

PRESIDENT DODGES TARIFF REFORM BUT RECOMMENDS TAXATION OF THE WEALTHY

In Annual Message Roosevelt Asks Congress to Pass Ship Subsidy Law and Tax Inheritances.

(Journal Special Service.) Washington, Dec. 4.—President Roosevelt's annual message to congress was read today. It is a lengthy document, containing 10,000 words, in part as follows:

Campaign Contributions.

As a nation we still continue to enjoy a literally unprecedented prosperity; and it is probable that only reckless speculation and disregard of ethical business methods on the part of the business world can materially mar this prosperity.

No congress in our time has done more good work of importance than the present congress. There were several matters left unfinished at your last session, however, which I most earnestly hope you will complete before your adjournment.

I again recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party. Such a bill has already passed one house of congress. Let individuals contribute as they desire; but let us prohibit in effective fashion all corporations from making contributions for any purpose, directly or indirectly.

Right of Appeal.

Another bill which has just passed one house of congress and which it is urgently necessary should be enacted into law is that conferring upon the government the right of appeal in criminal cases on questions of law. This right exists in many of the states; it exists in the District of Columbia by act of the congress.

I can not too strongly urge the passage of the bill in question. A failure to pass it will result in seriously hampering the government in its effort to obtain justice, especially against wealthy individuals or corporations who do wrong.

Anti-Injunction Law.

In my last message I suggested the enactment of a law in connection with the issuance of injunctions, attention having been sharply drawn to the matter by the demand that the right of applying injunctions in labor cases should be wholly abolished. It is at least doubtful whether a law abolishing altogether the use of injunctions in such cases would be wise. The use of the courts in which case of course the legislation would be ineffective. Moreover, I believe it would be wrong altogether to prohibit the use of injunctions.

Lynching Epidemics.

In connection with the delays of the law, I call your attention and the attention of the nation to the prevalence of crime among us, and above all, to the epidemic of lynching and mob violence that springs up, now in one part of our country, now in another. To deal with the crime of corruption it is necessary to have an efficient public conscience, and to accomplish this by whatever legislation will add speed and certainty in the execution of law.

The greatest existing cause of lynching is the perpetration, especially by black men, of the hideous crime of rape—the most abominable in all the category of crimes, even worse than murder.

In my judgment, the crime of rape should always be punished with death, as is the case with murder; assault with intent to commit rape should be made a capital crime, at least in the discretion of the court; and provision should be made by which the punishment may follow immediately upon the heels of the offense, while the trial should be so conducted that the guilty perpetrator should be publicly and shamefully giving testimony, and that the least possible publicity shall be given to the details.

Labor and Capital.

In dealing with both labor and capital, with the questions affecting both corporations and trades unions, there is one matter more important to remember than any other, and that is the rights hard done by workers of mere discontent. These are the men who seek to excite a violent class hatred against all men of wealth. They seek to turn wise and proper movements for the better control of corporations and for going away with the abuses connected with wealth into a campaign of hysterical excitement and falsehood in which the aim is to inflame to madness the brutal passions of mankind.

I call your attention to the need of passing the bill limiting the number of hours of employment of railroad employees. The measure is a very moderate one, and I can conceive of no serious objection to it. Indeed, so far as it is in our power, it should be our aim steadily to reduce the number of hours of labor, with as a goal the general introduction of an eight-hour day.

Child-Labor Act.

The congress at its last session wisely provided for a truant court for the District of Columbia—a marked step in advance on the path of properly caring for the children. Let me again urge that the congress provide for a thorough investigation of the conditions of child labor and of the labor of women in the United States.

Among the excellent laws which the congress passed at the last session was an employers' liability law. It was a marked step in advance to get recognition of employers' liability on the statute books, but the law did not go far enough. In spite of all precautions exacted by employers there are unavoidable accidents and even deaths involved in nearly every line of business connected with the mechanic arts. This inevitable sacrifice of life may be reduced to a minimum, but it cannot be completely eliminated.



