

Text of the President's Message To the Sixty-Seventh Congress

Washington, Dec. 6.—Partial text of President Harding's message to congress is as follows:

Mr. Speaker and members of the congress: It is a very gratifying privilege to come to the congress with the republic at peace with all the nations of the world. More, it is equally gratifying to report that our country is not only free from every impending menace of war, but there are growing assurances of the permanency of the peace which we so deeply cherish.

Disordered Conditions. For approximately 10 years we have dwelt amid menaces of war as participants in war's actualities, and the inevitable aftermath, with its disordered conditions, has added to the difficulties of government, which adequately cannot be appraised except by those who are in immediate contact and know the responsibilities. Our tasks would be less difficult if we had ourselves to consider, but so much of the world was involved in the disordered conditions as so well, high universal, even among nations not engaged in actual warfare, that no permanent readjustments can be effected without consideration of our inescapable relationship to world affairs, in finance and trade. Indeed, we should be unworthy of our best traditions if we were unmindful of social, moral, and political conditions which are not of direct concern to us, but which do appeal to the human sympathies and the very becoming interest of a people blest with our national good fortune.

Heroic Remedies. It is not my purpose to bring to you a program of world restoration. In the main such a program must be worked out by the nations most directly concerned. They must themselves turn to the heroic remedies for the menacing conditions under which they are struggling, then we can help, and we mean to help.

We shall do so unselfishly because there is compensation in the consciousness of assisting, selfishly because the commerce and international exchanges in trade which marked our high tide of fortunate advancement, are possible only when the nations of all continents are restored to stable order and normal relationship.

In the main the contribution of this republic to restored normalcy in the world must come through the initiative of the executive branch of the government but the best of intentions and most carefully considered purposes would fail utterly if the sanction and the co-operation of congress were not cheerfully accorded.

Greater Security. Granting that we are fundamentally a representative popular government with political parties and governing agencies, I believe the political party in power should assume responsibility, determine upon policies in the conference which supplements conventions and election campaigns and then strive for achievement through adherence to the accepted policy.

There is vastly greater security, immensely more of the national viewpoint, much larger and prompter accomplishment where our divisions are along party lines, in the broad and loftier sense, than to divide geographically, or according to pursuits, or personal followings. For a century and a third parties have been charged with responsibility and held to strict accounting. When they fail, they are relieved of authority, and the system is brought to a national eminence no less than a world example.

It would be ungracious to withhold acknowledgment of the really large volume and excellent quality of work accomplished by the executive branch of the government, which so recently adjourned. I am not unmindful of the very difficult tasks with which you were called to deal, and no one can ignore the insistent conditions which, during recent years, have called for the continued and almost exclusive attention of your members to public work. It would suggest insincerity if I expressed complete accord with every expression recorded in your roll calls, but we are all agreed about the difficulties and the inevitable divergence of opinion in seeking the reduction, amelioration and readjustment of the burdens of taxation.

Renewed Consideration. Later on, when other problems are solved, I shall make some recommendations about renewed consideration of our tax program, but for the immediate time before us we must be content with the billion dollars reduction in the tax draft upon the people, and diminished irritations, banished uncertainty and improved methods of collection. By your sustenance of the rigid economies already inaugurated, with hoped for extension of these economies and added efficiencies in administration, I believe further reductions may be enacted and hindering burdens abolished.

Foreign Loans. There is pending a grant of authority to the authoritative branch of the government for the funding and settlement of our vast foreign loans growing out of our grant of war credits. With the hands of the executive branch held impotent to deal with these debts, we are hindering urgent readjustment among our debtors and accomplishing nothing for ourselves. I think it is fair for the congress to assume that the executive branch of the government would adopt no major policy in dealing with these matters which would conflict with the purpose of congress in authorizing the loans certainly not without asking congressional approval; but there are minor problems incident to prudent loan transactions and the safeguarding of our interests which cannot even be attempted without this authorization. It will be helpful to ourselves and it will improve conditions among our debtors if funding and the settlement of defaulted interest may be negotiated.

