crumble.

The building was slightly damaged. A window in the rear of the I. G. Glass tailor shop, 919 Post street, was shattered. No one was injured.

An examination by Police Sergeant Gus Hasselblad, who was standing a few blocks away, showed that some persons, believed by the police to be members of the I. W. W., had thrown the bomb on top of the building from an alleyway.

Sergeant Hasselblad found the remains of the bomb on top of the building. The pieces consisted of cylindrical objects about 2 1/2 inches in diameter, and at the police station the material clinging to the remains of the bomb was announced to indicate the explosive consisted of gun cotton. The officer said that so many people were hurrying from the vicinity of the explosion that it was impossible to discern who might have thrown the bomb.

BANKS TO BE PROTECTED

Funds to Be Loaned in Event of Rush by Alien Depositors.

WASHINGTON, February 8.—The Federal Reserve Board has taken steps to safeguard any member bank threatened by a run by foreign-born depositors, and will aid any bank in the country whose stability is thus threatened.

In the case of member banks, it is said the board is prepared to discount virtually the bank's entire holdings of paper into currency.

Non-member banks needing aid to meet such a run, it is understood, may receive it indirectly through member banks.

BRITISH AWAITING CONVOY

More Than Score of Steamers Outside Virginia Capes.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 8.—British steamers carrying munitions of war are assembling off the Virginia capes and will be conveyed to England by a British warship. Sources that generally are reliable said more than a score of vessels had gathered at the rendezvous.

British Vice-Consul Kenworthy declined either to deny or affirm the report.

Berlin Cut Off From Bernstorff

"Concerning Count von Bernstorff's departure from the United States, up to the present no official communication has been received for several days. All connection with the Ambassador is completely severed and reliance has to be placed on all sorts of news coming from the enemy, which cannot be examined into as to its reliability.

"Nevertheless, no serious concern is

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 2.)

TIME OF GERARD'S LEAVING NOT FIXED

Berlin Says No Concern Is Felt.

MANY ASKING FOR PASSPORTS

German Government Has No Word From Bernstorff.

ALL COMMUNICATION CUT

Several Americans, Among Them Newspaper Correspondents, Will Remain for Present—Break Is Said to Be Regretted.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y., Feb. 8.)—The date of the departure of Ambassador Gerard has not yet been fixed.

The German authorities are making every endeavor to assure him and members of the American Embassy of all possible facilities for forwarding private telegrams. No serious concern is felt here as to the safe departure of German officials in the United States.

Passports Require Time.

This information is contained in an announcement made public today by the Overseas News Agency, which follows:

"The date of the departure of the American Ambassador has not yet been fixed. The number of persons for whom passports must be secured will be rather large and therefore this work will require some time. Every endeavor is being made to assure the Ambassador and the personnel of the Embassy all possible facilities for private telegrams.

"While the American residents accept loyally the decision of their Government, many of them regret the breaking off of relations with Germany without provocation. A number of newspaper correspondents, have decided to stay in Germany until further developments.

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BLAME FOR "LEAK" IS PUT ON CHILD

WOMAN SAYS SHE LISTENED TO WORDS OF LITTLE GIRL

Promised Sensation Flattens Out When Mrs. Visconti Takes Stand.

Committee Grows Weary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Another promised sensation in the "leak" inquiry flattened out today with the long-awaited testimony of Mrs. Ruth Thomason Visconti, the mysterious informant on whose statements Thomas W. Lawson based some of his most dramatic charges.

Declining to say publicly who told her that Secretary Tumulty and W. W. Price, a White House correspondent, profited by advance information on the peace note, Mrs. Visconti revealed to the investigating committee in confidence that all her information came from remarks of Price's young daughter.

Immediately afterward Price took the stand, reiterated his denial of profiting by information obtained in confidence and said he had reason to believe the feeling in the committee that another week probably would see its conclusion.

BIG GUNS SENT NEW YORK

All Available Siege Pieces at West Point to Be Used at Forts.

WEST POINT, N. Y., Feb. 8.—All the available six-inch siege guns at West Point were shipped to New York today for use at the forts protecting the city.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Rock which will be used for the foundation of a Government fort at Rockaway Point, was carted to the site today.

