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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued From Page One.

prospect of reorganization and reconstruction such as statesmen and peoples have never been called upon to attempt before."

The United States has remained neutral, he said, because it had no interest in the causes and because it was the duty of the nations of the Western Hemisphere to prevent collective economic ruin.

#### Mexican Policy.

The President pointed to the attitude of the United States toward Mexico as proving that this country has no selfish motives in its interest in countries in Central and South America. There was a time, he said, when the United States looked upon itself as a sort of guardian of the republics to the south as against the encroachment or efforts of political control from Europe.

"But," he added, "it was always difficult to maintain such a role without offense to the pride of the peoples whose freedom of action we sought to protect, and every thoughtful man or affairs must welcome the altered circumstances of the new day in whose light we now stand, when there is no claim of guardianship or thought of wards, but instead a full and honorable association of partners between ourselves and our neighbors in the interests of all America, North and South."

"Our concern for the independence and the prosperity of the states of Central and South America is not altered. We retain unabated the spirit that has inspired us throughout the whole life of our government and which was so frankly put into words by President Monroe. We still mean always to make a common cause of national independence and of political liberty in America, but that purpose is now better understood so far as it concerns ourselves. It is known not to be a selfish purpose. It is known to have in it no thought of taking advantage of any government in this hemisphere or playing its political fortunes for our own benefit. All the governments of America stand, so far as we are concerned, upon a footing of genuine equality and unquestioned independence."

#### Put to the Test.

"We have been put to the test in the case of Mexico, and we have stood the test," declared the President. He added that it remained to be seen whether Mexico had been benefited by the course taken by the administration, but that "we have at least proved that we will not take advantage of her in her distress and undertake to impose upon her an order and government of our own choosing."

"The moral is," continued the President, "that the states of America are not hostile rivals, but co-operating friends, and that their growing sense of community interest, alike in matters political and in matters economic, is likely to give them a new significance as factors in international affairs and in the political history of the world. It presents them as in a very deep and true sense a unit in world affairs, spiritual partners, standing together because thinking together, quick with common sympathies and common ideals. Separated they are subject to all the cross-currents of the confused politics of a world of hostile rivalries; united in spirit and purpose they cannot be disappointed of their peaceful destiny. \* \* \* I am interested to fix your attention on this prospect now, because unless you take it within your view and permit the full significance of it to command your thought I cannot find the right light in which to set forth the particular matter that lies at the very front of my whole thought as I address you today. I mean national defense."

#### Passion for Peace.

The passion of the American people, the President declared, was for peace; that conquest and dominion were not in their reckoning nor agreeable to their principles.

"But just because we demand unmolested development and the undisturbed government of our own lives upon our own principles of right and liberty," he said, "we resent, from whatever quarter it may come, the aggression we ourselves will not practice. We insist upon security in prosecuting our self-chosen lines of national development. We do more than that. We demand it also for others."

War, the President declared, was regarded by the United States merely as a means of asserting the rights of a people against aggression, and that "we are as fiercely jealous of coercive or dictatorial power within our own nation as from aggression from without." He said the nation would not maintain a standing army except for uses which are as necessary in times of peace as in times of war, but that the country did believe in a body of free citizens ready and sufficient to take care of themselves and of the government.

#### What War Is.

"But war has never been a mere matter of men and arms," he continued. "It is a thing of disciplined might. If our citizens are ever to fight effectively upon a sudden summons they must know how modern fighting is done and what to do when the summons comes to render themselves immediately available and immediately effective. And the government must, be their servant in this matter, must supply them with the training they need to take care of themselves and of it. The military arm of their government, which they will not allow to direct them, they may properly use to serve them and make their independence secure—and not their own independence merely, but the rights also of those with whom they have made common cause, should they also be put in jeopardy."

The President presented the War Department plans for strengthening the army as "the essential first step" and "for the present sufficient." The plans include the increasing of the standing army to a force of 141,843 men of all services, and the establish-

ment of a supplementary force of 400,000 disciplined citizens, who would undergo training for short periods throughout three years of a six years' enlistment.

"It would depend upon the patriotic feeling of the younger men of the country whether they responded to such a call to service or not," said the President. "It would depend upon the patriotic spirit of the employers of the country whether they made it possible for the younger men in their employ to respond under favorable conditions or not. I, for one, do not doubt the patriotic devotion either of our young men or of those who give them employment—those for whose benefit and protection they would in fact enlist. I would look forward to the success of such an experiment with entire confidence."

#### Plan for Navy.

Outlining the details of the navy plan presented by Secretary Daniels, the President said that "it involves only a shortening of the time within which plans long matured shall be carried out but it does make definite and explicit a program which has heretofore been only implicit, held in the minds of the committees on naval affairs and disclosed in the debates of the two houses, but nowhere formulated or formally adopted. \* \* \* It seems to be very clear that it will be to the advantage of the country for the Congress to adopt a comprehensive plan for putting the navy upon a final footing of strength and efficiency and to press that plan to completion within the next five years."

