NO CHANCE FOR PASSAGE OF FORDNEY TARIFF NOW

Democrats Quick to See Party Advantage in Opposing Bill That Would Surely Raise the High Cost of Living Still Higher—Heart of Eastern Republicans Is Not in the Measure—The Debate

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—There isn't the slightest chance that the emergency tariff bill which passed the house and is now being considered in the senate will ever become a law.

Even if the Republicans should apply the cloture rule and end the Democratic filibuster, the measure would be vetoed by President Wilson when it reached the white house. And there is a good deal of evidence that the Democrats would gleefully accept a cloture rule and hasten a veto because most of them see the first party advantage out of the bill that has appeared on the political horizon since election day.

The Democrats with true political sagacity would not be averse to seeing the Republicans pass a bill the admitted effect of which might be an increase in the cost of living. Senators Simmons, of North Carolina; King, of Utah, and Harrison, of Mississippi, have drawn from their opponents the admission that the passage of the Fordney bill would increase the price of sugar to the housewife and they are preparing to show that the measure will go even further in adding to the burden of the consuming public.

G. O. P. Heart Not In It

The truth is that the heart of eastern Republicans is not behind the bill at all and that they would like to see it die at the hands of a white house veto. But Senator Penrose is supporting it just as are other Republicans from the east because it is deemed advisable to maintain party solidarity for the next session when general tariff revision instead of class tariffs will be drawn up for discussion.

Moreover, many Democrats who at first intended to vote for the Fordney bill are getting cold feet. They see the party advantage in opposing a measure which increases the cost of living. Even if the bill should pass the senate and be vetoed by the president, friends of the measure admit there are not enough votes in both houses to make the necessary two-thirds. Several of the Democrats in the house who voted for the bill on first passage will not do so the next time as the democratic ranks have been considerably strengthened in the interval.

The fact that the pending tariff bill might benefit the sugar producers but might adversely affect the consuming public was brought out strikingly in the senate debate as follows:

Senator King of Utah: "I have a great deal of confidence in the senator from North Dakota and in his desire to legislate for the interest of the American people. I have no doubt he has studied the question with much care, and I should like to ask him, in the light of his study of the question, what effect the pending tariff bill, if it shall be enacted into law, will have, directly and indirectly, upon the sugar purchaser—that is, the consuming public in the United States—to what extent it will raise prices?"

Raise Sugar Prices

Senator McCumber, of North Dakota (Republican): "I think temporarily it will raise prices, and naturally so."

Mr. King, of Utah: "Has the senator any idea how much the tariff duty will cost the consuming public and how much it will inure to the advantage of the sugar producer?"

Mr. McCumber: "Today, it is a question of life and death to the cane sugar producers. I believe in maintaining the sugar industry of the United States. I think in the end it will be beneficial to do so. I think it may cost the American people a little more, just now to purchase their sugar should the bill become a law, but I think it is better that we should make the sugar industry in this country self-sustaining."

Mr. King: "Has the senator from North Dakota any idea of how many millions, tens of millions, or hundreds of millions of dollars will be added to the burdens of the purchasers of sugar as a result of the enactment of this measure?"

Mr. McCumber: "I think it will be very few hundreds of millions if it adds to their burdens at all . . ."

Mr. King: "The senator has called attention to the fact that unless this measure was passed the sugar industry might suffer materially. May I ask the senator whether it was the purpose of the finance committee to take care of all business enterprises in the United States in all lines of industry that were suffering during the present period of readjustment? If that be true, then we should take care of the laboring men who are thrown out of employment; we should take care of the retailers, who without fault have sustained great losses; we should take care of the cotton growers, who have been compelled to sell their cotton, if they could find a market to sell at all, at less than the cost price; we should be compelled to pay the wool growers compensation, perhaps by an appropriation for the losses they have sustained. In other words, does not the senator think that if we predicate our legislation upon the theory of making reparation for injuries which have been the result of the application of economic laws, we are not only prostituting the powers of the federal government, but we are going far beyond what we can possibly accomplish?"