Merchant Marine. The previous congress, deeply concerned in behalf of our merchant marine in 1920 enacted the existing shipping law, designed for the upbuilding of the American merchant marine. Power and ships, without comity of relationship, will not give us the

expanded trade which is inseparably linked with a great merchant marine. Moreover, the applied reduction of duty, for which the treaty denunciations were necessary, encouraged only the carrying of dutiable imports to our shores, while the tonnage which unfurls the flag on the seas is both free and dutiable, and the cargoes which make a nation eminent in trade are outgoing, rather than incoming.

No Protest Made. The executive branch of the government, uninfluenced by the protest of any nation, for none has been made, is well convinced that your proposal is fraught with difficulties and so marked by tendencies to discourage trade expansion that I invite your tolerance of noncompliance for a few weeks until a plan may be presented which contemplates no greater draft upon the public treasury, and which, though yet too costly to offer today, gives such promise of expanding our merchant marine that it will argue its own approval. It is enough to say today that we are so possessed of ships, and the American intention to establish a merchant marine is so unalterable, that a plan of reimbursement at no other cost than is cost, updated in the existing act will appeal to the pride and encourage the hope of all the American people.

There is before you the completion of the enactment of what has been termed a "permanent" tariff law, the word "permanent" being used to distinguish it from the emergency act which the congress expedited early in the extraordinary session and which is the law today. I can not too strongly urge an early completion of this necessary legislation. It is needed to stabilize our industry at home; it is essential to make more definite our trade relations abroad. More, it is vital to the preservation of many of our own industries, which contribute so notably to the very life blood of our nation.

Conflicting Opinion. There is now, and there always will be, a storm of conflicting opinion about any tariff revision. We can not go far wrong when we base our tariffs on the policy of preserving the productive activities, which enhance employment and add to our national prosperity.

Again comes the reminder that we must not be unmindful of world conditions, that peoples are struggling for industrial rehabilitation and we cannot dwell in industrial and commercial exclusion and at the same time do the just thing in aiding world recognition and readjustment. We do not seek a selfish aloofness and we could not profit by it were it possible. We recognize the necessity of buying wherever we sell, and the permanency of trade lies in its acceptable exchanges. In our pursuit of markets we must give as well as receive. We cannot sell to others who do not produce, nor can we buy unless we produce at home. Sensible every obligation of humanity, commerce and finance, linked as they are in the present world condition, it is not to be argued that we need destroy ourselves to be helpful to others. With all my heart, I wish restoration to the peoples blighted by the awful world war, but the process of restoration does not lie in our acceptance of like conditions. It were better to remain on firm ground, strive for ample employment and high standards of wages at home, and point the way to balanced budgets, rigid economy and resolute, efficient work as the necessary remedies to cure disaster.

We are a creditor nation, not by normal process, but by the exigencies of war. It is not an unworthy selfishness to seek to save ourselves when the processes of that salvation are not only not denied to others, but commended to them. We seek to undermine for others no industry by which they subsist; we are obligated to permit the undermining of none of our own which make for employment and maintained activities.

Necessity Magnified. Every contemplation, it little turns, in which direction one turns, magnifies the difficulty of tariff legislation, but the necessity of the revision is magnified with it. I am not unmindful of the constitutional difficulty of these cases, met by giving authority to the chief executive, who could proclaim additional duties to meet conditions which the congress may designate. At this point I must disavow any desire to enlarge the executive's powers or add to the responsibilities of the office. They are already too large. If there were any other plan I would prefer it. The grant of authority to proclamation would necessarily bring the tariff commission into new and enlarged activities, because no executive could discharge such a duty except upon the information acquired and recommendations by this commission. But the plan is feasible and the proper functioning of the board would give us a better administration of a defined policy than ever

could be possible by tariff duties prescribed without flexibility.

American Valuation. There is a manifest difference of opinion about the American valuation. Many nations have adopted delivery valuation as the basis for collecting duties; that is, they take the cost of the imports delivered at the port of entry as the basis for levying duty. It is no radical departure from the existing law, and the disordered state of money values to provide for American valuation, but there cannot be ignored the danger of such a valuation brought to the level of our own production costs, making our tariffs prohibitive. It might do so in many instances where imports ought to be encouraged. I believe congress ought well to consider the desirability of the only promising alternative, namely, a provision authorizing proclaimed American valuation, under prescribed conditions, on any given list of articles imported.

