

# DISREGARD FOR WILSON'S ADVICE NOT HELD BREAK

## Democratic Chiefs Assert Caucus Did Not Involve Any Question of Leadership of President.

By David Lawrence  
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Washington, Feb. 11.—Team work is an essential in party government and President Wilson's defeat at the hands of the caucus of Democrats who refused to take his advice about universal military training is an excellent example of the loose connection between the White House and Capitol Hill, a circumstance that has on more than one occasion threatened to be troublesome but has never come to the surface so clearly as in the vote of 107 to 38 against a White House request.

The president has been secluded so much that he isn't aware of what is going on inside his own party. ACTION WAS CERTAIN  
There was no real necessity for a caucus of Democrats to declare against universal military training. The Republican leadership of Representative Mondell had already expressed unalterable opposition to the scheme on the ground of expense.

There was, moreover, no necessity for a letter from the White House to the Democrats advising them on the matter, for once the caucus was called and the plan to hold it had been under way for a week, the president might have discovered on consulting any well informed member of the Democratic party in the house that the predominant sentiment was against universal military service or training that has any compulsory feature in it.

MAKES DIVERGENCE CLEAR  
But Mr. Wilson, without finding out the situation in the house, sent a letter not merely advising that the Democrats hide their time and wait for the San Francisco convention to determine what shall be the issues of the Democratic party in the campaign, but giving at the same time an endorsement of the universal military training plan.

Had he failed to commit himself and merely urged postponement, the blow that came in the vote 107 to 38 would have been merely a difference of opinion as to the proper time to make a declaration on the subject and not a distinct objection to the principle of military training approved by the president and Secretary Baker and the general staff of the army.

It is about time that the executive branch of the government discovered that, unarmaged as the opposition may be, the general staff is hardly popular in Capitol Hill. YEAR NEGRO PROBLEM  
Memories of brusque treatment re-

ceived by the members of house and senate during the war when they used to sit cooling their heels outside the offices of lieutenants, captains, colonels and generals are only too fresh in the minds of our legislators, who never forget such things anyway.

But fundamentally the Democratic members of the house who are opposed to military training, hail from the West and South. As for the latter section, members say their constituents are opposed to military training largely because of a fear that to arm the negro youth of the country three months of the year might make it difficult to handle said youth the other nine months.

Southern members are always sensitive about any piece of legislation to arouse the race question, and they are having too many post-war troubles in the question anyway to experiment with universal military training in time of peace.

TAKES FARM LABOR  
As for the West, the objection seems to be that farm labor is scarce enough as it is and that the dislocation to agriculture caused by the wartime conscription is too recent to permit any peace time scheme that is even remotely analogous to the selective draft.

There are Western members, of course, who argue in favor of military training on the ground that it helps the health of the nation's youth and gives us a preparedness for war which we didn't have when the European war came.

But the trend seems to be to return to the same state of suspicion about a large military establishment now as the West had when President Wilson campaigned for Secretary Garrison's continental army and reserve system. Members from the West say their constituents are not exercised over the possibility of another big war for the next 10 years at least because the world is in a state of economic and financial exhaustion.

The question is by no means disposed of. The Republican party is in control of both branches of the government and must soon declare itself. The revolt of the Republican leaders of the house against the president on this issue is due to the same line of reasoning which Western Democrats have advanced. Even with the support of the American Legion it is doubtful whether the plan would go through, as Republicans and Democrats fear the wrong voters are opposed to the scheme, that farmers don't want it and that organized labor is far from enthusiastic about creation of a large federal force that might upon occasion be used for strike duty.

President Wilson is unquestionably disappointed that his party didn't follow him. Some of his friends have never believed he was especially keen for universal military training himself, though he has endorsed the idea before with the proviso that it would be accompanied by vocational education. LEADERSHIP NOT AT ISSUE

His perfunctory attitude heretofore had not a little to do with the calm way in which house Democrats ignored his communications on the subject. Insofar as the Democrats are being taunted today with having rebuked their leader in the White House many of them say it was merely "a difference of opinion on one question," and does not involve the entire subject of Wilson leadership, as they argue, will be demonstrated whenever the occasion for such a showdown arises.

