

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT FRIENDLY TO LEAGUE

Interest in Success of Covenant Frankly Avowed.

FEW CHANGES SUGGESTED

Minor Amendments Advised in Order to Cut Ground From Under Opponents in Senate.

By JOSEPH P. TUMULTY.

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Further cablegrams and other communications, dealing especially with the attitude of former President Taft, and sent at the time of the Paris peace conference, follow:

Washington, March 16, 1919. "President Wilson, Paris: 'Former President Taft asks if he may cable to you direct, for your consideration only, some suggestions about which he has been thinking a great deal and which he would like to have you consider. He said that these suggestions do not look like the change of the structure of the league, the plan of its action or its real character, but simply to removing objections in minds of conscientious Americans, who are anxious for a league of nations, whose fears have been roused by suggested construction of the league which its language does not justify and whose fears could be removed without any considerable change of language.'"

TUMULTY. "Paris, March 18, 1919.—Tumulty: In reply to your No. 16, appreciate Mr. Taft's offer of suggestions and would welcome them. The sooner they are sent the better. You need give yourself no concern about my yielding anything with regard to the amendment of the proposed convention in the future."

WOODROW WILSON. "The White House, Washington, March 18, 1919.—President Wilson, Paris: 'Following from William H. Taft: 'If you bring back the treaty with the league of nations in it, make more specific reservations of the Monroe doctrine, fix a term for the duration of the league and the limit of armament, require expressly unanimity of action in executive council and body of delegates, and add to article XV a provision that, where the executive council of the body of delegates finds the difference to grow out of an exclusively domestic policy, it shall recommend no settlement, the ground will be completely cut from under the opponents of the league in the senate. Addition to article XV will answer objection as to Japanese immigration as well as tariffs under article XXI. Reservation of the Monroe doctrine might be as follows: 'Any American state or states may protect the integrity of American territory and the independence of any government whose territory it is, whether a member of the league or not, and may, in the interests of American peace, object to and prevent the further transfer of American territory or sovereignty to any European or non-American power. 'Monroe doctrine reservation alone would probably carry the treaty, but others would make it certain.'"

TUMULTY. "The White House, Washington, March 21, 1919.—President Wilson, Paris: The following letter from Hon. Wm. H. Taft: 'I have thought perhaps it might help more if I was somewhat more specific than I was in the memorandum note I sent you yesterday, and I therefore enclose another memorandum: 'Duration of the covenant—Add to the preamble the following: 'from the obligations of which any member of the league may withdraw after July 1, 1922, by two years' notice in writing, duly filed with the secretary-general of the league.' Explanation—I have no doubt that the construction put upon the agreement would be what I understand the president has already said it should be, namely that any nation may withdraw from it upon reasonable notice, which perhaps would be a year. I think, however, it might strengthen the covenant if there was a fixed duration. It would completely remove the objection that it is perpetual in its operation. 'Duration of armament limit—Add to the first paragraph of article VIII the following: 'At the end of every five years, such limits of armament for the several governments shall be re-examined by the executive council, and agreed upon by them as in the first instance.' Explanation—The duration of the obligation to limit armament, which now may only be changed by consent of the executive council, has come in for criticism. I should think this might be avoided, without in any way injuring the covenant. Perhaps three years is enough, but I should think five years would be better. Unanimous action by the executive council of body of delegates—Insert in article IV, after the first paragraph, the following: 'Other action taken or recommendations made by the executive council or the body of delegates shall be by the unanimous action of the countries represented by the members of the council, unless otherwise specifically stated.' Explanation—Great objection is made to the power of the executive council by majority of the members and the body of delegates to do the things which they are authorized to do in the covenant. In view of the specific provision that the executive council and the body of delegates may act by a majority of its members as to their procedure, I feel confident that, except in cases where otherwise provided, the bodies can only act by unanimous vote of the countries represented. If that be the right construction, then there can be no objection to have it specifically stated, and it will remove emphatic objection already made on this ground. It is a complete safeguard against involving the United States primarily in small distant wars to which the United States has no immediate relation, for the reason that the plan for taking care of such a war to be recommended or advised by the executive council, must be approved by a representative of the United States on the board. 'Monroe doctrine—Add to article X: '(a) 'A state or states, a member, or members of the league, and competent to fulfill this obligation in respect to American territory or independence, may, in event of the aggression, actual or threatened, express assent to the obligation and relieve the European or non-American members of the league from it, until they shall be advised by such American state or states of the need for their aid.' '(b) 'Any such American state or states may protect the integrity of any American territory and the sovereignty of any government whose territory it is, whether a member of the league or not, and may, in the interests of American peace, object to and prevent the further transfer of American territory or sovereignty to any European or non-American power.' Explanation—Objection has been made that, under article X, European governments would come to America, with force and be concerned in matters from which heretofore the United States has excluded them. This is not true, because Spain fought Chile, in Spanish times, without objection from the United States, and so Germany and England instituted a blockade against Venezuela in Roosevelt's time. This year could be removed, however, by the first of the above paragraphs. Paragraph II is the Monroe doctrine pure and simple. I forwarded this in my first memorandum. It will be observed that article X only

