

Crisis With Germany Firmly Met by Wilson

NEWS SECTION
PART ONE
PAGES ONE TO TWELVE

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

THE WEATHER
Colder

VOL. XLVI—NO. 37.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, 1917—FIVE SECTIONS—THIRTY-EIGHT PAGES.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS

Friendly Relations With Germany End; Wilson Sends Passports to Bernstorff; Grave Crisis Now Confronts the Nation

President Wilson Lays Action Before Congress, Explaining Reason for Breaking With Germany Over the Latest Submarine Warfare Issue

Austria Expected to Act With Germany and a Break With That Country May Follow Any Minute—Gerard Called Home and Spain to Act for United States at the Court of Berlin

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war.

Similar action is waiting for Austria when she notifies this government that she joins in the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare.

Announcement to World.

The president made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world today at a joint session of congress.

Passports have been handed to Count von Bernstorff; Ambassador Gerard with all his staff and all American consuls have been ordered out of Germany. All German consuls in the United States are expected to withdraw that the severance of relations may be complete. American diplomatic interests in Berlin have been turned over to Spain, German interests in the United States have been taken over by Switzerland. Foreign diplomatic interests of which the United States had been in charge in Germany have been turned over to various neutrals.

Culmination of Outrages.

Two years of diplomatic negotiations, marked with frequent crises and attended with the loss of more than 200 American lives on the high seas, have culminated with an act which in all the history of all the world has always led to war. Every agency of the American government has been set in motion to protect the country against acts of German sympathizers. These moves of necessity are being kept secret.

With the notice of severance of diplomatic relations the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of forty-eight Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the South Atlantic.

At the request of the president, congress, after hearing his address, began work on new laws framed by the Department of Justice to check conspiracies and plots against the United States which cannot now be reached under existing statutes.

Question of Convoy.

The question of conveying American ships through the submarine blockade has been taken up and is being considered as one of the next moves by this government.

Neutral governments have been notified of the action of the United States and have been invited to follow its action if the new submarine campaign violates their rights.

Works Most of Night.

The breaking off of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discounted.

This was practically determined upon last night. The president returned from his night conference with the senators determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and honor of the United States." He worked most of the night preparing his address to congress.

At 10:30 this morning it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent to Count von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the president's decision until he formally announced it himself to congress, the knowledge spread rapidly.

Bernstorff Deeply Moved.

Count von Bernstorff heard it unofficially while talking with an Associated Press correspondent. While apparently deeply moved, he was not surprised. His first act was to ask Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister to come to the German embassy and prepare to take over its affairs.

Then he informed his wife, an American-born woman, of the development and likewise told the embassy.

(Continued on Page Four, Column One.)

Events Follow Quickly When President Severs Relations Between U. S. and Germany

President Wilson announced to congress in joint session severance of diplomatic relations with Germany.

Passports handed to Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to United States.

Ambassador Gerard, American ambassador to Germany, instructed to ask for his passports and arrange for return of Americans and consular agents in Germany to United States.

Senators and congressmen and American people generally give expression of united stand behind government in move.

American owned grain ship Housatonic sunk by submarine it is feared without warning off Scilly islands.

American government seizes seven interned German ships, including five liners and two auxiliary cruisers in Atlantic ports.

Nebraska legislature unanimously votes to support the president in the course taken against Germany.

German of Omaha pledge their loyalty to America in expressions of local leaders.

New York's entire National Guards has been called out.

Diplomatic break does not mean war, but it may lead to it very easily.

Market breaks and then recovers at the developments of the day.

Italians of Omaha take steps to organize a regiment.

PRESIDENT TELLS CONGRESS OF ACTION

Mr. Wilson Solemnly Notifies Congress and the Nation of Action He Has Taken in Crisis.

MAKES ADDRESS TO WORLD

Washington, Feb. 3.—The president in his address to congress announcing the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany said: "Gentlemen of the congress: "The imperial German government on the 31st of January announced to this government and to the governments of the other neutral nations that on and after the last day of January, the present month, it would adopt a policy with regard to the use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass through certain designated areas of the high seas, to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention."

