

CUT IN NAVY COST TO HIT ANNAPOLIS

House Seeks Way to Reduce
\$350,000,000 Estimate.

CURTAINMENT PLAN GAINS

Leaders Insist That Too Drastic
Cut Would Put Navy Below
Arms Conference Ratio.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.—The house naval committee, in trying to discover some way to reduce appropriations for the naval establishment next year, was reported today to have agreed formally to recommend that the first class at Annapolis be graduated in June, be turned back to civil life without commissions in the navy.

Although members declined to discuss this proposal, it is understood that such a recommendation probably will be made, along with the further proposal that the number of men to be admitted to the academy each year be reduced from five to two for each member of congress.

Secretary Denby proposed that the reduction be cut on a congressional allotment from five to three. There are about 640 members of the first class, all of whom naturally expected to be sent to sea.

A committee, urging that the entire class be dropped, declared final decision on this question would be reached at the earliest possible date in order that the committee might know whether they could expect to remain on the government payroll.

Ways to Cut Estimate Studied.

While the committee continued today to hear naval experts tell of the needs for the next year, under what they described as the "treaty navy," house members were canvassing among themselves in an effort to find how much could be cut from Secretary Denby's estimate of \$350,000,000 for the next fiscal year.

On all sides it was admitted that the drive for a reduction from that figure was gaining headway, although many leaders insisted that to cut much under the Denby estimate would put the navy below the ratio rating fixed by the arms conference.

The figure most persistently mentioned as the most probable to be set by the appropriations committee, which will frame the navy bill, was \$250,000,000. There were many claims for "little navy men" demanding drastic cuts, but the house at least should not stand for more than \$200,000,000.

Personal of \$90,000 Provided.

In asking for \$350,000,000 Secretary Denby explained that this amount would give the navy an enlisted personnel of 90,000, or 10,000 fewer than fixed by the last appropriation bill. Nobody in authority was prepared to stand offhand with the enlisted personnel would be if only \$250,000,000 was allowed, although all agreed it would scrap the "treaty navy" and give it an active status less than that allotted by the conference to Japan.

It was indicated that even the naval committee might not support Mr. Denby's request that the personnel of line officers be left intact. It would not follow his suggestion in standing out against commissions for the first class at Annapolis, which he strongly recommended, it was said.

The committee, it is said, probably will ask congress to repeal the law under which retired officers are not permitted to be associated with naval contracting to supply naval supplies or war materials to the government. Representative McArthur, republican, Oregon, a member of the committee, said there was strong sentiment in committee to repeal the law, as it would open the way for a larger number of retirements.

Stations Face Curtailment.

Big outside influences already are developing, according to reports, for retention of many of the navy stations which are certain to be abandoned or curtailed. Chairman Butler declared that the principal political influences which brought about the establishment of many yards and stations are at work now to keep them from being destroyed. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt told the committee, however, that the department was not prepared to meet the navy stations might be curtailed, all depending on the appropriation.

Mr. Roosevelt insisted that the first consideration should be the navy fleet, which ought to be kept on its feet and maintained actually at strength. He said that the navy personnel as large as 60,000 would not be sufficient to man the navy.

Reports were current that the administration would back the Denby estimate, but that it realized there was an impending fight in the house to cut it to the bone scraping point.

RELIEF PROPOSALS MADE

Gompers Submits Suggestions for
Finishing Shipbuilding.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.—Proposals for steps to reduce unemployment among navy workers caused by the recent order suspending work on ships and guns which would be scrapped under the government limitation treaty were submitted to Secretary Denby today by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor and a committee of navy yard workers and have been referred to the technical experts of the navy department for consideration. It was said tonight, in connection with the workers' plan, that several of the suggestions made were manifestly impossible to carry out.

One of the proposals that the government complete as one of the battleships to be retained under the treaty, one of the vessels now under construction in the government yard at Brooklyn, N. Y., at Mare Island, Cal., or at Norfolk, Va., as all of these battleships being in government yards are of the \$2,000-ton class. However, it was said, this could not be done under the treaty which limits the size of battleships to 25,000 tons. In addition, it was pointed out the treaty specifically provides that two ships of the West Virginia class are to be retained and the only three of this class under construction are Colorado, Washington and West Virginia, all in private yards.

