

### "Principal" in Code Wire Not Coolidge

Ira B. Bennett, Sender of Telegram to McLean, Says Party Referred to Was Senator Curtis.

Washington, March 7.—The oil committee was told today that Attorney General Daugherty sent a reassuring message to Edward B. McLean in Florida on the day the publisher was summoned here to testify in the oil inquiry.

Ira B. Bennett, an editorial writer on McLean's Washington Post, testified that such a message was conveyed in a telegram he sent to McLean after a conference with the attorney general.

The message as placed before the committee included such phrases as "all that is possible to be done will

be done by us," and, "you know what to depend on." Bennett then declared that a similar assurance had been conveyed through him to McLean on January 29 in the famous "principal" message.

Not Coolidge. The "principal" referred to in that message, the witness said, was not President Coolidge as some democratic senators have guessed, but Senator Curtis.

He testified that Curtis had told him the publisher should not be disturbed, that it would be "all right."

As partially decoded and placed in the committee record the message that Bennett said was conveyed to Daugherty had sent through him to McLean was as follows:

"I am at Y's elbow and standing at the guns. All that is possible to be done will be done by us, so you should worry delay selection of prosecutor."

"Give Evelyn (Mrs. McLean) my love. I don't want Evelyn to be disturbed as long as I am on the job. You know what to depend on. The fight is on me and I am ready for them and feeling fine."

Saw "Principal." The "principal" telegram of January 29, of which Bennett said he meant to convey assurances from Senator Curtis, said:

"Saw Principal delivered messages he says greatly appreciate and sends regards to you and Mrs. McLean. There will be no rocking of the boat and no resignations. He expects reaction from political attacks."

At a conference that morning, Bennett said, Senator Curtis had told him to tell McLean that he need not worry, as he had done nothing wrong except to stand by Albert B. Fall. The second sentence of the telegram, the witness declared, related to impressions he had received from President Coolidge's general conference with the Washington correspondents that day at the White House.

The February 14 message, he continued, "contains substantially what Mr. Daugherty told me."

"Mr. Daugherty was concerned about Mrs. McLean," Bennett continued. "I think the telegram didn't use his words. He said something like 'love to Evelyn'."

The expression about delay in selecting a prosecutor, he said, appeared to refer to the president's selection of counsel in the oil cases.

At first the witness had said he thought the assurance came from Wilton J. Lambert, McLean's attorney, and that he was the man referred in the message as "Y."

"But this message says 'the fight is on me,'" said Senator Walsh, Montana. "What does that mean? There was no fight on Mr. Lambert was there?"

"I don't know." "This doesn't hook up," Senator Walsh went on. "Mightn't X have been somebody else? There's a good portion of this message which doesn't mean anything at all, if it is Lambert."

"I can't help that." "On February 14 you sent a message mentioning 'H. D.'," Senator Walsh said, "about a conference."

"That, I think, refers to Mr. Daugherty," Bennett said.

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### EDDIE'S FRIENDS

A Few Preliminaries



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"I don't think I saw him that day, but finally saw him the same day or the next."

"If we should assume that the code message of yours referred to Mr. Daugherty," Senator Walsh went on, "that would connect up?"

"Strange as it may seem, that message contains substantially what Mr. Daugherty told me as well as Mr. Lambert."

Reads Second Message. Senator Walsh then read the "principal" telegram of January 29.

"I'd like to explain," Bennett began. "The second part of that message refers to my own opinion, which I got from attending the White House newspaper conference. The first part 'the principal' refers to Senator Curtis."

McLean, Bennett continued, had given him a message to deliver to Senator Curtis.

"I was to tell Curtis that McLean was all right," he continued. "I was to say McLean understood the attack was more or less of a political matter."

"And the rest of the message about rocking the boat and resignation was what you got as an impression from attending the White House conference with all other correspondents?"

"Yes." "But the message goes right on," Senator Walsh put in "to say 'he expects reaction from unwarranted political attacks.'"

"That's Senator Curtis," Bennett said.

"Who expected the reaction?" "Curtis told me to tell McLean not to worry, that it would come out all right."

"The president never used those words I used. It was my impression of his attitude, his firmness, his purpose, that I was giving."

Senator Adams brought out the fact that President Coolidge saw correspondents at 12:30 p. m. on the day of the message and that Bennett sent the message at 1:20 p. m.

"I sent the message immediately," Bennett said. "I saw Senator Curtis in the morning before the White House conference."