"Let me remind the congress on the 8th of April last, in view of the sinking on the 24th of March of the cross-channel passenger steamer Sussex by a German submarine, without summons or warning, and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States, who were passengers aboard it, this government addressed a note to the imperial German government in which it made the following declaration: "If it is still the purpose of the imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the imperial government should now immediately declare and

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

Measures Taken to Protect the Nation Against Alien Plots

Washington, Feb. 3.—Measures proposed to protect the United States against conspiracies that may result from the rupture with Germany will be considered at a special session of the senate judiciary committee after the president's address to congress. The committee was urged to consider the measures as quickly as possible by the administration.

Guard Boston Water Front.

Boston, Feb. 3.—One hundred and nine policemen, under command of Superintendent Crowley, were sworn in late today as deputy marshals and immediately ordered to the water front on guard duty at the pier where six German ships are docked.

New York Police Vigilant.

New York, Feb. 3.—News of the rupture with Germany spurred the police to take precautionary measures. Police were ordered to all places "likely to be attacked," including the water supply and the entrances to the great bridges over the East river. Men were also detailed to guard foreign consulates. Acting Commissioner Godley said no serious trouble was expected.

Gerard Ordered To Close American Embassy in Berlin

Washington, Feb. 3.—Ambassador Gerard's instructions are to close his embassy as well as all the consulates in Germany. All embassy attaches, consuls, consular agents and their staff are to be brought out of Germany. This makes the severance of relations more complete than is usual in such cases.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Germany's diplomatic interests in the United States will be assumed by the Swiss legation.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Spain will take over the diplomatic interests of the United States in Berlin.

DIPLOMATIC BREAK DOES NOT MEAN WAR

It is an Act of Protest Under Usage of Nations as a Measure Short of War.

CONSULS CONTINUE WORK

Washington, Feb. 3.—Breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany does not mean war, but easily may lead to war. It is an act of protest characterized in the usage of nations as a "measure short of war."

The danger that war may follow is accentuated by the diplomatic history of the world. Modern times show no instance of a diplomatic break between the first-class powers that has not been followed by hostilities. The rights of Germans in the United States and of Americans in Germany are practically unaffected by the severance of diplomatic relations. No treaties are terminated or suspended, but remain in full force and effect unless either government decides to denounce them, which under international practice generally calls for a notice of one year.

German consuls in the United States and American consuls in Germany, holding their places by virtue of treaties, continue to perform their usual functions, but they no longer work under supervision of diplomatic officers.

Business Relations Unchanged.

There is no change in commercial relations, already badly crippled by the war. Individuals and corporations may continue their usual affairs, provided they do not deal in contraband, and their obligations are as binding as ever. The courts still remain open to them for redress, but they have no facility for direct intervention of their diplomatic officials. They may, however, be represented by the diplo-

(Continued on Page Five, Column One.)

New York State's Entire Militia Is Called to Colors

New York, Feb. 3.—The entire National Guard of New York state and the naval militia were ordered out tonight by Governor Whitman, after a conference with Major General John F. O'Ryan.

General O'Ryan was directed to have every arsenal, armory and water shed adequately guarded by the militiamen and Commodore Forshev of the naval militia was ordered to protect all bridges.

Sailing of Steamship St. Louis Is Delayed

New York, Feb. 3.—The International Mercantile Marine announced today the postponement of the sailing of the American line steamship St. Louis from noon today until noon Sunday "on account of a shortage of steam coal."

Bohemians Pledge Devotion to Country

The following declaration was received in a message from Chicago last night: "Break with Germany is here and war may follow at any moment. America is entitled to know how far it may rely upon the loyalty of 13,000,000 citizens and residents of foreign birth. Bohemian National Alliance of America, recognized by more than 500,000 Bohemian-speaking people as their principal organization, declares on behalf of this element of foreign born population that the American government may count absolutely upon the unconditional devotion of Bohemians to their adopted country."