President Theodore Roosevelt.

FIFTY POINTS OF MESSAGE.

- 1. I recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party.
- 2. The crime of rape or assault to commit rape should be punished with death.
- 3. It should be our aim to steadily reduce the number of hours of labor with as a goal the general introduction of an eight-hour day.
- 4. The ownership of coal lands should remain in the United States, which should not however attempt to work them but permit them to be worked by private individuals under a royalty system, the government seeing that no excessive price is charged consumers.
- 5. The best way to avert the very undesirable move for the governmental ownership of railroads is to secure by the government on behalf of the people adequate control and regulation of the great interests common carriers.
- 6. There is no more legitimate tax for any state than a tax on the franchises conferred by that state upon street railroads and similar corporations.
- 7. The national government should impose a graduated inheritance tax and if possible a graduated income tax.
- 8. The whole question of marriage and divorce should be relegated to the authority of the national congress.
- 9. Our present system (of finance) is seriously defective.
- 10. This hostility toward the Japanese is sporadic and is limited to a very few places. Nevertheless it is most discreditably to us as a people, and it may be fraught with the gravest consequences to the nation.
- 11. To shut the Japanese out from the public schools is a wicked absurdity.
- 12. It is only a very small body of our citizens that act badly. Where the federal government has power, it will deal summarily with any such.
- 13. I recommend to the congress that an act be passed specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese who come here intending to become American citizens.
- 14. I do not ask that we continue to increase our navy. I ask merely that it be maintained at its present strength.

The commission appointed by the president, October 14, 1902, at the request of both the anthracite coal operators and miners, to inquire into, consider and pass upon the questions in controversy in connection with the strike in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania and the causes out of which the controversy arose, in their report, findings and award expressed the belief "that the state and federal governments should provide the machinery for what may be called the compulsory investigation of controversies between employers and employees when they arise. This expression of belief is deserving of the favorable consideration of the congress and the enactment of its provisions into law. A bill has already been introduced to this end.

Withdraw Coal Lands.

It is not wise that the nation should alienate its remaining coal lands. I have temporarily withdrawn from settlement all the lands which the geological survey has indicated as containing, or in all probability containing, coal. The question, however, can be properly settled only by legislation, which in my judgment should provide for the withdrawal of these lands from sale or from entry, save in certain special circumstances. The ownership would then remain in the United States, which should not, however, attempt to work them, but permit them to be worked by private individuals under a royalty system. The government keeping such control as to permit it to see that no excessive price was charged consumers.

To Control Corporations.

The passage of the railway bill, and only to a less degree the passage of the pure food bill, and the provision for increasing and rendering more effective national control over the beef-packing industry, mark an important advance in the proper direction. Yet in my judgment it will in the end be advisable in connection with the packing house inspection law to provide for putting a date on the label and for charging the cost of inspection to the packers. All these laws have already justified their enactment.

The best way to avert the very undesirable move for the governmental ownership of railroads is to secure by the government on behalf of the people as a whole such adequate control and regulation of the great interstate common carriers as will do away with the evils which give rise to the agitation against them. So the proper antidote to the dangerous and wicked agitation against the men of wealth as such is to secure by proper legislation and executive action the abolition of the grave abuses which actually do obtain in connection with the business use of wealth under our present system—or rather no system of control to exercise any adequate control at all.

Combine Necessary.

What we need is not vainly to try to prevent all combination, but to secure such rigorous and adequate control and supervision of the combinations as to prevent their injuring the public, or existing in such forms as inevitably threaten injury—for the mere fact that a combination has secured practically complete control of a necessary life would under any circumstances show that such combination was to be presumed to be adverse to the public interest. It is unfortunate that our present laws should forbid all combinations, instead of sharply discriminating between those combinations which do good and those combinations which do evil. Often railroads would like to combine for the purpose of preventing a big shipper from maintaining improper advantage at the expense of small shippers and of the general public. Such a combination, instead of being forbidden by law, should be favored. In other words, it should be permitted, to railroads to make agreements, provided these agreements were sanctioned by the interstate commerce commission and were published. With these two conditions complied with it is impossible to see what harm such a combination could do to the public at large.