The fort will have a frontage of 6000 feet against the Atlantic Ocean and will extend back 2000 feet to Jamaica Bay.

GERMAN RADIO IS FOUND

Wireless Plant Discovered Near Rio Janeiro.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 8.—At the suburban town of Niteroy, on the bay, five miles east of Rio Janeiro, there was discovered today a wireless telegraph station, which was established to communicate with German ships which are being detained in the harbor.

GERMAN-AMERICANS ASK REFERENDUM

HONOLULU, T. H., Feb. 8.—Resolutions urging that Congress resort to a National referendum before making a declaration of war against any nation were adopted here last night at a meeting of the German-American Alliance.

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CHINESE KILLED IN TONG WAR OVER \$3

Battle Rages Fiercely in Streets.

THREE TONGS ARE INVOLVED

Twenty-Five Shots Exchanged at Close Range.

HOUSES YIELD WEAPONS

M. Len, Suey Sing, Slain After Struggle With Allied Forces of Hip Sings and Bow Leongs and Japanese Is Wounded.

M. Len, a Suey Sing tongman, was killed; T. Hokira, 265 1/2 Everett street, a Japanese, was wounded, and an unidentified Chinaman is believed to have been wounded, in a battle between allied Hip Sing and Bow Leong tongmen on the one hand, and Suey Sing tongmen on the other, at Fourth and Everett streets at 10:20 o'clock last night.

The trouble is said to have started over a debt of \$3 which one tong man owed a member of another tong in Seattle. Meetings between tong representatives in all the Coast cities have tried unsuccessfully to adjust the matter, local Chinese say.

Early this morning G. Lee, of Astoria, was found by the police at 84 Second street with a bullet wound in his foot. He says that he is not a member of any of the tongs involved in the battle.

20 Shots Are Exchanged.

Five or six gunmen are said to have participated in the battle last night, and 20 or 25 shots were fired in rapid succession. The gunmen of the allied tongs are said to have followed Len until they caught him on a corner where no white witnesses were close enough to interfere or to bear witness against the duellists.

Len was shot through the heart at the first volley, but he fled towards the store of Kwong Yuen Lung Company, at 23 North Fourth street, half a block distant from the scene of the shooting. He fell dead as he reached the doorway.

Close-Range Battle Rages.

Suey Sing tongmen at police headquarters last night maintained that none of their clique had returned the fire, but white men who were attracted by the shots say that the rival tongs fought a veritable battle at almost point-blank range, across Everett street.

The latter contention is supported by the fact that a United States mail box behind the allied ground was struck twice. Len was running north, away from the box and post, and the shots must have come from the other direction.

Japanese Hit by Stray Shot.

Hokira, a Japanese, who arrived in the city only a few days ago, was struck accidentally by a ricocheted bullet from the pavement. The shot hit his collar-bone, and inflicted but a slight flesh wound, which was attended in the Emergency Hospital.

The other wounded man was traced by a trail of blood to 63 North Fourth street, but was not found by the police. Chinese say he was shot in the leg.

The police say that others may have been hurt in the affray, but no reports of other casualties had been received at an early hour today.

YESTERDAY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

THE House sessions today were made notable by the passage of two anti-cigarette bills, one prohibiting their sale to youths under 21 years of age and providing heavy penalties, and the other prohibiting their sale and use entirely. The former bill was intended to head off the other, but the plan failed.

The first consolidation bill went through the House today—it abolishes one tax commissioner and makes the Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and one tax expert the Tax Commissioners.

A series of more-or-less important amendments to the workmen's compensation act are incorporated in a bill passed by the House. The amendments were proposed by the commission itself. Appropriations aggregating \$284,831.57 were carried in three ways and means bills, passed by the House.

The House passed the bill increasing the salary of Multnomah County Commissioner from \$1800 a year to \$2000 a year. Altogether the House passed 31 bills, indefinitely postponed four and killed one.

The House committee on revision of laws worked with the Kubli anti-picketing bill and probably will report out a substitute measure tomorrow morning. It is apparent that the teeth will be drawn from the Kubli bill and the emergency clause removed, but it is doubtful now whether any anti-picket legislation can be enacted.

A big delegation of Portland school teachers appeared before the House education committee tonight on the tenure-of-office bills.