

President at the time of the latter's visit to Ottawa, the President had been particularly short with him. I said to Hearne that it was absurd to say that. I had presented all the diplomats and I noticed in each instance the President was similar in manner and what he said. Hearne intimated that in the coming presidential elections he thought consideration might be given to what might be done with the Irish vote, saying that they had all been closely following the President's attitude toward the Irish.

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Hearne, in beginning his conversation, had spoken of how exasperated he had felt upon reading the U.S. note. He used language which made it appear that the whole note had been a threat of a kind which might have to be met by open resistance. I had not, up to that moment, read the note myself, not having observed that it was attached to the file which Robertson had sent to Laurier House last night. I mentioned this fact to Hearne, and asked him to allow me to read the note through, which I did out loud. I then said to him frankly I could not see, in what was there expressed, just reason for his fears. It only confirmed my view that the United States wished to make perfectly clear how important it was that no step should be omitted which would leave American forces open to dangers which otherwise might have been avoided, and felt that the danger was so great it was important to have the matter emphasized in a note.

Hearne asked what would the next step be if Eire refused to take the course suggested. I said I could not say, but that I felt there would be disappointment naturally; that, could the step be taken, it would be warmly welcomed, not only by the United States and the United Kingdom, but by ourselves and I felt other of the Allies. That there was a long future ahead of all of us after the war was over and that any and every step in the way of co-operation now would be remembered to the good; but failure to co-operate on anything which might lead to possible disaster or to serious ill consequence, would not easily be forgotten. I said I personally would greatly welcome the Irish Government taking the course suggested. Something was said by Hearne

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