An Inheritance Tax.

The question of taxation is difficult in any country, but it is especially difficult in ours with its federal system of government. Some taxes should on every ground be levied in a small district for use in that district. Thus the taxation of real estate is peculiarly one for the immediate locality in which the real estate is found. Again, there is no more legitimate tax for any state than a tax on the franchises conferred by that state upon street railroads and similar corporations which operate wholly within the state boundaries, sometimes in one and sometimes in several municipalities or other minor divisions of the state.

People of San Francisco Scolded for Barring Japs From School and Threat of Force is Made by Executive.

But there are many kinds of taxes which can only be levied by the general government so as to produce the best results, because among other reasons the attempt to impose them in one particular state too often results merely in driving the corporation or individual affected to some other locality or other state. The national government has been moved by chief revenue from a tariff on imports and from an internal or excise tax. In addition to these there is every reason why, when next our system of taxation is revised, the national government should impose a graduated inheritance tax and if possible a graduated income tax.

Forest Preservation.

Much is now being done for the states of the Rocky mountains and great plains through the development of the national policy of irrigation and forest preservation; no government policy for the betterment of our internal conditions has been more fruitful of good than this. The forests of the White mountain and southern Appalachian regions should also be preserved; and they cannot be unless the people of the states which they inhabit, through their representatives in the congress, secure vigorous action by the national government.

Marriage and Divorce.

I am well aware of how difficult it is to pass a constitutional amendment. Nevertheless in my judgment the whole question of marriage and divorce should be relegated to the authority of the national congress. At present the wide differences in the laws of the different states on this subject result in scandalous and inequitable results. There is nothing so vitally essential to the welfare of the nation, nothing around which the nation should bend itself to throw every safeguard, as the home life of the average citizen. Not a change would be good from every standpoint. In particular it would be good because it would confer on the congress the power of once to deal radically and efficiently with polygamy, and this should be done whether or not marriage and divorce are dealt with. It is neither safe nor proper to leave the question of polygamy to be dealt with by the several states. Power to deal with it should be conferred on the national government.

Ask Ship Subsidy.

Let me once again call the attention of the congress to two subjects concerning which I have frequently before communicated with them. One is the question of developing American shipping. I trust that a law embodying in substance the views of the department on this subject laid before the house at its last session will be passed. I am well aware that in former years objectionable measures have been proposed in reference to the encouragement of American shipping; but it seems to me that the proposed measure is as nearly unobjectionable as any can be. It will of course benefit the nation, not only the states, such as Maine, Louisiana, and Washington; but what benefits part of our people in the end benefits all; just as government aid to irrigation and forestry in the west is not only to the benefit of the Rocky Mountain states, but to all our country.

Currency Reform.

I especially call your attention to the subject of currency. The currency law which I have before mentioned has already served a great purpose in aiding the enormous business development of the country; and within ten years it has been an immense increase in circulation per capita citizen, from \$10.00 to \$33.00. For several years evidence has been accumulating that additional legislation is needed. All commercial interests are suffering from the present excessive rates for call money in New York attract money from the interior banks into the speculative field; this depletes the fund that would otherwise be available for use in the commercial borrowers are forced to pay abnormal rates; so that each fall a tax in the shape of increased interest charges, is placed on the whole country.

Alaska Discussed.

Alaska's needs have been partially met, but there must be a complete reorganization of the governmental system, as I have before indicated to you. I ask your special attention to this. Our fellow-citizens who dwell on the shores of Puget sound with characteristic industry are arranging to hold in Seattle the Alaska Yukon Pacific exposition. Its special aims include the upbuilding of Alaska and the development of American commerce on the great ocean. This exposition, in its purpose and scope, should appeal not only to the people of the Pacific slope, but to the people of the United States at large. Alaska since it was bought has yielded to the government \$1,000,000 of revenue, and has produced nearly \$300,000,000 in gold, fur and fish.

