

FORMER SECRETARY OF WAR GARRISON WAS INSISTENT THAT PRESIDENT WILSON USE HIS INFLUENCE IN BEHALF OF CONTINENTAL ARMY

Letters Show That Head of War Department Objected to Proposals in Congress to Build Up the National Guard in Lieu of His Plan; Letters Are Given to the Public.

Provisions of Continental Army Plan. Washington, Feb. 11.—(I. N. S.)—Secretary of War Garrison's continental army plan, the failure of which has been given as his reason for resigning from the cabinet, provided for the raising of a citizen army of 400,000 men to supplement the regular army. It was to be recruited in increments of 100,000 men a year.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(I. N. S.)—The first of the preliminary correspondence leading up to the resignation of Secretary of War Garrison is a letter by Mr. Garrison dated January 12. He wrote:

"War Department, Washington, Jan. 12, 1916.—My dear Mr. President: In my judgment we are facing a critical juncture with respect to the military part of the national defense program.

"I am convinced that unless the situation is dealt with promptly and effectively, we can indulge in no reasonable expectation of any acceptable result. Opposes State Troops Plan. The policy recommended to you and adopted by you, squarely placed the nation upon the true foundation of national forces. If that policy is made effective by legislation there will be secured to this country for the first time a real, stable foundation for the military part of its national defense.

"If, however, instead thereof, a policy is adopted, based on state troops as the main reliance of this country for its military arm, not only has no advance been made from the deplorable and inexcusable situation in which we have so long been, but an effective block has been placed across the pathway toward a proper settlement. The national situation would serve to delude the people into believing that the subject had been settled and therefore required no further consideration upon their part.

"It would, therefore in my judgment, be infinitely worse than an entire failure of all legislative enactment upon the subject. The matter would at least leave it open for future settlement. I, of course, am not advised as to the settlements of intention made by Mr. Hay to you in the conversations held with you prior to your message to congress at the opening of the present session.

"I have expressed my own views and have so expressed myself to you, and the situation in congress was such that unless you personally exerted the power of your leadership, no result would obtain any worthy results in this matter. Mr. Hay has now made open declaration of his intention. He announces that he does not intend to press for the enactment of the military policy advocated in your message. With respect to the regular army, he does not propose giving up the organizations asked for and imperatively necessary if the federal volunteers (so-called continental army) are to be properly trained.

"He proposes adding a few thousand men to the enlisted strength of the army at its present organization, the adding of a few regiments of field artillery to the existing organizations of the regular army, the entire abandonment of the idea of a federal force or national volunteers, and the passing of a bill granting federal pay to the enlisted men and officers of state troops.

"In my judgment the effect of the enactment of Mr. Hay's program would be to set back the whole cause of legitimate, honest, national defense in an entirely unjustifiable and inexcusable way. Without Reality or Substance. It would be, in my judgment, a betrayal of the trust of the people in this regard. It would be illusory and apparent without any reality or substance.

"There is, unfortunately, very little knowledge and very little intense personal interest in any of the proposals. It is entirely clear that the proposals are diametrically opposed to each other and are irreconcilable. Those who are conscientiously convinced that nothing but national forces can provide the basis of policy of national defense, cannot properly accept a policy based upon state forces. It not only does not in itself provide a solution, but acts to prevent any proper solution.

"If those who are thus convinced are to be permitted to make their position on the matter, they can only show their sincerity and good faith by declining to admit the possibility of compromise with respect to this essential, fundamental principle. Garrison Fully Convinced. I am thus convinced, I feel that we are challenged by the existing situation to declare ourselves promptly, openly and unequivocally, or be charged properly with lack of sincerity and good faith. We cannot hope to see our program, based on this essential principle, succeed if we admit the possibility of compromise with respect to it.

"You are the ultimate responsibility; yours is the final determination as to the manner in which the situation shall be faced and treated. I fully realize this, and do not desire to cause you the slightest embarrassment on my account. If, therefore, my withdrawal from the situation would relieve you, you should not hesitate for a moment on that account. Sincerely yours, 'LINDLEY M. GARRISON.' 'The President.' 'The President's Reply. The White House, Washington, Jan. 17, 1916. My Dear Secretary: I am very much obliged to you for your letter of January 12 and January 14. They make your views with regard to adequate measures for preparation for national defense sharply clear. I am glad that I already understood just what your views were, but I am glad to have them restated in this succinct and striking way. You believe, as I do, that the chief thing necessary is that we should have a trained citizen reserve and that the training, organization and control of that reserve should be under immediate federal direction.

"But apparently I have not succeeded in making my own position equally clear to you, though I feel sure members of the house concerning military affairs. Apart from the power that always resides in every chairman of committee, Mr. Hay has the additional power of dealing with a subject concerning which the rest of the house has no knowledge and of which which it has never concerned itself.

"In this particular instance, his proposal of settling this matter by voting money to the enlisted men and officers of the state troops appeals to the direct personal, political interest of the members. Wanted Wilson to Interfere. In these circumstances, it seems to me to be perfectly clear that unless you interpose your position as leader of the country on this great subject the result will be a lamentable one which I have just described.

"If the public obtains the impression that Mr. Hay's solution is merely an expedient, accomplishing the same end as your proposed policy, they will accept the same and rest content that their desires have been properly met. It is, however, clearly and unmistakably advised that to adopt the policy suggested by Mr. Hay is to make a mockery of all that is worthy and virtuous in the proposal of a proper military policy, and that it is a delusion to consider such a solution as a real reliance or security in the event of a war. We can obtain results commensurate with the necessities of the case and with a self-respecting consideration and treatment thereof.