"As early as January 3," Senator Walsh resumed, "Mr. McLean reposed sufficient confidence in Senator Curtis to ask him to insert a statement in the record?"

Wired Him. "Getting back to this 'principal' message," said Senator Walsh, "how could Mr. McLean give that message the interpretation you have placed on it today?"

"I tried to make him understand." "How did you think McLean would know that 'principal' meant Senator Curtis?"

"I had wired him so."

"We haven't got any such message here," observed Senator Walsh.

Senator Walsh paraphrased the "principal" message but Bennett disagreed with the meaning.

"It would read," Senator Walsh said, "I was at the White House today and from what the president said there will be no rocking of the boat and no resignations. He expects reaction from political attacks."

"No, Senator Curtis expected the reactions." Senator Bureau took up the mystic "captain" and "chieftain" message.

"Who is chieftain, this deserted and stricken and beleaguered person?" Senator Bureau asked.

"I don't know—I never got a meaning from that."

"Did you ever have a conference with Mr. Slomp about this?" asked Senator Dill.

"No, I talked with Mr. Slomp once, when three or four other persons were there."

"Did you have any prearrangements to use the term 'principal' for Senator Curtis?"

"Well, Mr. McLean had used the term for Curtis."

"We can't escape the conclusion that all of you people, as well as Mr. McLean, were laboring under great anxiety," Senator Walsh put in.

"Was all that anxiety because of his fear of being called to the stand?"

"It was McLean who was anxious. He was a sick man, with this leased wire and all that. He was anxious."

"Give us what ground he had for it," pursued Senator Walsh.

"My impression was that he regarded this as a great political question," Bennett said, "in which he was involved. He's not an expert statesman and he had this wire. These messages were going back and forth to get what it all meant."

Burlington Office Moves. City ticket office of the Burlington railroad moved this morning from 1508 Farnam street to the new office in the southwest corner of the First National bank building.

### Farmer Near Beaver City Kills Self With Poison

Beaver City, Neb., March 7.—Charles O. May, 46, farmer, committed suicide Thursday by swallowing two ounces of poison. He was involved financially and had been worrying over his indebtedness, it is said. He leaves a wife and two children.

Have you sent in a Local Laf today?

BRANDEIS TODAY Mat. & Ev'ng. Last Two Times WALKER WHITESIDE In His Great Success "THE HINDU" Assisted by Miss Sydney Shields and a Notable Company Ev'ngs, 50c; Mat. 25c; Mat. 50c to \$2.00

3 NIGHTS Starting MON. MOR. 10 THIRILLS, CHILLS, SUSPENSE, LAUGHS CAT AND THE CANARY Same Company of Favorites Who Appeared Here Last Fall and Chicago All Last Season TICKETS NOW ON SALE PRICES: Evs. 50c-1.10-2.25-2.50 Mat. 50c-1.00 and 1.50

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SUN STARTS TODAY "Judgment of the Storm" Rudolph Valentino in "Society Sensation" "Local Lafs" "Feather Pushers"

Today—Last Times EMPRESS Powell Players Further Adventures of Henpecked Henry NEW SHOW SUNDAY

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS BOULEVARD - 33d and Leavenworth "Brass" With Marie Prevost. Vaudeville and Comedy. LOTHROP - 24th and Lothrop "HONOR FIRST" Comedy—Fully Insured With Fables GRAND - 16th and Binney Cullen Landis and Alice Calhoun in "PIONEER TRAILS"

MOON STARTS TODAY TOM MIX in "Ladies to Board" or "Western Speed"

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### Here Are the Prizes:

First Prize	\$5.00
Second Prize	\$3.00
Third Prize	\$2.00
Next 12	\$1.00 each

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Perhaps you have sent in several jokes to the Local Laf Editor, but haven't received a prize.

Don't get discouraged!

It may be that your jokes were just crowded out of the winning class by a narrow margin.

Perhaps the "good one" you heard today is slated for first prize. Send it in! Send in as many as you like any time you like!

Local Lafs THE OMAHA BEE Here is My Laf for the Screen! (Do not use more than 30 words) Name Address Motion Picture Theater I attend Use this coupon or paper of similar size and write only on one side FOR THE SCREEN. Fifteen cash awards will be paid each week for the best local laf. These prize winning local lafs will appear on the screen of a number of motion picture theaters. Send your local laf to the Local Laf Editor, The Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

Pack up your woes and laf. Send one in today. Use the coupon if you like or write it out on your own stationery. Use one side of the paper and do not use more than 30 words.

Send Your Laf to the Local Laf Editor

# The Omaha Bee