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President Deals With Domestic Questions

Mr. Wilson Sends His Message to Both Houses of Congress—"Workable Budget System" Placed First In Importance—A Program to Aid Recovery from War Conditions Must Be Undertaken, and in That Democracy is on Trial—Rigid Economy is Urged—Congress Planning to Deal With Business Depression, Unemployment and Farmers' Relief.

A Washington dispatch of Dec. 7 gives the following:

Both houses of Congress were in brief session today to hear President Wilson's annual message. It was read by the clerks, Mr. Wilson having heeded the advice of the physician not to appear in person to present his recommendations.

Galleries in both Senate and House were crowded. Both those drawn by the chance that the President might appear in person or by the possibility that his message might touch upon the league of nations question or his own approaching retirement to private life were disappointed.

Mr. Wilson confined himself almost wholly to domestic questions. Only by inference did his message refer to the nearing close of his administration and that was in the concluding paragraph.

The proposals he presented, the President wrote, were not so much a series of recommendations as a confession "of the faith in which I was bred and which it is my solemn purpose to stand by until my last fighting day."

Aside from hearing the President's message, Congress made definite progress on at least one of the problems it faces during the brief session. The House received a rule under which an effort will be made Thursday to take up the immigration bill for prompt action. It would limit general debate to four hours. The two day interval was allowed to permit Representative Siegel of New York, a member of the immigration committee, to frame a minority report.

No other matter in either House had passed today beyond the committee stage. At both ends of the capitol, however, members were deep in plans to deal with business depression, unemployment and farmers' relief. Discussions in the Senate of the plight of farmers delayed the reading of the President's message in that body.

The industrial situation also found a place in the President's message. Recovery from war effects gave promise of early completion "only in our own fortunate country," said Mr. Wilson, and even here, "halts, and is impeded at times." A program of "immediately serviceable acts of legislation" to aid that recovery "and prove the indestructible recuperative force of a great government of people" should be undertaken Mr. Wilson said, adding:

"One of these is to prove that a great democracy can keep house as successfully and in as business-like fashion as any other government."

First among the recommended steps Mr. Wilson placed enactment of a "workable budget system." He said he had vetoed the budget bill passed at the last session "reluctantly" and because of a constitutional objection. But because it was later revised in the House he believed it would with other measures furnish "foundations for a

national budget system."

Mr. Wilson cited figures as to the national debt and urged "rigid economy" in which all branches of the government should co-operate.

"I cannot over-emphasize," he said, "the necessity of economy in government appropriations and expenditures and the avoidance by Congress of practices which take money from the treasury by indefinite or revolving fund appropriations."

This year's estimates "strikingly" illustrated the importance of specific appropriations, the President added, the transportation act having "disturbed" the relationship between current receipts and expenditures to the extent of over a billion dollars.

"It is obvious," the message continued, that these large payments have already seriously limited the government's progress in retiring the floating debt."

The President renewed some of the recommendations he made at the opening of the last session, and added:

"I do not feel it my privilege at present to suggest the detailed and particular methods by which these objects may be attained, but I have faith

that the inquiries of your several committees will discover the way and the method."

The only recommendation for other than domestic matters was that for a loan to Armenia to be administered through American commissioners to avoid "further tempting opportunities" to revolutionary tendencies in that country; and for granting independence to the Philippines "to keep our promise to the people of those islands."

Tulsa, Okla.—An unidentified negro, charged with an assault Sunday upon a white woman, 67 years old, was taken from the Hughes county jail at Holdenville Sunday by a mob of 50 men and hanged to a telephone post. The negro's body was then riddled with bullets.

Mr. Lattie Parnell of the Barnesville section is a Lumberton visitor today.

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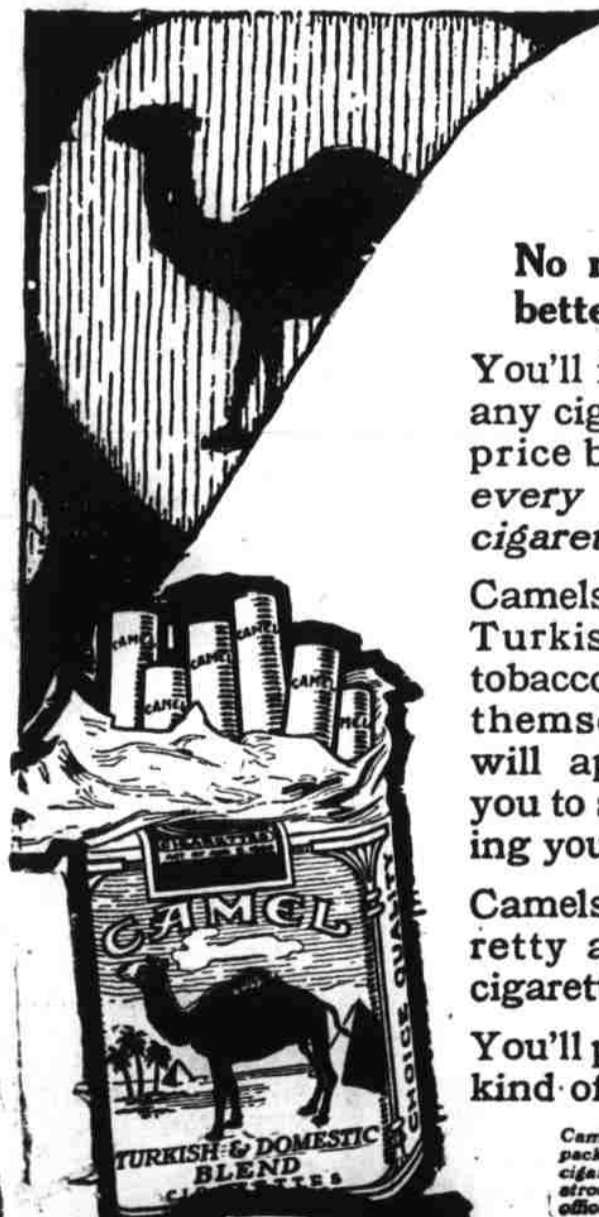
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