It was indicated also that navy officials generally regard the workers' proposal that scrapping of ships be allocated to the navy yards or to navy crews, was not possible of execution since the great majority of the work of scrapping is done by unskilled labor and practically all of the yard employees are skilled men.

BONUS STUMPS CONGRESS

(Continued From First Page.)

A bond issue, sales tax propositions pushed their campaign with renewed vigor, and were understood to be

well satisfied with the progress made. They were said to be hopeful that the president would suggest this kind of action in his expected communication to Chairman McCumber of the senate finance committee.

Some senators also thought that Mr. Harding might make such a suggestion, but this belief did not appear to be general. Sentiment in both the house and senate against a sales tax was said to be so strong that there was little probability that the bonus bill with a provision for this tax could be passed.

Congressional leaders were understood as to when the president would communicate with Senator McCumber or whether his letter would contain suggestions that might assist congress in shaping its programme.

HARDING'S STAND IS PRAISED

President Said to Have Put Bonus
Bill Squarely Up to Congress.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—President Harding was lauded by officials of the national budget committee here today for having put "squarely up to congress the question of raising money to pay the soldiers' bonus."

It was the first time a president of the United States had insisted that congress assume some responsibility, said John M. Pratt, chairman of the budget committee, at a luncheon meeting. He urged that making congress raise the money it voted to spend would make that body "more circumspect."

Henceforth, said members of the committee, the question asked of congressmen would be not "how much money did you get for your constituents?" but "how much money did you get for the nation?"

The committee formed to aid in putting the government on a basis of efficiency and economy, will hold its first session on Feb. 16, and it is, it was announced, every state will be represented by delegates from financial, professional and trade organizations. It was said.

ALLEGED FORGER HELD

Prisoner Said to Have Confessed to
Obtaining \$2600.

Forged checks to the amount of more than \$2600 were passed by George W. Fletcher, alias "Swampy," alias R. Lee, alias William Lord, according to the report of Detective Swensen, who arrested Fletcher last night. The police said the prisoner confessed.

Details of the man's operations were not fully known by the detectives. According to the report, Fletcher, alias "Swampy," alias R. Lee, alias William Lord, according to the report of Detective Swensen, who arrested Fletcher last night. The police said the prisoner confessed.

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TRADE ASSOCIATION PRONOUNCED LEGAL

Attorney-General Gives Out
Opinion for Hoover.

RULING ONLY TENTATIVE

Mr. Daugherty Declares Business
Men May Combine if Purpose
Is Entirely Lawful.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.—Activities of trade associations do not contravene the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust laws, in the view of Attorney-General Daugherty, unless in actual practice they develop enhanced prices, suppressed competition, or curtailed production. The opinion of Mr. Daugherty, expressed informally and tentatively, was made public tonight by Secretary Hoover, who had inquired of the attorney-general as to the legal limits within which trade associations could properly operate in connection with the publication of trade statistics gathered by such organizations.

Mr. Hoover asked for an informal expression of views as to 11 specific forms of trade association activity, embracing a wide field of operation. He asked whether, subject to various limitations, an association could provide a standard system of cost accounting for its members if the costs arrived at were not distributed.

Instances Are Cited.

He asked also if uniformly in the use of trade names and phrases could be provided; if standardization of grades, quality, processes of production, etc., could be arranged; if information could be furnished as to financial responsibility; if instances could be handled; if co-operative advertising could be engaged in; if legislative questions affecting a particular industry could be handled, and if statistics showing production, distribution and wages could be collected from its members and compiled for the information of the secretary of commerce.

Mr. Hoover inquired further whether a trade association could engage in any or all of these activities provided there was no intent to hide some agreement actually to restrain trade or otherwise violate the anti-trust law.

Cost Accounting Approved.