The following telegram was sent to President Wilson: "Eighty thousand members of the Bohemian National Alliance of America approve with enthusiasm your determined stand in defense of American rights and honor and assure you of their absolute loyalty to the United States.—Bohemian National Alliance of America, L. J. Fisher, President."

Sorry, But We Must Part



AMERICAN SHIP IS SCUTTLED BY GERMAN U-BOAT

Steamer Housatonic Sent to Bottom by Torpedo of Submarine Off the Scilly Islands.

NO WARNING GIVEN, RUMOR News Creates Sensation at Washington and Details Are Awaited.

PLEDGE MAY NOT BE BROKE

Bulletin. London, Feb. 3.—The Housatonic was submerged at noon. All the officers and crew were saved by a British armed steamer.

London, Feb. 3.—The American steamship Housatonic has been sunk by a German submarine.

The rumor is current that the Housatonic was sunk without warning. Later information confirmed the report that the Housatonic was sunk near the Scilly islands.

The Housatonic sailed from Galveston January 6 and from Newport News January 16 for London. The Housatonic was formerly the Hamburg-American line steamer Georgia, and American registry was granted to it in April, 1915. Prior to that time it had been laid up at New Orleans since the beginning of the war.

It was then announced that the vessel had been bought on March 29 for \$85,000 by the Housatonic Steamship company, of which Edward F. Geer of New Orleans was president. The Housatonic was 3,143 tons gross and was built in Glasgow in 1890. It was 238 feet long, forty feet wide and twenty feet deep.

Creates Sensation.

Washington, Feb. 3.—News of the sinking of the Housatonic created a sensation here, but State department officials pointed out that it would depend entirely upon the circumstances whether the incident would affect the present situation.

If the ship was carrying contraband, and if it was destroyed with proper warning and provision for the safety of its crew or in an attempt to escape, the United States merely would have a claim for damages, as in the Frye case.

The first effect of the incident in official quarters was to direct attention anew to the president's declaration in his address to congress today that if American ships and lives were sacrificed "in needless contravention of the just and reasonable understandings of international law," he would again go before congress for authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

Fifteen Americans in Crew.

Galveston, Tex., Feb. 3.—At the offices of the Texas Transport and Terminal company, agents for the Housatonic, it was stated that there were approximately fifteen Americans in the crew and twenty-four of other nationalities.

Spain Wants More Time Before Making Decision in Matter

London, Feb. 3.—A Madrid dispatch to Reuter's says that the Spanish government has telegraphed the central powers asking that the time allowed Spanish ships to return to port be extended.

Many towns are protesting against the note of the central powers and have sent appeals to the government to support with dignity the interests of the nation. The administration has prohibited an anti-German meeting which was called at Santander. The consulates of the central powers at Barcelona and the camp of interned Germans near that city are being guarded by the police.

United States Drops Interests of Many Countries in Europe

Washington, Feb. 3.—American ambassadors, ministers and consular representatives in England, France, Russia, Japan, Roumania, Serbia, Greece, Egypt and Morocco were today instructed by the State department to suspend all activities in relation to the German interests which they have taken over and to await information to be conveyed through some neutral government as to whom Germany wishes those interests entrusted.

This comes to an end the great humanitarian work the United States has been doing in caring for German prisoners in those countries as well as the practical task of handling Germany's diplomatic interests.

The belligerent interests which the United States has been representing in Germany since the beginning of the war were turned over by the American embassy in Berlin to other neutrals selected by the various governments concerned.

Official announcement was made at the State department that British interests in Germany had been transferred to Holland, Japanese and Serbia to Spain and Roumania to Spain temporarily till the Roumanian government has been heard from.

Official announcement also was made that all American consuls had been ordered to leave Germany and that Germany was expected likewise to withdraw all its consuls from this country.

SUBMARINES KILL 200 AMERICANS

Two Thousand of Other Nationalities Lose Lives in the Same Attacks.

