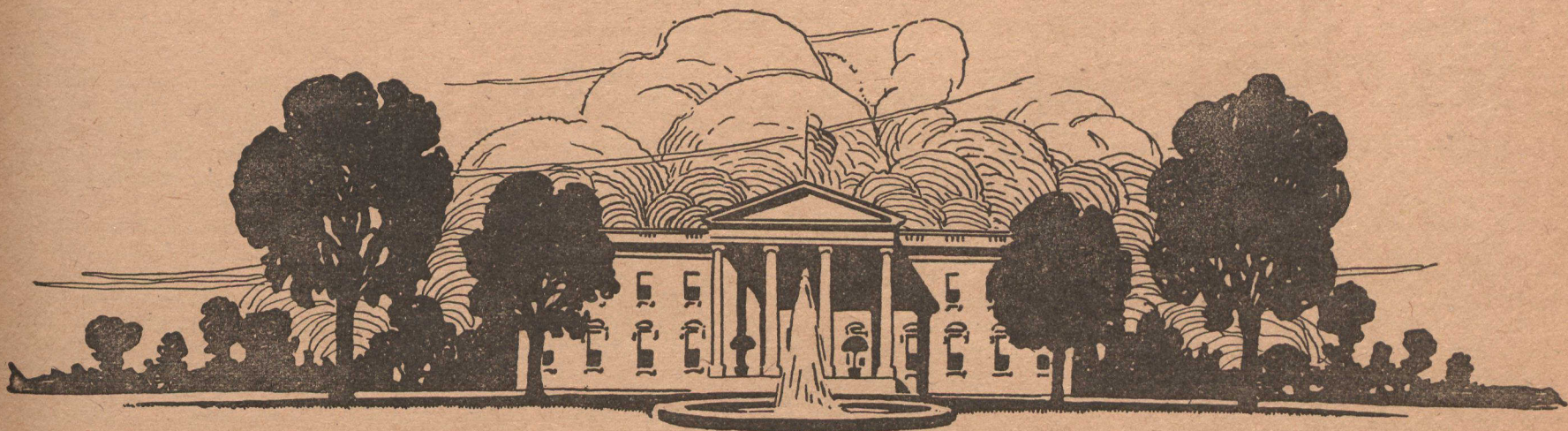


THE COURIER

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CONGRESS A GREAT ORCHESTRA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.

GOING down street last night a Congressman suddenly stopped under a huge illuminated sign:

STAND BY THE PRESIDENT

My friend the Congressman is not a Democrat. Neither is he an Independent. He is—an American elected by Republican votes.

"That sign's one on me," he said, after looking at it silently. "But," he shouted—"It's All Right! That's what we're doing."

Political wires are into "entangling alliances" down here. Republican county conventions in Michigan have endorsed the President's stand on the Bernstorff-Gerard situation. They fight him in everything else. Progressives of one of the Carolinas may shortly invite Wilson to address them. Another crossing of the wires. Since the dismissal of Bernstorff and the recall of Gerard a new Stars and Stripes floats in the rotunda of the Hotel Willard, headquarters for Congressmen and Senators and Washington home of the Vice-President. That flag was never there before.

When the President announced to both Houses of Congress assembled, on Feb. 3, that he had cut off diplomatic relations with Germany, Congress—not merely the Democrats—broke into wild applause. Crossing the wires again. Congress and the nation are standing by the President because, in a national emergency, he has made the office of President of the United States of greater importance than the personality of Woodrow Wilson.

Just as I write this I come across a poster printed in blaring type, with a picture of Congress below and a little cut of Samuel Gompers. A copy of this poster has been sent to-day to every member of Congress. It is headed,

PROCLAMATION OF WORKING PEOPLE.

This product of the Central Federated Union of Greater New York says, in part:

"The working people of America do not want war. The Central Federated Union of Greater New York has gone on record advising you that the metropolitan press does not represent the views of the masses of the people. The daily stranglehold of all news permits the metropolitan press to set the pace and to dominate popular psychology. But the workers have a deeper patriotism—Thou shalt not kill. We therefore call on you as your grave duty to use every means of learning the will of the great masses."

The document also quotes a message sent by Samuel Gompers, President of the A. F. of L., to Carl Legien, head of the German labour unions:

"Can't you prevail upon the German government to

According to who wields the baton, it may play one national air or another. But its great stock piece just now is—"Stand by the President."

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE

avoid a break with the United States and thereby prevent a universal conflict?"

The poster advises Congressmen to hold meetings in schoolhouses, etc., in order to find out how much the workers of America do not desire war.

"I don't reckon on going back to my constituents for any riot act mandate on that question," said a Congressman, candidly, when he had read this. "Mr.

Gompers knows who declares war and keeps peace in this country. It isn't the unions. It's Congress."

You can get as much of a hand for peace or war on one side of Congress as the other. To begin with, there are some pacifists in Congress. There are also some pro-Germans. Usually they are the same people. Keeping out of war is to keep hands off Germany. There is also a preponderance of Democrats. Most of the Democrats came from the South and the Far West. The South is not strong for war on general principles. But the South is friendly to England. Incidentally the South has no Germans.

Congress, however, is divided over keeping the peace, almost to a point of war. Tuesday and Thursday of this week brought the division out in a series of orchestral climaxes. The biggest of these arose out of the "stranglehold" accusation regarding the newspapers. In a Congress which contains a large number of newspapermen outside of the press gallery this was more than usually

interesting.

TUESDAY, J. Hampton Moore, Republican, took the congressional baton. Since that speech Moore has been talked about by big editors even more than the President. A lean, well-tailored person, neat as a wax man at Wanamaker's, this Philadelphia orator from the precincts of Benjamin Franklin and Liberty Hall came at this accusation alluded to in the Gompers manifesto. What he said was at least anti-British. He made no effort to disguise that. It was as pro-German as Hearst. But Hearst is not read officially—in Washington. Anyway, that very morning after Moore's speech was ready for Congress, Hearst came out with a half-page editorial denouncing the British censorship for garbling news to both United States and Germany in order to

inflammate each country against the other.

But Moore, it seems, didn't originate this attack on American newspapers. The author of the original piece was Callaway, of Texas, who, on February 9, as chronicled by the Congressional Record, said in part:

"In March, 1915, the J. P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding and powder interests and their subsidiary organizations got together twelve men high up in the newspaper world and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and a sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press of the United States."

This piece of literature is so slovenly in form that it badly needed an interpreter. Callaway's speech made good material for Moore. But up to the time of writing neither Moore nor Callaway has said who were the twelve men buttonholed by the Morgan interests.

CALLAWAY alleged that these twelve men picked out 179 newspapers for the "sandbagging." These by elimination became 25 of the biggest papers. This ring of newspapers, so says Callanoy, was subsidized, war-edited by the Morgan bureau and put on a conspiracy campaign of "preparedness, militarism, financial policies and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers." The Texas Congressman alleges that the said bought-press contract still exists and that it operates to boom expenditures in army and navy, and the whole war idea among the American people.

Congressman Moore went on to quote headlines from the newspaper ring. One, from the New York Sun—

"Britain chafes over United States' delay."

"London," he said, with a Billy Sunday genuflection, "seems to be impatient because the United States is not going into war."

He then quotes from a display advertisement in one of these papers:

"To the American people:

"Germany is at war with the United States."

"Who says this?" asks the Pennsylvania Congressman. "The President? Congress? No!" He mentions two