With regard to the first question, Mr. Daugherty declared there was no apparent objection to a standard system of cost accounting, but associations should be warned to guard against uniform cost accounting of expense, and suggested the elimination of a part of one question as to the propriety of an association's publishing trade-marks for its members.

"I can see nothing illegal in the exercise of the other activities mentioned," Mr. Daugherty said, "provided always that the law is not used as a scheme or device to curtail production or enhance prices, and does not have the effect of suppressing competition. It is impossible to determine in advance just what the effect of a plan, when put into effect, will be. This is especially true with reference to trade associations, whose members are vitally interested in advancing or retarding the industry, and who through the medium of the associations are brought into personal contact with each other.

Reply Only Tentative.

"Therefore the expression of the view that the thing entered into by you, with the exceptions stated, may be done lawfully is only tentative; and if in the actual practice of any of the activities mentioned, competition is suppressed or prices are enhanced materially, this department must treat such a practice as any other one which is violative of the anti-trust act."

Discussing his advocacy of trade associations for progressive economic organization, Mr. Hoover told Mr. Daugherty he was nevertheless aware that an impression existed with a few members that individual prohibitions against trade associations, and who through the medium of the associations are brought into personal contact with each other.

Masked Purposes Barred.

"The character of trade organizations, the existence of which should be conserved, is that they carry out purposes which are entirely lawful purposes; its activities must be in harmony with its declared purposes. Trade associations, with their lawful declared purposes, must not be used as a mask to hide unlawful purposes."

MASK, PLANS SUSPICIOUS

Circumstantial Evidence Lands
Youth From Party in Jail.

On account of highly circumstantial evidence found in the pockets of William J. Griffin, 25, of 712 Liberty street, when he was picked up at 3 o'clock yesterday morning by Detectives Drennen and Persinger at Alameda and Union avenues, Griffin passed an uncomfortable night in jail.

Griffin's pockets revealed a mask and the complete plans of a party, showing the location of all doors, windows and all pieces of furniture. This looked like planned burglary and the detectives would listen to no explanation.

When the day relief came on, detectives detailed to investigate Griffin discovered that he had been to a St. Valentine's masquerade the night before and that the house plans were of his own residence.

LUMBER COMBINE, CHARGE

(Continued From First Page.)

Advantage of these wholesalers' concessions."

Harmonious Action Denied

Lumber Associations' Relationship
Declared Strained.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 15.—Charges by the federal trade commission that there had been "active co-operation" between the Western Pine Manufacturers' association and the West Coast Lumbermen's association "with the purpose and effect of harmonious action on prices and production" were denied today by a statement made public by Robert B. Allen, manager

of the West Coast Lumbermen's association.

"The relationship between the two associations has been as strained as the relationship between the two nations," Mr. Allen said, "that we have never been able to agree on much of anything. We have never attempted to agree on prices. Right now we are fighting each other on tariff, carload minimum and freight adjustments."

We even differ in regard to the federal trade commission itself. My understanding is that the Western Pine Manufacturers' association subscribes to the growing sentiment that the commission should be abolished. The West Coast Lumbermen's association is opposed to abolishing the commission, believing that it can be made a constructive agency that would give valuable assistance to business, whose good citizenship dictates that it shall be conducted within the law and so best serve the public."

DENIAL COMES FROM BEND

Charge of Fixing Prices by Pine
Association Held False.

BEND, Or., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—Charges of the federal trade commission involving the Western Pine Manufacturers' association were denied this afternoon by E. Allen and L. O. Taylor, respectively assistant general managers of the Brooks-Saylor Lumber Co. and the Shovel-Hixon company. Both companies are members of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association.

"The Western Pine Manufacturers' association has always been particularly free of any stigma of fixing or maintaining prices or of curtailing production," Mr. Allen said. "Its function is to give the industry a wide field of information showing the amounts of lumber shipped and prices paid. It is a body which makes up any market report."

"The association's activities have nothing to do with prices," said Mr. Taylor. "Its function is to give the industry a wide field of information showing the amounts of lumber shipped and prices paid. It is a body which makes up any market report."

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