"I cannot therefore too strongly urge upon you my view of the comparative necessity of your seeking an occasion at the earliest possible moment to declare yourself with respect to the matter, and in doing so to make it clear beyond peradventure that nothing except national forces, raised by the nation and subject to the executive authority, responsibility and control is any real settlement of this issue. Sincerely yours, 'LINDLEY M. GARRISON.' 'The President.' 'Again Writes the President. Following this there was evidently a conversation between Secretary Garrison and the president, after which the secretary wrote:

"War department, Washington, Jan. 14, 1916. My Dear Mr. President: 'What you said today by way of response to my letter of the 12th requires me to make my position perfectly clear to you. You stated that Mr. Hay told you that your proposal of federal volunteers could not be procured and that the same end for which you were striving could be procured by other means by utilizing the state troops as a basis for the military policy. This, therefore, must be in entire accord and sympathy with the president's plan. While Garrison's continental army plan was on the rocks when the break came, reports generally accepted here were to the effect that behind the secretary of war's resignation was his advocacy of compulsory military service. President Wilson took the position that no scheme of compulsion should be advocated in this country, but that the volunteer system should be developed to the limit. Acceptance by the government of compulsory military service, the president pointed out, would directly violate democratic principles.

"Politics Not Involved. White House officials today said that President Wilson hoped to select a successor to Secretary Garrison before the news of his resignation was given to the public. This was impossible, however, because Mr. Garrison resigned and left immediately for New York with Mrs. Garrison. Friends of Garrison and the president both deny the possibility of anything to do with the secretary of war's resignation. Close friends of Garrison say reports that he is desirous of becoming a candidate for governor of New Jersey are untrue. When a proposition to this effect was recently made by New Jersey Democrats to Garrison he answered: 'I have had all the politics I want. When I resign from the cabinet I shall practice law.'

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'I have accepted his resignation, I am sure it will be your desire that I accept yours also. I do so with genuine regret because you have in every way fulfilled the highest expectations and rendered the country the most conscientious and efficient service. 'It is with genuine sorrow that I see this official relationship between us brought to an end. 'Cordially and sincerely yours, 'WOODROW WILSON.' 'Hon. Henry Breckenridge, assistant secretary of war.'

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Politics Not Involved. White House officials today said that President Wilson hoped to select a successor to Secretary Garrison before the news of his resignation was given to the public. This was impossible, however, because Mr. Garrison resigned and left immediately for New York with Mrs. Garrison. Friends of Garrison and the president both deny the possibility of anything to do with the secretary of war's resignation. Close friends of Garrison say reports that he is desirous of becoming a candidate for governor of New Jersey are untrue. When a proposition to this effect was recently made by New Jersey Democrats to Garrison he answered: 'I have had all the politics I want. When I resign from the cabinet I shall practice law.'

No Harm Done, Is Belief. Scores of letters and telegrams were received at the White House today, expressing belief that the resignation of Secretary of War Garrison would not harm the administration. General Scott, chief of staff, today was acting as secretary of war. Last November the president issued an order that Scott should be acting secretary whenever Garrison and Breckenridge were temporarily absent. The president's intention was expressed as such and belief is expressed that a new order may be issued. Wilson Cautioned Garrison. Though there had been rumors that Garrison intended to quit because of the apparent failure of the continental army plan he advocated, the immediate cause of his resignation is believed to have been the following note from the president, regarding the speech the secretary was scheduled to make last night before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States: 'You should feel no hesitation about expressing your personal views on both subjects (preparedness and Philippine independence), but I hope you will be kind enough to draw very carefully the distinction between your individual views and those of the administration.'

Yesterday the secretary said his resignation was not final. When there was such a difference between him and the president on fundamental principles. Resignations Were Sudden. The president expressed 'great surprise' when he accepted the resignation, but said he felt he would merely impose an additional burden on Garrison if he insisted on his remaining in the cabinet. The two resignations were decided on silently, for an hour before discussion was scheduled to speak before the Chamber of Commerce. It was announced in the advance copies of the speech would be given out as soon as the stenographer transcribed the secretary's notes. The secretary, it was said, had tried to conform to the president's wishes in the matter of expressing his personal views. The resignation, however, was offered and 'Garrison and Wilson cancelled the speaking engagement. The announcement of the resignations of Secretary Garrison and Assistant Secretary Breckenridge was made at the White House last night by Secretary Tumulty, who at the same time made public extensive correspondence between Mr. Wilson and the secretary of war. The correspondence discloses that Mr. Garrison first suggested his resignation on January 14. Discussing then his failure to agree with the president's viewpoint, regarding the continental army, Mr. Garrison said: 'If my withdrawal from the situation would relieve you, you should not hesitate for a moment on that account.'

The White House gave out the letters of resignation of Secretary Garrison and Assistant Secretary Breckenridge and the president's acceptance of their resignations as follows: 'The White House, Washington, Feb. 10, 1916.—My dear Mr. President: 'I am just in receipt of your letter of February 10 in reply to mine of February 9. I am glad to hear that we do not less disagree upon what I conceive to be fundamental principles. This makes manifest the propriety of my leaving the cabinet, and I am sure you will be very sympathetic with respect to these matters. I hereby tender my resignation as secretary of war, to take effect at your convenience. Sincerely yours, 'LINDLEY M. GARRISON.' 'The President.'

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