HISTORY OF OUTRAGES

Washington, Feb. 3.—Two hundred Americans at least, probably more, have gone to their deaths through German and Austrian submarine operations.

Most of the Americans lost were traveling on unarmed merchant ships and, under the practices of international law and humanity, believed themselves safe. More than 2,000 citizens of other nationalities lost their lives in the same attacks, but they composed only a part of the toll of life taken by submarine warfare. The ships lost on which the Americans met death are only a fraction of the number sent to the bottom by torpedoes, most of them without warning.

First American Killed.

The cases which involve the United States and Germany are primarily those in which American life was lost or endangered. The first American of whom there is record to lose his life in submarine attack was Leon T. Thresher, a passenger on the British liner Falaba, torpedoed and sunk March 27, 1915, off Milford, England. The Falaba, after a hopeless attempt to escape, stopped and while boats were being lowered and passengers still were aboard the submarine drove a torpedo into its side and it went down in ten minutes. Of 242 persons 130 were saved.

The first American ship attacked was the Gulfport, an oil tanker, from Port Arthur, Tex., to Rouen, France, torpedoed without warning off the Scilly islands May 1, 1915. Two men

(Continued on Page Five, Column Two.)

Eastern Guards Will Hurry Home From the Border

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 3.—An order received at military headquarters today speeding up the departure of the Sixth Pennsylvania infantry by ten days is taken here by military officers to mean the state troops will be used on guard duty at eastern military depots and other important points, because of the crisis with Germany.

Attempts to Sink U. S. Torpedo Boat; Machinist in Irons

Philadelphia, Feb. 3.—According to a report at the Philadelphia navy yard, an attempt was made today to sink the torpedo boat Jacob Jones.

A machinist's mate is alleged to have opened the sea cocks and as the boat was being towed into its dock it was seen to list. Investigation revealed that the sea cocks were open and when the vessel was finally docked there were two feet of water in the hold. The chief machinist's mate was arrested and placed in irons, it was said.

LAWMAKERS VOTE SUPPORT TO FLAG

Members of Foreign Birth Pledge Their Sons to Uphold the Nation.

GIVE UNDIVIDED SUPPORT

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, Feb. 3.—(Special Telegram.)—With the singing of "America," and tears streaming down the faces of many, the lower house of the Nebraska legislature unanimously adopted a resolution this morning pledging the people of Nebraska to stand behind the president in anything that might come up in the present situation.

The news that diplomatic relations had been severed with Germany reached the house just at the time when that body was about to consider the resolution of last night, commending the president for his attitude on the situation at that time.

Representative Peterson, republican floor leader, sent up an amendment pledging the support of the people of the state to the president in the present situation. The resolution was followed by speeches by more than a dozen members, most of them of German parentage and some of them of German birth, all of them pledging their lives to the defenses of Old Glory and the perpetuity of American principles. The house then adjourned.

Hoffmeister Talks.

Following the presentation of the amendment Representative Hoffmeister, made an address in favor of the amendment. With tears in his eyes the gentleman from Chase reviewed the situation. He said that he had visited his old home in Germany recently. He still had relatives back there and many tender memories of those in the old home. "But I have three sons," he said, "and if necessary

(Continued on Page Five, Column Four.)

The Weather

For Nebraska—Cloudy and colder. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Wind
6 a. m.	34	10
7 a. m.	33	10
8 a. m.	32	10
9 a. m.	31	10
10 a. m.	30	10
11 a. m.	29	10
12 m.	28	10
1 p. m.	27	10
2 p. m.	26	10
3 p. m.	25	10
4 p. m.	24	10
5 p. m.	23	10
6 p. m.	22	10
7 p. m.	21	10

Colder

Comparative Local Record.

Year	Temp.	Wind
1917	34	10
1916	33	10
1915	32	10
1914	31	10
1913	30	10
1912	29	10
1911	28	10
1910	27	10
1909	26	10
1908	25	10
1907	24	10
1906	23	10
1905	22	10
1904	21	10
1903	20	10
1902	19	10
1901	18	10
1900	17	10

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.