

# The Story of a White House "Denial"

Associated Press Dispatches Printed Before and After Election,  
Which Tell Their Own Story and Carry Their Own Moral

## BEFORE ELECTION

(Introducing Daniel J. Keefe.)

Akron, Ohio, October 12.—At the Akron meeting tonight Mr. Taft reiterated the points he had previously made on the labor question and brought to his support the recently published letters of Daniel J. Keefe, member of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and head of the International Longshoremen organization.

The candidate said the testimony of Mr. Keefe was the more weighty because Mr. Keefe had ascertained his (Taft's) position on labor in constant references during the Panama troubles.

Mr. Keefe closed his endorsement of Mr. Taft, which the latter read, as follows:

"I shall support and vote for Mr. Taft, who was admitted to membership in the International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgemen on account of his strong advocacy of the enforcement of the eight hour law on all government work coming under the jurisdiction of the war department. I might say that Mr. Taft has done more to enforce laws in favor of organized labor than all his predecessors."

## SHOWING DANIEL J. KEEFE'S MOTIVE

New York, October 13.—The democratic national committee, through John G. Jordan, assistant and acting chief of the press bureau at headquarters, tonight made public the following statement:

"It was stated at the national democratic headquarters tonight that President Roosevelt, by promise of office, has succeeded in having one of the big men of the American Federation of Labor desert President Gompers in his advocacy of the election of Mr. Bryan for the presidency. The leader in question is Daniel J. Keefe of Detroit, president of the Longshoremen's Union, and one of the vice presidents of the American Federation of Labor. The committee alleges that Keefe and the president were closeted for several hours in Washington on Saturday, October 3, and that Keefe is to be made commissioner of immigration, in consideration of Keefe's repudiating Mr. Gompers and the executive council of the Federation.

"Keefe on Saturday last issued a statement in which he said: 'I am going to vote for William H. Taft.'

"It is pointed out that on September 28, last, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor issued a circular calling on labor organizations to work for the defeat of Mr. Taft and the republican congressmen seeking re-election, and Mr. Keefe authorized his signature to be attached to it. The source of the democratic committee's information was not divulged tonight, but the information was offered that if Mr. Keefe and President Roosevelt deny the charge another big labor leader now in New

York will come forward with the charge that the offer was made and Keefe accepted it and has commenced to make good his part of the deal."

## SETS MR. ROOSEVELT TO THINKING

Washington, October 13.—Secretary Loeb, upon being shown the statement issued from democratic headquarters in New York, said nothing in the nature of a reply would be given out at the White House tonight, but that the charge would probably receive attention tomorrow. Daniel J. Keefe was one of the president's callers on October 3. Patrick Morrissey of Cleveland, Ohio, head of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, also visited the president during the same day.

## DANIEL J. KEEFE DENIES IT

Detroit, Mich., October 13.—President Daniel J. Keefe of the International Longshoremen, Marine and Transport Workers' Association, when informed tonight of the statement made at national democratic headquarters in New York that he had been promised the position of commissioner general of immigration in return for his advocacy of W. H. Taft, entered a vigorous denial. After having the statement read to him Mr. Keefe said:

"I was not closeted with President Roosevelt at all. I did see him on October 3, but for only four or five minutes, and several others were present."

## THE CHARGE REITERATED

New York, October 14.—The democratic national committee issued a statement tonight quoting Timothy Healey, president of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen, as authority for the allegation that Daniel J. Keefe had been promised by the president appointment as commissioner general of immigration in return for the Detroit labor leader's support of Mr. Taft. The national committee had promised to make known its informant if the charge was denied, as it has been both by Keefe and at the White House.

The national committee quotes Mr. Healey in part as follows:

"I was in Washington on Wednesday of last week on a matter dealing with our organization which brought me in contact with an official of high standing in the government service. He said to me: 'Dan Keefe has been selected for commissioner general of immigration.'

"'Is that so?' I asked.

"'Yes, the job is his,' he replied.

"I asked him how he knew, and he told me that his informant was a member of the president's cabinet and knew what he was talking about.

