

Coolidge Wires to McLean Read; Not About Oil

Executive States One Wire Concerned Government in District of Columbia, Other Friendly Message.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 6.—The oil committee today produced two telegrams sent by President Coolidge to Edward B. McLean in Florida, and the president immediately announced that one referred to local affairs in the District of Columbia, while the other was in response to a telegram of congratulation on his Lincoln day address.

One of the messages was dated January 12, and said: "Prescott is away. Advise Slemm with whom I shall confer." Within a few minutes after it had been read into the committee record this statement was issued at the White House:

"The telegram related to the District commissioner, Samuel J. Prescott is republican city chairman, and the president desired to confer with him regarding district matters."

The second telegram, under date of February 12, was as follows: "Thank you for your message. You have always been most considerate. Mrs. Coolidge joins me in sending the kindest regards to Mrs. McLean."

When the attention of White House officials was called to this message, they gave out the following statement:

"The telegram sent to Mr. McLean on February 12 was in regard to a message from Mr. McLean congratulating the president on his Lincoln birthday address in New York. The telegrams exchanged were similar to others received and sent out in that connection. It amounted simply to an exchange of amenities."

C. Bascom Slemm, secretary to President Coolidge, later issued a statement correcting the previous White House announcement with respect to the McLean telegram of February 12.

The statement said: "The telegram sent to Mr. McLean under date of February 12 was in answer to a telegram received from McLean congratulating the president."

Washington, March 6.—President Coolidge declined today to turn over to the oil committee the tax returns of individuals and corporations prominently mentioned in the oil investigation.

Replying to a senate resolution, making the request, the president said he had been advised by the acting attorney general that he was without authority to comply.

The president offered, however, to co-operate with the secretary of the treasury in an effort to secure an amendment to prevailing regulations which would permit the oil committee to "inspect" the returns if it so desired.

On his statement with respect to the senate resolution calling for the resignation of Edwin Denby as secretary of the navy.

Owing to the date of the telegram it was at first thought it related to the president's Lincoln day address at New York. An examination of the White House files after issuance by the president of his statement disclosed, however, that the McLean message related to the Denby matter. The committee had put into the

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which will be awarded by The Omaha Bee. Think up a funny story, and see how you may not only win a prize, but get your name in the movies—

Send your laf to the Local Laf Editor, The Omaha Bee.

EDDIE'S FRIENDS

The Afternoon Game—Mah Jong



WELL HAVE TO GET THE MEN FOLKS TO PLAY MAH-JONG - IT'S SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN POKER

OH, DEAR, I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU SAY WHEN YOU LAY DOWN ONE. I WANT - WHAT IS IT "POW" OR "GONG"?

THESE FLOWERS POSITIVELY FASCINATE ME.

DON'T MRS SMITH PLAY MAH JONG?

HEAVENS, NO! SHE'S TOO STUPID TO LEARN THE GAME - IT TOOK HER FIVE YEARS TO LEARN POKER

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public record previously a telegram from H. E. McKenna, chief doorkeeper at the executive offices, dated December 22, informing the publisher of Secretary Slemm's departure for Florida. It consisted of a single sentence and said:

"The secretary leaves here tonight, 9:40."

There also was an exchange of telegrams between Albert B. Fall at Palm Beach and Chairman Lenroot of the oil committee, in which the former secretary asked whether he would be compelled to testify before Senator Walsh of Montana, and the chairman replied that he would not.

Senator Walsh had been sent to Florida to question McLean and he made an unsuccessful effort to find Fall while he was at Palm Beach.

In an official telegram sent to McLean, and previously published, Chairman Lenroot had said that Senator Walsh was "appointed a sub-committee of one to take the testimony of Edward B. McLean or any other witnesses who the same sub-committee may require to attend before him."

Conclude Hearings. Mr. Lenroot was not present at the hearing, having gone to South Pine, N. C., for a rest.

After examining other telegrams and questioning more of the McLean employees, and others, the committee concluded its hearings for the day without calling Ira Bennett, the Washington Post editorial writer who was author of the message to McLean mentioning "the principal."

One of those who testified was Fred Starek, a director of the War Finance corporation and a former correspondent for McLean's Cincinnati Enquirer, and who had been mentioned in one of the telegrams as being very anxious to get in touch with the publisher on an important matter. He testified that the affair had nothing to do with oil, but that his business with McLean related to negotiations for purchase of the Washington Post.

By International News Service. Washington, March 6.—A fresh batch of the famous McLean telegrams, some of them in the code of the Department of Justice, were made public today by the senate oil investigators, simultaneously with their renewed efforts to ascertain the identity of the mysterious "principal" referred to in previous messages.