Knowing the impossibility of modification by act of congress for any one or a score of lines without involving a long array of schedules, I think we shall go a long way toward stabilization if there is recognition of the tariff commission's fitness to recommend urgent changes by proclamation.

Business Revival. I am sure about public opinion favoring the early determination of our tariff policy. There have been reassuring signs of a business revival from the deep slump which all the world has been experiencing. Our unemployment, which gave us deep concern only a few weeks ago, has grown encouragingly less, and there is renewed confidence in the declaration that American industry will be held secure.

Something more than tariff protection is required by American agriculture. To the farm has come the earlier and the heavier burdens of readjustment. There is actual depression in our agricultural industry while agricultural prosperity is absolutely essential to the general prosperity of the country.

Congress has sought very earnestly to provide relief. It has promptly given such temporary relief as has been possible, but the call is insistent for the permanent solution. There must be some economic solution for the excessive variation in returns for agricultural production.

Remedy in Marketing. In the main the remedy lies in distribution and marketing. Every proper encouragement should be given to the co-operative marketing programs. These have proven very helpful to the co-operating communities in Europe. In Russia to co-operative community has become a recognized bulwark of law and order, and saved individualism from engulfment in social paralysis. With the modern conditions of social and economic life, would hasten the building of the temple of peace in industry which a rejoicing nation would acclaim.

While we are thinking of promoting the fortunes of our own people I am sure there is room in the sympathetic thought of Americans for fellow human beings who are suffering and dying of starvation in Russia. A severe drought in the valley of the Volga has plunged 15,000,000 people into grievous famine. Our voluntary agencies are exerting themselves to the utmost to save the lives of children in this area, but it is now evident that unless relief is afforded the loss of life will extend into many millions. America can not be deaf to such a call as that.

U. S. Untapped Wealth In 400,000,000 Acres Washington, Dec. 6.—An untapped wealth estimated at a minimum of \$150,000,000 is contained in the more than 400,000,000 acres of land still held in the public domain. Secretary Fall of the Interior department says in his first annual report, made public today.

Coal and oil form the bulk of this wealth, the total coal deposits being estimated at 110,000,000,000 tons and the oil deposits at 1,325,000,000 barrels, with an additional 50,000,000,000 barrels of shale oil.

Reduce Lumber Rate Chicago, Dec. 6.—Lumber rates from all Pacific coast terminals to all points east of Chicago will be reduced December 24. H. E. Pierpont, general traffic manager of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway, announced today.

tracted to some centers and repelled from others. A great volume of un-economic and wasteful transportation has attended and the cost increased accordingly. The grain milling and packing industries afford ample illustration and the attending concentration is readily apparent.

Common Council. We have great bodies of law carefully regulating the organization and operations of industrial and financial corporations, as we have treaties and compacts among nations which look to the settlement of differences without the necessity of conflict in arms, so we might well have plans of conference, of common counsel, of mediation, arbitration and judicial determination in controversies between labor and capital. To accomplish this would involve the necessity to develop a thorough going code of practice in dealings with such affairs. It might be well to frankly set forth the superior interest of the community as a whole to either the labor group or the capital group. With rights, privileges, immunities and modes of organization thus carefully defined it should be possible to set up judicial or quasi judicial tribunals for the consideration and determination of all disputes which menace the public welfare.

In an industrial society such as ours the strike, the lockout and the boycott are as much out of place and as disastrous in their results as is war and armed revolution in the domain of politics. The same disposition to reasonableness, to conciliation, to recognition of the other sides point of view, the same provision of fair and recognized tribunals and processes, ought to make it possible to solve the one set of questions which the other set presents. I believe the solution is possible.

Character of Elemental Rights. The consideration of such a policy would necessitate the exercise of care of deliberation in the construction of a code and a character of elemental rights, dealing with the relations of employer and employee. This foundation in a law, dealing with the modern conditions of social and economic life, would hasten the building of the temple of peace in industry which a rejoicing nation would acclaim.