covers the integrity and independence of members of the league. There may be some American countries which are not sufficiently responsible to make it wise to invite them into the league. This second paragraph covers them. The sentence 'European or non-American' is inserted for the purpose of indicating that Great Britain, though it has American dominions, is not to acquire further territory or sovereignty. Japanese Immigration and Tariffs—Add to article XV: 'If the difference between the parties shall be by the executive council or the body of delegates to be a question which by international law solely within the domestic jurisdiction and policy of one of the parties, it shall so report and not recommend a settlement of the dispute. Explanation—Objection is made to article XV that under its terms the United States would be bound by unanimous recommendation for settlement of a dispute in respect to any issue foreign or domestic; that it therefore might be affected seriously, and unjustly by recommendations forbidding tariffs on importations. In my judgment, we could only rely on the public opinion of a country, the whole criticism is removed. The republican senators are trying to stir up a limitation upon our tariff. The president has already specifically met the objection as to limitation upon the tariff when the 14 points were under discussion. Nevertheless in this respect to the present language of the covenant, it would help much to make and remove objections, and cut the ground under senatorial obstruction.

Prospect of Ratification. "My impression is that if the one article already sent, on the Monroe doctrine, be inserted in the treaty, sufficient republicans who signed the treaty would probably retreat from their position and vote for ratification so that it would carry. If the other suggestions were adopted, I feel confident that all but a few who oppose any league would be driven to accept them and to stand for the league.' (End letter.)

TUMULTY. The White House, Washington, March 23, 1919.—The President of the United States, Paris: Following just received from Mr. Taft: 'Venture to suggest to president that failure to reserve Monroe doctrine more specifically in face of opposition in congress will give great weight to objection that league as first reported endangers doctrine. It will seriously embarrass advocates of league, it will certainly lead to senate amendments embodying doctrine and other provisions in form less likely to secure subsequent acquiescence of other nations than proper reservation now. Deems some kind of Monroe doctrine amendment now to article X vital to acceptance of league in this country. I say this with full realization that complications in conference are many and not clearly understood here. A strong and successful stand now will carry the league.'"

TUMULTY. Letter from Mr. Taft: "New York, N. Y., April 10, 1919.—My Dear Mr. Tumulty: We are much troubled over the report that the Monroe doctrine amendment to the covenant is being opposed by England and Japan. Will you be good enough to send the enclosed to the president? We had a meeting today of the executive council of the League to Enforce Peace. Dr. Lowell and I, at the instance of the league, will be glad to have this matter presented directly to the president by cable. Sincerely yours, "WM. H. TAFT.

"Hon. Joseph P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President, the White House, Washington, D. C." (Enclosure.) "The White House, Washington, April 13, 1919.—President Wilson, Paris: Following is sent at the request of Mr. Taft: 'Friends of the covenant are seriously alarmed over report that no amendment will be made more specifically safeguarding Monroe doctrine. At full meeting of executive committee of League to Enforce Peace, with 30 members from states present, unanimous opinion that without such amendment republican senators will certainly defeat ratification of treaty because public opinion will sustain them. With such amendment, treaty will be promptly ratified.' WILLIAM H. TAFT. "A. LAWRENCE LOWELL." TUMULTY. (To be continued tomorrow.)

PENDING APPEAL IS MADE EAST STARK FROM 20TH TO 26TH INCLUDED IN PLEA.

East Side Business Men's Club Asks County Commissioners and Tax Body to Aid.

Appeal is being made jointly to the tax conservation commission and the Multnomah county commissioners by the East Side Business Men's club for the paving of an 18-foot strip in East Stark street from East Twentieth to East Twenty-sixth streets.

If this is done, it is declared, private property owners will undertake to provide for the continued paving of East Stark street from East Twentieth to East Forty-third street, thus providing an important paved thoroughfare that would carry a heavy traffic.

The appeal to each commission was practically the same. In the letter to the county commissioners, the club said: "We again renew our request that the county pave a strip 18 feet wide on East Stark street (the base line), from near East Twentieth to East Twenty-sixth streets. Little less than six blocks, between the Lone Fir and St. Mary's cemeteries.

"The county owes this much to the old first families of Portland. There are perhaps 8000 lot owners in the two cemeteries, 75 per cent of whom have no lot, but the only way this can be hard-surfaced is for the county to do it.

"Multnomah county has paved East Eighth street, Division street, East Seventeenth street, interstate bridge approaches, Columbia boulevard, Cornell road, St. Helens road, Stark street, and many other streets in the city of Portland, which city is, of course, a part of Multnomah county. It has paved 40 per cent of the county taxes (which was at times forfeit). The city cannot pave this portion of East Stark street, but we believe that sufficient should be included in this year's budget to pave this six blocks.

"To this and we will endeavor to get the property owners and the city to pave the remainder from East Stark street to East Forty-third street, and greatly improve this base line level grade thoroughfare.

"Property owners eastward say that it is useless for them to pay their portion unless the street can be paved from East Twenty-sixth to East Twentieth streets, through the cemeteries."

CARD OF THANKS. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the many friends who assisted us during our late bereavement, and also for the beautiful floral tributes.