"This information was not given to me in a confidential manner, but I will not give my

informant's name, for it is plain to see what would happen to him if his name came out.

"There is not any doubt in my mind but that the statement that the president offered Keefe the position and that Keefe agreed to accept is true. Perhaps the offer was not made at this conference on October 3, last, but I believe it has been made."

## ANOTHER STATEMENT FROM KEEFE

Cleveland, Ohio, October 14.—Daniel J. Keefe, president of the International Longshoremen's Union, and member of the executive committee of the American Federation of labor, was in Cleveland today attending a meeting of the Lumber Carriers' Association. Mr. Keefe reiterated his statements made yesterday in regard to the allegations that he was promised the commissionership of immigration as a reward for his support of Candidate Taft. Mr. Keefe said:

"It is not reasonable to suppose that the republican party, if it was in the business of buying up votes, would waste its energy and efforts on life long republicans.

"On October 3 I went to Washington to see Mr. Wright, secretary of war, on some business pertaining to my organization. While there I called upon and paid my respects to the president. P. H. Morrissey, head of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and others were with me at the time. I talked to the president in their presence. No mention was made of the immigration department and the president did not ask me to accept the position made vacant by the late Frank Sargent.

"I am not and never have been a candidate for that position. I do know of two other prominent labor men who are being urged for the place."

## ROOSEVELT AND LOEB DENY IT

Washington, October 14.—While no formal statement was issued from the White house, Secretary Loeb today denied that President Roosevelt promised the office of commissioner general of immigration to Daniel J. Keefe of Detroit, president of the International Association of Longshoremen in consideration of Mr. Keefe's action in declaring for Mr. Taft in opposition to the pro-Bryan campaign of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Loeb added that Mr. Keefe in his denial of the story was absolutely correct.

## AFTER THE ELECTION

Washington, December 1.—Daniel J. Keefe of Detroit, Mich., was today appointed commissioner general of immigration to succeed the late Frank P. Sargent. Mr. Keefe is president of the International Longshoremen's Union.

# MR. ROOSEVELT AND THE EDITORS CLASH

The President Assails Editors of New York Sun and Indianapolis News  
For Intimating There is Something Rotten in Panama Canal Affairs

The Associated Press carried on December 6 the following dispatches:

Hot Springs, Va., December 6.—The following correspondence passing between President Roosevelt and William Dudley Foulke has been made public by the latter:

"Hot Springs, Va., November 29, 1908.—The President—Sir: The Indianapolis News not only during the campaign, but even after its close, has been repeatedly and continually making serious charges against your administration as well as against Mr. Taft in connection with the Panama purchase, as, for example, the following:

"The campaign is over and the people will have to vote tomorrow without any official knowledge concerning the Panama deal. It has been charged the United States bought from American citizens for \$40,000,000 property that

cost those citizens only \$12,000,000. Mr. Taft was secretary of war at the time the negotiation was closed. There is no doubt that the government paid \$40,000,000 for the property. But who got the money? We are not to know. The administration and Mr. Taft do not think it right that the people should know. The president's brother-in-law is involved in the scandal, but he has nothing to say. The candidate's brother has been charged with being a member of the syndicate. He has, it is true, denied it, but he refuses to appeal to the evidence, all of which is in the possession of the administration, and wholly inaccessible to outsiders. For weeks this scandal has been before the people. The records are in Washington and they are public records. But the people are not to see them—till after election, if then."

"Even after the election this abuse has

been continued. It is said that Mr. Taft's 'weakness' in Indiana (where he ran many thousands ahead of any other republican candidate) was due in a great measure to this alleged 'scandal.' What are the facts in regard to it? Where are these 'inaccessible records?' When did they come into the possession of the government and what do they contain? If the statements of the News are true our people ought to know it; if not true they ought to have some just means of estimating what credit should be given in other matters to a journal which thus disseminates falsehoods. Yours,

"WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE."

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

"White House, Washington, December 1, 1908.—Dear Mr. Foulke: I have received your letter of the 29th ult., and have read it in con-