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Arms Conference Gets Glimpse Of Possibilities of Aircraft

America's Advantage by Use of Helium Observed by Committee on Limitation of Aerial Engines Of War.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.

Washington, Dec. 6.—A significant, perhaps prophetic, glimpse of the unexplored possibilities of the warfare of the future was given by chance yesterday to the arms conference subcommittee on aircraft at the close of its session on the question of limitation of aerial engines of war.

The members of the committee representing the five great powers were emerging from the navy building when they observed the new navy dirigible, the C-7, flying low in the offing. Rear Admiral Moffett, chief of the bureau of aeronautics of the American navy and chairman of the conference subcommittee, explained that the C-7 was inflated with helium, the new noncombustible, nonexplosive gas, which promises to revolutionize the use of aircraft in war.

Englishman Interested. "Very interesting," observed air Vice Admiral Higgins, the representative of the British empire. "America, I understand, is the sole possessor of a supply of helium."

"It has been found only in the United States, up to date, I believe," Admiral Moffett responded. "Then the British, French, Italian and Japanese aviation experts congratulated Admiral Moffett on the successful test of the new gas represented by the flight of the C-7 from Hampton Roads and its manuevering in the vicinity of Washington."

The subcommittee had met and adjourned after a preliminary discussion in which none of the nations represented disclosed its attitude on the question of limitation on war aircraft. When it was known that Admiral Moffett is prepared to stand by the Hughes dictum that such limitation is impracticable, because of the ease of converting commercial aircraft to war purposes, and other members were not ready to discuss the question.

The next war will be largely in the air, say the authorities, as they contemplate the progress of the negotiations to reduce the limit surface and submarine naval craft.

Japan is making an allowance of airplane carriers approximating that accorded either Great Britain or the United States by the Hughes plan, an indication that Japan is looking far into the future. Likewise, American naval statisticians impressed by the difficulty of defending the Philippines with only 18 capital ships and inadequate bases on the other side of the Pacific, are planning to concentrate on the use of airplanes, dirigibles and submarines for this purpose.

With a monopoly of helium, the United States could have a tremendous advantage over an enemy in aerial warfare. A fleet of helium inflated dirigibles, in the opinion of Admiral Moffett, could destroy an enemy fleet of surface craft with giant bombs while the protective force of airplanes engaged the enemy airplanes.

Destruction of a helium dirigible, properly protected, would be exceedingly difficult, for it would be explosion-proof and fireproof.

against the shots from anti-aircraft guns.

United States Controls Supply. Helium was identified as a new element through the observation in 1868 of a bright yellow line in the chromosphere of the sun. It is extracted from natural gas, and in the vicinity of Fort Worth, Tex., where the navy maintains a production plant, it is escaping into the atmosphere in a volume estimated as sufficient to inflate four large dirigibles each week.

The known supply in the United States would be exhausted, unless conserved, in 20 years, but if the large gas wells containing helium were capped, a reserve would be created which would last 100 years or more.

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With a monopoly of helium, the United States could have a tremendous advantage over an enemy in aerial warfare. A fleet of helium inflated dirigibles, in the opinion of Admiral Moffett, could destroy an enemy fleet of surface craft with giant bombs while the protective force of airplanes engaged the enemy airplanes.

Destruction of a helium dirigible, properly protected, would be exceedingly difficult, for it would be explosion-proof and fireproof.

Very interesting, observed air Vice Admiral Higgins, the representative of the British empire. "America, I understand, is the sole possessor of a supply of helium."

"It has been found only in the United States, up to date, I believe," Admiral Moffett responded. "Then the British, French, Italian and Japanese aviation experts congratulated Admiral Moffett on the successful test of the new gas represented by the flight of the C-7 from Hampton Roads and its manuevering in the vicinity of Washington."

The subcommittee had met and adjourned after a preliminary discussion in which none of the nations represented disclosed its attitude on the question of limitation on war aircraft. When it was known that Admiral Moffett is prepared to stand by the Hughes dictum that such