The President said that in order to secure national self-efficiency and self-security the country must have a merchant marine.

"For it is a question of independence," he asserted. "If other nations go to war or seek to hamper each other's commerce, our merchants, it seems, are at their mercy to do with as they please. We must use their ships, and use them as they determine. Our independence is provincial, and it is only on land and within our own borders. We are not likely to be permitted to use even the ships of other nations in rivalry of their own trade, and are without means to extend our commerce and our goods desired. Such a situation is not to be endured. It is of capital importance not only that the United States should be its own carrier on the seas and enjoy the economic independence which only an adequate merchant marine would give it, but also that the American hemisphere as a whole should enjoy a like independence and self-sufficiency if it is not to be drawn into the tangle of European affairs."

#### Merchant Marine.

The task of building up an adequate merchant marine, Mr. Wilson said, must be undertaken ultimately by American private capital, but in the meantime, he declared, every legal obstacle standing in the way of the building, purchase and American registration of ships should be removed and the government should undertake to open routes, especially between the two American continents. When the risk has passed and private capital begins to find its way into these new channels, he added, the government may withdraw.

The President told Congress that proposals would be made during the coming session for the purchase or construction of ships to be owned and directed by the government. The measure, he said, would be similar to that submitted to the last Congress, but modified in some essential particulars.

In outlining the financial condition of the government the President followed closely the statement recently given out by Secretary McAdoo. He said that the additional revenue required to carry out the program of military and naval preparation would be \$92,800,000 for the fiscal year 1917; that if the present taxes were continued throughout this year and the next there would be a balance in the treasury of about \$76,500,000 at the end of the present fiscal year and a deficit at the end of the next year of some \$12,000,000, reckoning in \$2,000,000 for deficiency appropriations.

#### Internal Tax.

Proposing that the new bills should be paid by internal taxation, the President suggested that by lowering the present limits of income exemption and the figure at which the surtax is imposed, and by increasing step by step throughout the present graduation the surtax itself, income taxes as at present apportioned would yield sums sufficient to balance the books of the treasury at the end of the fiscal year 1917 without anywhere making the burden unreasonably heavy. He added that there were many additional sources of revenue which justly could be resorted to without hampering the industries of the country or putting any too great charge upon the individual expenditure. He estimated that a one cent tax per gallon on gasoline and naphtha would yield \$10,000,000; a tax of 50 cents per horsepower on automobiles and internal explosion engines, \$15,000,000; a stamp tax on bank checks, probably \$18,000,000, and a tax of 50 cents per ton on fabricated iron and steel, probably \$10,000,000.

The President said there was reason to hope that no question in controversy between this and other governments would lead to any serious breach of amicable relations, and that he was sorry to say that the gravest threats against national peace and safety had been uttered within the country's own borders.

"There are citizens of the United States, I blush to admit," he declared, "born under other flags but welcomed under our generous naturalization laws to the full freedom and opportunity of America, who have poured the poison of disloyalty into the very arteries of our national life; who have sought to bring the authority and good name of our government into contempt, to destroy our industries wherever they thought it effective for their vindictive purposes, to strike at them and to debase our politics to the uses of foreign intrigue."

### No Law Adequate.

No Federal laws exist to meet this situation, said Mr. Wilson, because such a thing would have seemed incredible in the past. "Such creatures of passion, disloyalty and anarchy," he added, "must be crushed out. They are not many, but they are infinitely malignant, and the hand of our power should close over them at once."

Turning again to military questions, the President said he might find it advisable to call into systematic consultation with the directing officers of the army and navy men of recognized ability who are familiar, for example, with the transportation facilities of the country and therefore he would be co-ordinated when the need arises, those who can suggest the best way to bring about prompt co-operation among the manufacturers, and those who could assist to bring the technical skill of the country to the aid of the government in the solution of problems of defense. He said he might later ask Congress for an appropriation to defray the expenses of such work.

The President told the members he might address them again later on commercial conditions about which much legislation has been passed and which are likely to change rapidly after the war, when the nations of Europe again take up their task of commerce and industry. The most that can be done now, he said, is to make sure that the necessary instrumentalities are at hand for securing adequate information.

Regarding the railroads, the President said there had been reason to fear that they could not cope much longer with the transportation problem, and suggested it would be wise to provide for a commission of inquiry to ascertain whether the laws as at present framed and administered were as serviceable as they might be in the solution of the problem. He said that the regulation of the railroads by Federal commission has had admirable results and that the question was whether there was anything else to be done to better the conditions under which the railroads are operating.

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