Opinion of McCumber

Mr. McCumber: "The purpose of the committee was to afford relief to the agricultural industries of the United States both in the matter of grain-raising and sheep-raising and stock-raising because we believed that the depression in prices was due not alone to the present importations but to the immense importations which were about to come into the country; and we felt certain that as the American grain producer can produce all of the grain that is necessary to be consumed in the United States, and as grain is coming in that is being produced very much cheaper than it can be produced in the United States, we ought to give to the American farmer as much as we could the American market until he could be placed upon his feet again."

The North Dakota senator insisted, moreover, that these conditions "will not last forever, but that the tariff was necessary as an emergency measure. That's exactly, however, the reason why eastern Republicans in their hearts are opposed to the bill just as much as are the majority of Democrats. They recognize that a particular class would be benefited by the legislation and that other classes would immediately raise ever more political dust because they were neglected or injured by the emergency legislation. Wise leaders like Senator Penrose know that you can't tackle the tariff question in pieces, but that the whole subject has to be handled at one time with an eye to reciprocity between classes and industries.

The debate, however, furnishes a sufficient index of what is coming in the next session of congress when the entire tariff controversy will be opened anew.

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Buck Weaver Insists He Will Play Again

Stands By Denial of Any Shady Conduct as Diamond Performer

By JACK VEIOCK

(International News Sporting Editor)

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Buck Weaver has stoutly and consistently insisted since his indictment in connection with the 1919 world's series scandal that he is innocent of the charges made against him.

Weaver's indictment in connection with the fixing of the White Sox-Cincinnati series, like that of Eddie Cicotte, was a particular surprise to fandom. Weaver was always classed as a pepperbox of the diamond who would rather win a ball game for his team than anything else one could imagine. And when the indictments were returned, sensational though they were in each case, fans everywhere remarked:

"It's hard to believe about Weaver and Cicotte!"

Fandom was noticeably interested, therefore, in a report from Chicago recently, quoting Weaver, who is said to have offered to wager $500 that he will be with the Sox next summer.

"I have a contract with the White Sox that has not yet expired. I can and will prove my innocence of the charges against me and I will be a member of the Chicago team next summer," he was reported to have said.

There appears to be pressure from certain quarters favoring Weaver's return to baseball. It is pointed out frequently that his playing in the 1919 world's series was unquestionably on the up-and-up, and that he of all the Sox players indicted, deserves a chance to clear his name and return to the pastime.

But regardless of any argument that may be advanced in Weaver's favor there is one point that stands out boldly.

In the public mind Weaver stands convicted of having consorted with the gamblers who engineered the "crooking" of the Reds-Sox series.

The fact that he may have been innocent of any part in throwing games and even though he did not accept any of the bribe money makes little difference.

The fans can't forget that Weaver apparently stood in silence, knowing all the while that White Sox supporters were being double-crossed.

Why did Weaver keep silent? He had the opportunity to make himself one of the biggest men in baseball if he had gone to the national commission and made a clean breast of the things he is supposed to have known.

His silence, therefore, aided and abetted the crooks in putting over their nefarious frame-up, and though he may prove himself innocent of actual participation in the abominable incident he will be unable to erase this fact from the minds of the fans.

Judge Landis made it plain to the magnates at the recent meeting in Chicago that "there can be no association with any player as long as an indictment hangs over him and is undetermined and even if he is cleared of charges against him by a jury he will still have to make good with the commissioner. Juries sometimes make mistakes."

Landis means every word of it. He is the "word" in baseball now and if he takes the course he is expected to take not a one of the eight Sox players will ever wear a big league, let alone a minor league uniform, as long as he is baseball's high commissioner.

When the baseball conclave was held here in December, Judge Landis emphatically stated that if he accepted the commissionership he would see to it that he White Sox players under indictment were prosecuted. He has been given a fund of $10,000 to use in cleaning up and keeping baseball clean. And he will do that very thing.

COST OF LIVING PRICE VERY LITTLE REDUCED

For Country As Whole It Is Only About 7.5 Per Cent Since June Peak

By HARDEN COLFAX

(Special to The Star, Copyright, 1921)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Living costs in the United States have declined barely 7.5 per cent from their peak last June. They are still twice what they were in prewar times, according to official figures collected by the department of labor.

The evident reductions in food costs and clothing are much greater than the drop in living costs as a whole, because these items are on the downgrade while others of practically equal importance, though not so noticeable, are continuing to go up.

