

FOREIGN WAR DEBT CALL IS SOUNDED, SENATE GETS BUSY

By David Lawrence (Continued, 1922, by The Journal)
Washington, Jan. 18.—America's first call to Europe to pay her war debt has gone forth.

The adoption by the United States senate of the resolution introduced by Senator Medill McCormick of Illinois asking the department of state to submit to congress all the information in its possession with reference to the financial affairs of European governments is the beginning of a movement which looks toward payment and not cancellation of European debt.

For nearly four years the senate has kept quiet about the allied war debt, fearing that the executive branch of the government might be embarrassed. The fact that Mr. McCormick introduced the resolution immediately after his conference at the White House is taken generally to mean that the president not only interprets the objection, but that the department of state will not hesitate to ask the treasury department to furnish all the data necessary.

TO LET EUROPE KNOW
Just what the effect will be of the official publication by the American government of what it knows of the financial affairs of Europe is not seriously thought of at the moment, but the object is to let Europe know that America expects her to pay the war debt.

The policy of France at the arms conference is the direct cause of the change of sentiment in the senate from a policy of passive silence to active interest in the payment of the European debt. Great Britain has told the United States informally that she does not expect cancellation but merely wants fair terms on the fixing of the dates of payment for principal and interest. France, on the other hand, has let it be known that she considers the war debt as a "political debt" and her statesmen here have referred to it as in the same category as the other "scars" received by France during the war.

The United States government has not yet formally called upon the European governments for payment of the war debt or its interest. As soon as the funding bill is passed, however, such negotiations will begin. For the moment the significant development is that the senate means to have all the information about European budgets made public, so that if there are any errors in the data they may be corrected at once. A good deal of controversy has arisen as to the exact size of European armies. The senate resolution will bring out the American government's information as to what is being spent in Europe for armies and navies.

If it had not been for the militaristic policy pursued by France at the Washington conference when the insistence on a large standing army was coupled with the demand later for the right to build a large navy, the chances are little would have been said about the European debt in the senate. But many senators now feel that if France has missed on admission of union affiliations

pay the United States at least the interest. France contends her budget cannot be balanced until the reparations question is settled and payments from Germany are regularized. America is being drawn involuntarily into the discussion alongside of Lloyd George in an effort to obtain an adjustment of the reparations question, but the United States has already made it clear that the collection by the allies of their debt from Germany is one thing and their payment to the United States of the money lent during the war is quite another. Under no circumstances will the two be tied up together, though it is by no means impossible for the American government to grant terms to the allies which will correspond more or less to the time when funds may be expected by them from Germany.

PRIVATE LOAN AFFECTED
The demand for the publication of the government's data about European fiscal affairs has already aroused a storm of protest in France, where it had been expected that some private loans might be made by American banking firms from time to time. But with the American government's attitude toward France at present the flotation of any more loans in the United States is extremely doubtful, for the executive has the moral power of veto even over private loans. It may be that the new Poincaré ministry will learn soon enough what havoc was wrought by the French delegation at the arms conference, but the first public evidence of it is the McCormick resolution which passed by overwhelming vote and which, while without White House inspiration, bears nevertheless no objection from the chief executive at this time.

Vote on Newberry Causes Kenyon to Decline Invitation

Washington, Jan. 18.—(U. P.)—Senator Willis' attitude on the Newberry case today caused Senator Kenyon, Iowa, to cancel an engagement, made on invitation of Willis and Congressman Fitzgerald of Ohio to deliver a McKinley day address at Dayton on January 29. In a letter to Fitzgerald cancelling the engagement, Kenyon said he intended to discuss the Newberry case in all his public speeches from now on and to emphasize in particular his opposition to the senate's condoning of corruption.

646,673 Cars Idle Is Railway Report

(By Universal Service)
Washington, Jan. 18.—The number of freight cars lying idle on January 8 was 646,673, according to the figures made public by the American Railway association here today. These cars were not in use because of business conditions and the number exceeded by 28,000 that of any period during the past four years, it was said.

Prejudice Against Janitors Is Shown

(By United News)
Chicago, Jan. 18.—Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining a jury to try William Quesse, president, and eight other officials of the Chicago Flat Janitors' union, charged with conspiracy. Prejudice against janitors was expressed by several veniremen. Others were dismissed on admission of union affiliations.

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