

TREATY TO RECEIVE NEW PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION FIRST

By Robert J. Bender

(United News Staff Correspondent)
New York, Oct. 7.—It is the aim of both Republican and Democratic leaders, in event of the election of their respective candidates for president, to dispose of the international problem involved in the treaty of Versailles, promptly after the inauguration of the new president next March. A session of congress will follow the inauguration either of Cox or Harding, with a special message setting forth recommendations for action on the treaty.

Cox already has told leaders he would immediately recommend ratification of the treaty of Versailles, with such reservations as were deemed necessary, but with no reservations that would cut out the vital of the document. If elected he would hold conferences with senate leaders between November and March such as would make some compromise that he, as well as the others, could support. That is Cox's program.

MAJORITY FOR LEAGUE

Republican leaders, on the other hand, are so certain of an overwhelming victory at the polls for Harding that already they have drafted definite propositions for consideration of Harding and senate leaders of all faiths on the league, with the object in view of having a specific program to be outlined by Harding immediately after his expected inauguration.

As things stand today, whether the senate shows a Republican or Democratic majority, there will be a great predominance of senators favoring some association of nations to reduce the possibility of war. It is on this theory that Republican leaders are working. But the object in view is an entirely new proposal for such an association, after the present covenant has been definitely scrapped.

KNOX PLAN AGAIN

According to one Republican plan of procedure, discussed during the last two weeks, but with no final decision because such decision would hinge to a degree upon the outcome of the senatorial campaign, Senator Harding, if elected, would propose immediate ratification of the treaty of Versailles after first striking out articles 1 to 23 inclusive, which include the league covenant and striking out all reference to the league in the treaty thereafter.

This would automatically eliminate American participation in the direction of the Saar valley plebiscites and other features of the treaty which have been bitterly opposed by some senators. It would, in short, follow the original recommendation of Senator Knox, for peace first, and afterwards discussion of a league to continue peace.

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TO GET EUROPE'S VIEWS

In connection with the proposal, it is stated by Republican leaders that Harding, between November and March, would have the opportunity of sounding out European premiers through his own agents, relative to a specific substitute he might recommend for the present league when he addressed congress for the first time. Harding has said that, if elected, he would immediately send representatives to Europe to study the situation and gain the views of European statesmen on just what sort of an international association would be secured that would be compatible with the Republican position toward a league, but apart from the covenant as already subscribed to by the other powers.

To prevent any delay in arriving at definite decision before inauguration day, two plans have been discussed by Republican leaders.

MAY SEND RADICALS

First, to have Harding ask senators of both parties who are opposed to the league as at present constituted, to make a trip to Europe at their own expense and consult with European premiers on some future league that would satisfy all. This delegation might be under the chairmanship of some private in the ranks, like Herbert Hoover or Elihu Root, for example, and among the names suggested as possible members of the unofficial group are Senators Borah, Johnson, Moses, McCormick and Reed.

The second proposal that has been discussed would have the Republican national committee, if it showed a balance at the end of the campaign, finance such a delegation.

So, in event of the election either of Harding or Cox, an announcement may be expected soon after November 2 that the machinery has been started to the end that the treaty of Versailles problem may be disposed of promptly after March 4, next.

Of course, Harding would be faced with the antagonism of a small group

in the senate to any kind of an international league, but this group would be greatly in the minority and probably could be more than matched by Democratic senators who would favor some peace arrangement even if it were a modification of what President Wilson advocated.

Meantime, there is, of course, the present document to be considered and the president's possible action with it. Congress reconvenes in regular session the first Monday in December with its senatorial complexion the same as when the treaty was before it last session. The newly elected senators do not take their seats until the session is called after March 4. If Cox were elected next month the president undoubtedly would consult his wishes before acting on the treaty, now pocketed in the White House.

MAY BE FINAL EVENT

In lieu of ratification or even rejection by a two thirds vote of the senate, the treaty of Versailles is actually in a position of not having been acted upon at all in event of Harding's election. The president might decide to try once more to put it through with such reservations as he could possibly accept.

He will deliver his last message to congress upon its reconvening in December. And it might be expected that he would not pass up the opportunity to make a final appeal for the document which he promised the premiers of the

old world would be acceptable to the people of the United States. Should he do this, the Republicans might attempt

at once peace by ratification of the treaty after eliminating the covenant, but this would be futile because President Wilson would still hold the veto

power over it and unquestionably would refuse to accept it.

Thus it would seem that there is little likelihood of final action on the treaty until after March 4 next. But after that date, regardless of who is elected, there is every indication that the problem will be promptly disposed of.

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