Japanese Problem.

It is a mistake, and it betrays a spirit of foolish cynicism, to maintain that all international governments are ruled by a balance of power. Whether they be Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Gentile; whether they come from England or Germany, Russia, Japan, or Italy, matters nothing.

Hostility Sporadic.

I am prompted to say this by the attitude of hostility here and there assumed toward the Japanese in this country. This hostility is sporadic and is limited to a very few places. Nevertheless it is most discreditably to us as a people, and it may be fraught with the gravest consequences to the nation. The friendship between the United States and Japan has been continuous since the time over half a century ago when Commodore Perry, by his expedition to Japan, first opened the islands to western civilization.

Through the Red Cross the Japanese people sent over \$100,000 to the sufferers of San Francisco, and the gift was accepted with gratitude by our people. The courtesy of the Japanese, nationally and individually, has become proverbial. To no other country has there been such an increasing number of visitors from this land as to Japan. In return,

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those of the Philippines, Hawaii and our other insular possessions, should all be directed under one executive department; by preference the department of state or the department of war.

San Francisco Censured.

Here and there a most unworthy feeling has manifested itself toward the Japanese—the feeling that has been shown in shutting them out from the common schools in San Francisco, and in nurturing against them in one or two other places, because of their efficiency as workers. To shut them out from the public schools is a wicked absurdity, when there are no first-class colleges in the land, including the universities and colleges of California, which do not gladly welcome Japanese students and on which Japanese students do not reflect credit. We have as much to learn from Japan as Japan has to learn from us; and no nation is fit to teach unless it is also willing to learn.

Cuban Question.

Last August an insurrection broke out in Cuba which it speedily grew evident that the existing Cuban government was powerless to quell. This government was repeatedly asked by the then Cuban government to intervene, and finally was notified by the president of Cuba that he intended to resign; that his decision was irrevocable, and that none of the other constitutional officers would consent to carry on the government and that he was powerless to maintain order. It was evident that chaos was impending, and there was every probability that if steps were not immediately taken by this government to try to restore order the representatives of various European nations in the island would apply to their respective governments for armed intervention in order to protect the lives and property of their citizens. Thanks to the preparedness of our navy, I was able immediately to send enough ships to Cuba to prevent the situation from becoming hopeless and to restore peace.

Mio Conference.

The second international conference of American republics, held in Mexico in the years 1901-2, provided for the holding of a similar conference within five years, and committed the fixing of the time and place and the arrangements for the conference to the governing board of the bureau of American republics, composed of the representatives

of all the American nations in Washington. That board discharged the duty imposed upon it with marked fidelity and painstaking care, and upon the courteous invitation of the United States of Brazil the conference was held at Rio de Janeiro, continuing from the 21st of July to the 29th of August last. Many subjects of common interest to all the American nations were discussed by the conference, and the conclusions reached, embodied in a series of resolutions and proposed conventions, will be laid before you upon the coming in of the final report of the American delegates.

I have just returned from a trip to Panama and shall report to you at length later on the whole subject of the Panama canal.

Army and Navy.

I do not ask that we continue to increase our navy. I ask merely that it be maintained at its present strength, and this can be done only if we replace the obsolete and outworn ships by new and good ones, the equals of any afloat in any navy. To stop building ships for one year means that for that year the navy goes back instead of forward.

Officers of Royal and Select Masons.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.) Salem, Or., Dec. 4.—Hudson comm. Royal and Select Masons, A. F. & A. M. of this city, met last evening and elected the following officers: Thrice Illustrious master, Lot L. Pearson; deputy illustrious master, James B. Godfrey; principal conductor of work, George G. Brown; treasurer, H. B. Thielens; recorder, Frank Jakoski; captain of the guard, William Warner; conductor of council, H. McConnell; steward, J. B. Weyant; sentinel, H. Schomaker.

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