But disinterested observers cannot but be impressed with the fact that as it becomes apparent that Woodrow Wilson isn't going to run for a third term, his leadership hangs in the balance. Each Democrat in the house is inclined

# SENATOR POINDEXTER IS MINUS A MANAGER FOR LOCAL CAMPAIGN

## Presidential Candidate From Washington State Opens Headquarters in Morgan Bldg.

Senator Miles Poindexter of Washington state and Washington, D. C., seems to be having some little difficulty in finding a real honest-to-goodness boom tender to take charge of the task of driving the expected rats of Oregon votes down the stream of Oregon politics and into the shelter of that harbor inclosure.

He has a nice new office at room 624, Morgan building, where Walter Toose Jr. of Dallas can look out over the landscape and size things up. Mrs. Helen C. Jeselson, president of the Women's Ad club of Portland, is there to take care of the correspondence and see that the office runs right, but the main boom tender has not yet showed up.

Mr. Toose, who represents Senator Poindexter on the ground—which is no inference, of course, that the senator is up in the air—has been negotiating with O. C. Leiter, who managed the Simpson campaign for governor at the last general election, but has not landed him as yet.

However, the office is open, although it is as yet headless. It is expected a manager will be installed within a few days, after which the Poindexter offensive will be shifted out of low into intermediate and possibly into high.

# Edison to Observe His 73d Birthday with Hour Holiday

Orange, N. J., Feb. 11.—Thomas A. Edison will celebrate his seventy-third birthday today by taking an hour off at noon to attend a luncheon given in his honor at the Edison works by the Edison Pioneers, an organization of the veterans who were associated with him in his experiments at Menlo Park and in New York prior to 1885.

"I am glad the eight hour day wasn't invented when I was a young man," said the inventor today. "This country wouldn't amount to as much as it does if the young men of 50 years ago had been afraid of earning more than they were paid. I'm not against the eight hour day, but it makes me sad to see bright young Americans shackled their ability by blind conformity to rules that force the industries to keep step with the shirkers."

# Many Business Lines In Organization for A Greater Portland

More than 70 lines of business are represented among 425 members of the Greater Portland association, the annual report of John N. Casey, retiring president, showed Tuesday night. The annual meeting was held at the Portland hotel.

Ben Selling, clothier, is the new president of the association. With him, directing the organization in 1920, are Jared Wenger, secretary - manager; Edgar Stipe, chairman druggists' bureau, first vice president; Leo Friede, chairman property owners' bureau, second vice president; W. A. Montgomery, chairman books and stationery bureau; treasurer: L. L. Tiff, Ocean Jolly, Kathryn Coffield, women's business bureau; C. H. Mathis, clothiers' bureau; H. J. Ditter, dry goods bureau; F. E. Kreglow, dyers and cleaners' bureau; J. R. Tomlinson, electrical bureau; J. C. Mann, grocers' bureau; Charles Jennings, furniture bureau; D. H. Chown, hardware bureau; Frank Heitkemper, jeweler's bureau; Mrs. J. R. Brodie, milliners' bureau; Frank Lucas, musical instruments bureau; M. M. Bissell, printers' bureau; D. Perry Evans, photographers' bureau; R. H. Stewart, shoe bureau; K. S. Ervin, tailors' bureau; John Flanagan, women's apparel bureau; E. D. Timms, general bureau; H. W. Bonham, St. Johns bureau; J. C. Brill, Sellwood bureau; N. L. Crout, Rose City bureau; H. A. Fitzpatrick, Grand avenue bureau; O. T. Godel, Sunnyside bureau; J. E. Jensen, Alberta bureau; L. V. Dickson, Montavilla bureau; E. H. Bottmiller, Thurman bureau.

# Rotary Given Many Idealistic Meanings By Members of Club

What is Rotary? Some 200 Rotarians have recently been engaged in a contest to give the best definition of the idealistic business organization which has as its motto "Service, not self." Franklin T. Griffith, chairman of a special committee, read before the club Tuesday night definitions which were a digest of many that had been submitted.

"Rotary seeks nothing for itself, and in seeking not, finds what it most desires."

"Rotary breathes the warmth of fellowship into the chill of business."

"Rotary is a vehicle the wheels of which turn ever forward, ultimately landing us at a destination called 'Right Living.'"

Fred Sterling of Battle Creek, Mich.; Dr. C. G. Barr of Astoria and Fred Palmer of New York, all Rotarians, spoke briefly, in addition to the address of the day delivered by C. C. Colt.



# What a Player Piano Would Mean to You

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