Today's telegrams again disclosed the names of prominent personages in Washington, and involved the plans of the Department of Justice.

One of the first messages decoded and read into the records was another "Mary" telegram, sent to W. O. Duckstein, one of E. B. McLean's confidential agents, and advised that William J. Burns had been in communication with the sender and was unable to get away from Washington, because of developments in the oil scandal.

The name of another White House employe, H. E. McKenna, was brought into the hearing. On December 21, it was disclosed, he sent a telegram to McLean at Palm Beach:

"Secretary leaves here tonight for Palm Beach."

This presumably referred to C. Bascom Slemm, secretary to President Coolidge, who testified last week that he went to Florida for a rest over the holidays.

Heroic Efforts. Messages revealed almost heroic efforts to keep E. B. McLean, newspaper publisher from taking the stand.

They follow: "Washington, D. C., 11:16 p. m., January 22, 1924.

"Edward McLean, Palm Beach, Fla. "Subpoena for Fall today. Returnable Friday.

"Johns." "Washington, D. C., 1:08 p. m., February 23, 1924.

"Duckstein. "The Breakers, Palm Beach, Fla. "Burns states lawyer friendly to department that an inquiry was on foot to ascertain whether McLean was regular dollar year man and asked him to find out (stop) department lawyer came to Burns and inquired (stop) Burns said attorney general was only person who could give information regarding such appointment (stop) evidently preparing for more mud-slinging (stop) Burns states impossible to say when he can get away (stop) being kept here on dome hearing (stop) department liable to be called upon at any time for investigations and to prepare injunctions (stop) wretchedly lonesome best love wire.

"Mary." The coded messages were all in the Department of Justice code and were read by W. F. Friedman, army expert. Senator Walsh, democrat of Montana, then began reading the straight telegrams.

A message signed "Fall" was sent on December 3, 1923, from Three Rivers, N. M., to Zevely, in Washington.

It says Fall had telegraphed Senator Smoot that he was prepared to go to Washington to testify and was having copies of court records made, on December 12, Fall, in New York, advised Zevely he was going to Atlantic City and urged Zevely to meet him there. A wire from Washington, December 17, signed "Ned," informed Mrs. Fall in Atlantic City that he was coming to see Fall on the following day.

McLean to Francis H. McDade, December 28: "Palmer is to give out statement. If you approve be very careful. I do not want myself used for their benefit."

On January 27, McLean to Francis T. Homer, American Security and Trust company, Baltimore: "Wire me your opinion if investigation committee can force me testify where I had \$100,000. Think over certain prominent people at that time."

On December 29, Fall wired Senator Lenroot, republican, chairman, asking if Senator Walsh was given power by committee to "subpoena me" in Palm Beach.

Fall wired Gust Jones, a Department of Justice agent, in San Antonio, Tex.: "Get in touch with Buckley. Ask him if he would be my attorney. Must see him before I sail."

Walsh said Jones was the Department of Justice agent assigned by William J. Burns to "cover" Fall.

On January 24, W. L. Wiley, wired Ira E. Bennett, in Washington: "Please Senator Jim and find if there is a disposition to make mutual friend make long journey."

Both Wiley and Bennett are employes of McLean.

Counsel to Start Suits to Cancel Oil Leases

Washington, March 6.—Cancellation of the government oil leases to the Doheny and Sinclair interests will be sought in bills of equity to be filed by the government oil counsel next week.

The bills will ask for return of the naval reserves to the government on the grounds that "fraud and illegality were involved."

Injunctions also will be asked against further drilling and withdrawal of oil by the Sinclair and Doheny companies, and the court will be requested to name receivers to control the properties pending completion of the litigation.

At the request of the special counsel, a special grand jury will be impaneled here about April 1 to consider the evidence so far brought out in the oil inquiry.

The bills for injunctions, being prepared by Atlee Pomerene and Owen J. Roberts will be filed in the federal district courts for Wyoming and Southern California.

Thursday, March 13, has been set by the federal judge at Cheyenne for a preliminary hearing on the Sinclair contracts at which the government counsel will be present.

Union Pacific Sued. Aurora, Neb., March 6.—Suit for \$50,000 damages has been started in the district court of Hamilton county against the Union Pacific Railroad company by E. C. Nordlund of Stromsburg, administrator of the estate of Sigfrid Matson, James Fonda at North Platte is alleged to have been the engineer who drove the train which killed Matson in October, 1923.

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