Food costs went down about 10 per cent in the period from December, 1919, to December, 1920, but the reduction from the peak last June was 20 per cent. Clothing costs are also definitely on the down grade—about four per cent per cent since December, 1919, and nearly 15 per cent since last June. But most of the other items in the household budget are rising, or show only small reductions.

Rent, for example, is constantly increasing in the family budget. The increase has been about 12 per cent for December over last June, for the country as a whole. Fuel and light have advanced about 15 per cent over June prices and now cost nearly twice as much as they did before the war. Furniture and furnishings have declined slightly from the peak but are nearly three times prewar figures. Miscellaneous items as a whole continue to advance.

How these items overshadow reductions in food prices is only evident by study of the figures. The average family's food budget is $682.57 a year. A much talked of reduction of one cent a loaf for bread amounts only to $4.54 a year, and one cent a quart less for milk means for the average family a saving of only $3.65 annually. When butter declines a cent, the saving is $1.17; if potatoes fall off as much as 60 cents a bushel, the saving comes to $8.82 a year, but this is only a little more than one per cent of the total budget.

Car fares on the other hand, have generally been advancing from five to seven, eight or ten cents—in most eastern cities to the latter figure. That means an added expense to the workman who must ride to work, of at least $30 a year—more likely $40 or $50 when carfares for other purposes are included. Gas has advanced from 80 cents to $1.35 in Boston, from 70 cents to $1.15 in Chicago, from $1.10 to $1.80 in Mobile, and in similar proportion in many other cities. Since the average family uses each month about 5,000 cubic feet gas, according to estimates by the bureau of labor statistics, the Boston man spends $2.65 more a month, or about $31.80 a year for gas alone.

During the war the war trade board made a careful study, under the direction of Prof. Paul T. Cherington, of Civil war and World war prices, which showed a remarkable correspondence, at least up to the time of the armistice, when the curves were practically the same. During the first two years of the Civil war and of the World war, prices in this country rose about 20 per cent; in the last two years, they passed 100 per cent. It required eight years—till 1873—for Civil war prices to get back to the 1863 level; they never did return to the 1861 level. If a similar course is followed now, it is possible that in 1926 prices will be approximately what they were in 1916—some 20 per cent above prewar figures—and that a new price level will be fixed on that basis.

TEXT BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The army appropriation bill as reported to the house carries an item of $35,000 for purchase of text books and necessary expenses of instruction of the field artillery schools at Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Knox, Kentucky, and Camp Bragg, North Carolina, and $5,000 for the purchase of materials and instruments for the practical and theoretical instruction in field artillery activities at the three schools.

DR. WHITESIDE DEAD

LONDON, Jan. 29.—Dr. Thomas Whiteside, archbishop of Liverpool, is dead. All the Roman Catholic sees in Great Britain, with the exception of Westminster and Edinburgh are now vacant.

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PRIME QUESTION NOW GERMAN DISARMAMENT

Rene Viviani Sees More for France In That Than In Remote Reparations

By RENE VIVIANI.

(Special Cable to The Star. Copyright, 1921.)

PARIS, Jan. 21.—The enormous majority vote of confidence given Premier Briand in the chamber of deputies does not indicate the preference of that body for any certain method of procedure. Confidence, indeed, was voted, but Briand was really given a general and vague mandate to achieve success at any price.

Public impatience becomes increasingly exacting as events unroll. Neither Briand's high integrity nor undoubted ability will save him from hostile reaction. His fate depends upon results. The harshness, even the injustice of this, are perhaps good things. Destiny is not always dependent on will, and the time is past when good intentions suffice.

What results can Briand obtain? News from London encourages hope for an agreement, which too often has been prevented by misunderstandings these last months. Fortunately peoples, especially since the war, who formerly were kept at a distance from chancelleries where mysterious personages babbled mysterious formulas, demand the right to understand diplomatic problems. They have bought this right with blood and their wounds have hardly yet closed. So peoples are meeting, exchanging views, understanding one another, and correcting errors egotistically committed by their ephemereal governments.