F. J. WARD AND FAMILY.

RAIL LABOR BOARD HAILED INTO COURT TODAY

Road Gets Restraining Order From Judge.

MEMBERS WELCOME SUIT

Case Declared Means for Settling Many Perplexing Problems Subjects of Tilts.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—Buffeted about by the criticism of both railroad and railway workers for more than a year and a half, the United States railroad labor board finally was haled into federal court today, when it was made defendant in an injunction suit brought by the Pennsylvania railroad, which procured a temporary order from Judge Landis restraining the board from handing down a decision against the roads in the shopmen's controversy.

Members of the board said they "welcomed the suit," as the means for settling many perplexing questions which have been the subject of many tilts between the transportation lines, the employees and board.

Hearing to be held today. The railroad's petition is based on two allegations: That the board has exceeded its powers in prescribing rules for the selection of employee representatives in negotiations with the carriers.

Today's injunction has the effect of holding up a decision on the Pennsylvania's citation before the labor board October 20, when the road was summoned to show cause why it should not be declared in violation of the board's orders.

Order is Disregarded. The controversy arose over the road's disregard of an order from the board to hold an election to name employee representatives for negotiation of shop rules with the carrier.

The carriers' bill asked an injunction restraining the labor board and its individual members, among other things, from prescribing any regulation relating to rules, working conditions or wages without having first acquired jurisdiction thereof as provided in the transportation act.

Other Decisions Involved. The Pennsylvania also asked that the board be restrained from enforcing all previous decisions in the case. If granted the way to nullification of any or all board orders by a federal court would be open, it was said.

Board members today declared they expected to see their rulings upheld in court. Shop union officials, feeling that the court action was entirely between the Pennsylvania and the board, said they would take no part in the suit.

"OPEN SHOP" IS PROCLAIMED Eleven Independent Packing Companies Sign Notice.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—Eleven independent packing companies today signed a notice printed in newspapers that they would operate under the "open shop" plan on and after January 2, and at the same time set forth a new scale of wages which includes a cut of 8 per cent for piece workers and others ranging from 3 to 7 1/2 cents an hour.

The notice says that action by the companies has been postponed as long as possible, but that a strike threatening unless the contracts with union employees are renewed, the "open shop" has been adopted.

At East St. Louis, where striking employees of three plants have remained out of work since Monday, the situation remains unchanged.

Schedules Proposing Reductions Formulated at New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Schedules proposing wage cuts from 10 to 30 per cent for train service, shop and maintenance of way employees of railroad lines north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, were formulated today at a conference of officials. The reductions, which would take effect late this month, must be submitted to the railroad labor board for rejection or approval.

The officials said the roads would begin separate conferences with their employees early next week on the proposed pay cuts.

ELLERS CHARGES DROPPED

THREE EMBEZZLEMENT INDICTMENTS DISMISSED. Failure to Convict in Strongest of Four Cases Is Cause of Court Action.

Three indictments charging larceny by embezzlement which remained against Hy J. Ellers, head of the Oregon Eilers Music house, were dismissed by Presiding Circuit Judge Morrow yesterday on the representation of Joseph L. Hammsley, deputy district attorney, to the effect that it would be a waste of time and money to go to trial on any one of them.

Ellers was tried on a fourth indictment and found not guilty by a jury in the court of Circuit Judge Stimpson. It was the strongest of the four cases and failure to convict in that instance led Hammsley to despair of conviction in any of the others. The trial lasted about two weeks and was a considerable expense to the county.

In his statement before the presiding judge, Hammsley declared that the influence had been brought to bear which might affect his belief in any way, but that he was certain it would not be worth while to go ahead with prosecutions. Another point which he brought out was that the recent decision of the circuit court of appeals in San Francisco to the effect that the Oregon Eilers Music house and subsidiaries would make it very difficult to persuade a jury that the taking of money from one firm and putting it into another was embezzlement, if the same man owned both and both were held equally liable for debts.

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CLUB CONGRESS IS URGED

EVENT PLANNED AS CONTRIBUTION TO EXPOSITION. Oregon Farmer Believes Portland Can Make Agricultural History of State and Nation.

"A world's fair in these latter days without some definite contribution to the basic industry of agriculture is like leaving Hamlet out of the play," said Edwin A. Smith, managing editor of the Oregon Farmer, yesterday. "It is like a man building himself a fine house, electrically fitted throughout and located on a hard-surfaced highway, and having plenty of money, but with the government rationing out food because of a menacing shortage of production."

"In his message to congress this week President Harding repeated the warning: 'The base of the pyramid of civilization which rests upon the soil is shrinking through the drift of the population from farm to city. For a generation we have been expressing more or less concern about this tend-

WOMAN, 95, Mother of Three Wars.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 9.—(Special.)—Wednesday the General Lee Wallace circle, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, obligated Mrs. Charlotte Lampanus as an honorary member. Mrs. Lampanus is 95 years of age and is the mother of a civil war veteran, grandmother of a Spanish war veteran and great-grandmother of five world war veterans. She was born in New York state August 28, 1826. She came to Centralia about two years ago from Minnesota.

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