

White House Atmosphere Serene After The Storm

Coolidge Forces Gratified At End Congressional Deadlock And At Heartening News From South Dakota Which Is Expected Exert Psychological Influence

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, December 5.—The White House had an atmosphere of serenity today after a period of nervousness not only over the situation in the House of Representatives but in those states where Senator Hiram Johnson has begun to contest the leadership of President Coolidge.

The willingness of the insurgents to "play ball" and elect Frederick Gillett speaker was gratifying news but it was not a circumstance to the joy derived from the action of the proposal men in South Dakota's convention who unanimously endorsed Mr. Coolidge for the presidential nomination.

This action was not unexpected for the White House had been hearing for several days recently that the sentiment for the President was crystallizing. While there is some uncertainty here as to the exact meaning of some of the South Dakota's election laws, the impression is that the action taken by the proposal men now excludes Hiram Johnson's name from the balloting in the primaries next May unless, of course, his friends endeavor to put it on by petition. This seems difficult to accomplish for the leaders who supported Johnson now have come out for Coolidge.

Defeating Hiram Johnson in an agricultural state and in a section of the country in which it has been supposed the President would be weakest is regarded by Mr. Coolidge's friends as quite a feather in his cap. Indeed, it is reliably reported that within the next twenty-four hours Republicans in another state hitherto friendly to Senator Johnson will indicate their preference to Mr. Coolidge.

All this happens at an opportune time as members of the two houses of Congress are assembling. Many of them will play an influential part in the selection of delegates to the Republican National Convention and the psychological effect of South Dakota's action will from the Coolidge campaign viewpoint be considerable.

South Dakota originally favored Mr. Coolidge for Vice President, but agricultural discontent in the Republican party has developed since 1920 so that endorsement is of much more significance at the present time when the regular Republican leaders have feared that their most perplexing problems would come out of the camp of the Western Republicans.

Perhaps the most important developments, however, in the National situation will follow the delivery by President Coolidge on Thursday of his message to Congress. While the document has been distributed in confidence to the newspapers of the country and is to be held until released for publication when Mr. Coolidge begins speaking, many members of the Senate and House have read the message and are talking about it among themselves. Their comment cannot be published until after the message is released to the public. The message will create a considerable amount of talk and may even affect the wavering lines of Republicanism in Congress either making the cleavage wider or tending to draw some of the groups closer to the titular leader of the party in the White House though it is impossible to forecast the result until the public has read and digested Mr. Coolidge's recommendations.

Miss Margurite Clark, Miss Helen Clark and Captain Milton Owens are the guests of Mrs. Howard Kramer at her home on West Main street.

OFFICE SEEKERS SHORTEN LIVES

Civil Service Reform League Asks for Extension of the Merit System of Government Appointments.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President Coolidge and Congress were called upon in a report of the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League, submitted to the forty-third annual convention of the League today to eliminate the patronage burdens by providing for an extension of the merit system of appointments throughout the entire government service.

The "enormous pressure of office seekers" was said by the report to have contributed to shortening the lives of a half dozen presidents, including President Harding. No single measure, it was declared, could more effectively lighten the labors of the chief executive, "than one which would give relief from these importunities by providing other means for the selection of those in the service of the government."

The report said that the progress of the competitive system during previous administrations was followed by "a period of comparative retrogression under President Wilson," and that "the retrograde movement was not fully arrested when President Harding assumed office." The practice of the Post Office department, under both administrations, of submitting eligible lists established by the Civil Service Commission for postmasters to members of Congress and local politicians for recommendations as to whom among the first three should be selected for appointment" was severely condemned.

"Under the provisions of statutes passed by the Congress during the previous administration," the report

continued, "wholesale appointments have been made on a strictly spoils basis in various departments and bureaus. In the Internal Revenue Service and certain branches of the Customs service, in the Veterans' bureau, in the Shipping Board and especially in the Prohibition Enforcement Bureau, politics has played an important and injurious part."

"President Coolidge has a rare opportunity to eradicate once and for all the vicious and degrading influence of partisan politics from the administration of all the bureaus and departments under his control, excepting where statutory exemptions are in force. He has told us that he is in thorough sympathy with our aims and objects; that he finds the existence of our organization most encouraging and that he regards us as the police of the civil service system. We trust he will take adequate steps to correct many of the existing evils and we pledge him our whole-hearted support in the undertaking."

The report renewed the League's criticisms of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing dismissals under the Harding administration, and its demands for explanations. Secretary Work was condemned for removal of A. P. Davis as Director of Reclamation, which the report said demonstrated Mr. Work's utter disregard for the merit system and the letter and the spirit of the civil service law."

MOLDING MEN OF TOMORROW

American boys from homes ruined by poverty, crime, ignorance, drunkenness and social evils are being trained and developed into useful American manhood at the Glenwood, Illinois, Manual Training School, 24 miles south of Chicago. The school was founded in 1887, when 10 boys were sent out by the county court in Chicago. Later it was de-

veloped by Milton George, a farmer where thousands of boys, taken from cottages, which have every acre farm, representing years of toil and saving, to provide a real home, useful men. Today Glenwood has 15 cottages, which have every modern improvement.—Robert H. Moulton in McClure's Magazine for December.



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