The prime question today is disarmament. They hope that it will not be linked with reparations. This would be playing Germany's game and would result only in strife and confusion. Germany audaciously declares she will not pay unless she is permitted to allow Bavaria to remain armed. Such a procedure would be obviously perilous. Failure to disarm would give Germany an immediate advantage. Subsequent payment would give us a very remote advantage. We can not yield an immediate advantage in return for a remote one. Germany must disarm her supplementary Bavarian guards, which are not permitted in the treaty.

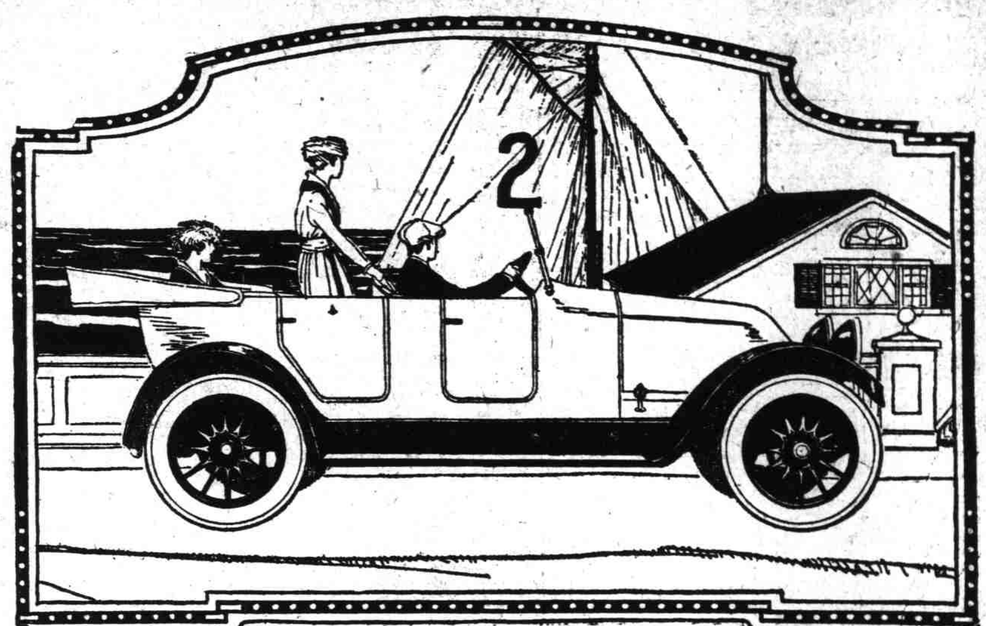
Herein America, our far-off impartial judge, must support us. We are not demanding disarmament for the sake of a needless disruption of Germany, nor to further internal dismemberment. That would be folly. Germany was founded fifty years ago by a military victory and completed by economic prosperity. It honors humanity that defeat has united her various elements as grief often unites members of a family. We have no right to interfere in such a policy nor to intervene in internal politics in the German states.

But we have the right to hope that certain tendencies and parties will triumph in those states. France's interest, arising out of her sentiments, is to see true democracy finally arise in Germany. Despite constitutional appearances, democracy has not yet been completely established. It is insufficient to create form, wherein a democratic government is a recognizable example of a parliament elected by universal suffrage. The mentality and conscience are lacking. American, English and French people know what democracy means. It is the air they breathe. They can not imagine living without such air. Not so Germany.

Alas, the enthusiasm which German socialists showed over innocent Belgium's martyrdom, still astonishes and frightens us. What a long road democratic spirit must still travel. Everything cannot be done in a day. War kills principles like men. Has it renovated the consciences of the German people? Has it instilled anything except blind hatred of England? We shall soon discover.

Now, by aiding in the formation of German democracy, we aid disarmament, and insisting upon disarmament we aid the formation of certain German democracy. For the democratic spirit will help us arrive by moral force at disarmament which material force, however strong, can not guarantee. The disarmament of the revolutionary and imperialistic hordes of Bavaria, of which the sinister Ludendorff is preparing to take command, will, by a bloody coup d'etat, save the germ of democracy that may exist there.

It is our highest interest to see penetrate into Germany the light and face of our French revolution which will complete the liberation of German minds from militarism, that formidable ghost of an abhorred past, which we imagined destroyed forever. But in the words of the French proverb, "some dead men need not to be killed."



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