

replied Ledyard. Later he summoned Lauterbach, who told him, he said, that Lamar had a resolution he proposed to have introduced in the house of representatives for a steel trust inquiry.

Lauterbach told him he had seen members of the Morgan firm who refused to talk about the investigation resolution.

Ledyard turned to Lamar and asked if that was correct.

Lamar nodded his assent.

Ledyard testified that Lamar, representing himself as Congressman Palmer, declared over the telephone that Lauterbach would be able to deal with Speaker Clark through Senator Stone.

"He said the communications with the speaker were not made direct, but through Senator Stone," Ledyard said.

The bogus "Palmer" over the telephone said Lauterbach would take up matters with Senator Stone, Speaker Clark and Congressman Henry of Texas, if the "Morgan people" were willing to go ahead.

Lamar at this time, still under the name of Palmer, the witness said, told Ledyard alleged facts as to the makeup of President Wilson's cabinet, and asked him again to talk with Lauterbach. Lamar reported he had held a "conference" with Senator Stone, Speaker Clark and Congressman Henry and that the conference insisted that Lauterbach should be retained by the Morgan interests.

On February 8, in his residence library, Ledyard testified Lauterbach told him he had been "authorized by Senator Stone" to go to the Morgan people.

Ledyard said that Lauterbach was anxious to create the impression that he had nothing to do with Lamar, but was acting directly with members of congress.

Lauterbach was quoted by the witness as saying:

"I come here now authorized and empowered to make certain statements to you and to lay certain matters before you.

"Of course the most important office to be filled in the new administration is that of attorney general. At first it was suggested it would be Representative Palmer, but I can say now that the attorney general will come from the south. I might say under my breath that it will be Representative Henry. Whoever it is, he will be controlled by the speaker."

Lauterbach also told him, the witness declared, that there were a number of conditions demanded by the Washington "conference" which he represented.

The "conference" required, he said, that no money should be paid to any legislative agent except himself (Lauterbach); that any pledges of support to Roosevelt or to the progressive party should be stated in writing and if possible abrogated; that no campaign contributions should be made to the democrats, republicans or progressives and that the Morgan and steel interests should lend their support by getting the support of southern senators on questions relating to the tariff, taxation and universal peace.

Mr. Lauterbach said that universal peace was specified "because it was so dear to the interests of William J. Bryan," Ledyard testified.

"Lauterbach finally said to me," Ledyard continued, "I come here by the authority of Speaker Clark and have made all these suggestions by his authority."

"Have you seen Speaker Clark personally and received such instructions?" I asked.

"No, I have not seen him personally," said Lauterbach.

"Then how do you know that you speak by his authority?"

"I received my instructions to come and see you and make these suggestions from Senator Stone," Lauterbach said.

"Did you see Senator Stone personally, and did he make those suggestions?"

"I did see him and he said that he acted for Speaker Clark," Lauterbach said.

"How do you know that Senator Stone could speak for Mr. Clark?" I asked.

"There has been a number of occasions before when Senator Stone has said that he acted for Speaker Clark, and I have found out that he did," Lauterbach replied.

Mr. Ledyard said Lauterbach added that he had arranged many things through Senator Stone, who acted for the speaker. Through this channel, he declared, he had arranged that the Pujo "money trust" committee should take the testimony of William Rockefeller at Jekyll island instead of compelling Rockefeller to come to Washington.

"I was able to arrange that matter through Speaker Clark," he quoted Lauterbach as saying. "Senator Stone assured me that this should be done and it was done," Ledyard said he asked Lauterbach if the speaker knew that the interview then under way was to occur and that Lauterbach replied that Clark "knew that some interview had been arranged for."

"Would Speaker Clark verify that?" I asked him," Ledyard said.

"He would," said Lauterbach.

Senator Stone of Missouri entered the committee room before Mr. Ledyard left the stand, having been informed of the statements in which his name had been mentioned. Mr. Ledyard repeated for him the alleged statements of Lauterbach that Stone had instructed him to go to the Morgan interests and the steel interests in behalf of Speaker Clark and make certain proposals, and the senator at once took the witness stand.

"I swear without any sort of qualification," he declared, "that the statement of Lauterbach is absolutely a fabrication. I made no such statement to him or to any other human being. I never talked with Speaker Clark upon any subject alluded to. As to the arrangement for the taking of testimony of Rockefeller at Jekyll island, my only information came from the newspapers. The whole thing is a complete fabrication."

Senator Walsh interrupted him: "It is only fair to say that everybody in this room who heard the story believed it was a fabrication," he said. "Mr. Ledyard also believes that."

"It is just a plain common lie from start to finish," declared Stone. "I think the man who makes such a statement as that ought to be sent to the penitentiary."

After leaving the room Senator Stone returned to ask if Lamar, who was still present, had made any of the statements referring to him. Lamar got up and said:

"Oh, do not take it seriously, senator; it probably was all a fabrication."

"Well, I do take it seriously," Stone reiterated, "and I think someone ought to go to the penitentiary for it."

Senator Stone said he did not know Lauterbach and had no knowledge of ever having talked with him.

Lamar was questioned by the committee again as to whether it was he who had telephoned to Chairman Hilles of the republican national committee, representing himself as Chairman McCombs of the democratic national committee.

"Oh, yes I did that," the Wall street operator said with a smile,

"that was just a little malicious mischief."

Maxwell Evarts, general counsel for the Southern Pacific, corroborated the testimony given by Robert S. Lovett last week, that a man pretending to be Representative Riordan of New York had called him suggesting that Lauterbach be employed in the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific dissolution suit.

Laughing heartily and gesticulating with both arms, Lamar later resumed to declare that the entire episode described by Ledyard was a farce and both he and Ledyard were conscious throughout of the game the other was playing.

He informed the committee that it was he who drafted the program and list of conditions which Lauterbach presented to Ledyard as terms from legislators at Washington to the Morgan people. He explained that he thought up the things the democrats wanted accomplished, and then concluded that if the Morgan people would recant their old views and lend support to all the democratic plans, perhaps the democrats would change their views of the Morgan interests. He said he did not know whether Mr. Lauterbach regarded it as a joke or not.

The last subject touched upon was the preparation of a resolution for an investigation of a steel trust by congress.

"You do not mean to say you could introduce a resolution in congress?" inquired Senator Cummins.

"Why, that is just as easy as taking candy from a baby," replied Lamar.

He said he prepared the resolution because he was tired of the persecution of him because of his opposition to steel corporation plans. He said he did not send Lauterbach to the Morgan and steel people with information that the resolution was in his possession, but that Lauterbach went on his own account after pleading with Lamar to allow him just one more opportunity to heal the breach between the Morgan interests and Lamar.

"Don't you appreciate that the ordinary inference from this would be that you were trying to blackmail them?" asked Senator Walsh.

"The conversations with the men would show that was not my object," was the response.

AH, A CLUE!

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WOBBLY

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