

PRESIDENT ASKS BACKING OF CONGRESS
Appears Before Joint Session and Asks for Approval in Using Armed Forces of Government in Mexican Situation

Answers Huerta's Defiance By Personal Appeal

In Forceful Message He Reviews Indignities of Huerta and Asks Approval of Congress in Future Policy—No War With Mexican People Desired.

Outburst of Applauds Follows Reading of the Address—Congress Will Back the President in His Course—Merchant Ships Ordered Out of Vera Cruz Harbor.

By Associated Press.

Washington, April 20.—President Wilson today answered Huerta's defiance by asking congress, assembled in joint session, for approval to "use the armed forces of the United States to such extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States."

The president did not ask for any appropriation of money at this time for authority to call out the national guard.

There can be no thought of aggression or selfish aggrandizement," declared the president to the sober-faced members of congress and representatives which packed the hall of the house.

"This government can, I earnestly hope, in no circumstances be forced into war with the people of Mexico. If armed conflict should unhappily come as the result of his (Huerta's) attitude of personal resentment towards this government, we should be fighting only General Huerta and those who adhere to him and give him support or our object would be only to restore to the people of the distracted republic the opportunity to set up again their own laws and their own government."

"There can in what we do be no thought of aggression or of selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States only because we wish always to keep our great influence unimpaired for the uses of liberty both in the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind."

The president finished reading his address at 3:12 p. m. and left the chamber amid a roar of applause and cheers.

There was loud applause mostly on the democratic side when the president said he felt it his duty to sustain Admiral Mayo. There was intermittent applause during the remainder of the reading of the address.

When the president referred to the use of armed forces the democrats again applauded. Republican Leader Mann and Progressive Leader Murdock and others on their sides did not join in this nor on the applause that greeted the president at the end of the message.

It was exactly 3 o'clock when congress and crowded galleries broke into a cheer of recognition as Speaker Clark introduced the president.

The outburst of applause subsided into solemn quiet as the president, in a low but penetrating voice spoke the opening sentence of his address.

Just as soon as the joint session had dissolved this resolution was introduced in the house:

Resolution Offered. The joint resolution justifying the employment of armed forces of the United States in enforcing certain demands against Victoriano Huerta:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled that the president of the United States is justified in the employment of the armed forces of the United States to enforce the demands upon Victoriano Huerta for unequivocal acquiescence to the government of the United States for indignities committed against this government by General Huerta and his representatives."

Immediately after returning from the house chamber, the senate went into executive session to consider the president's message.

The diplomatic gallery was crowded with members of the diplomatic corps while the President spoke. Ambassadors Jusserand of France, Springthorpe of Great Britain, and Representatives of Austria and the Netherlands occupied the front row of the gallery. Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Francis B. Sayre and Miss Margaret Wilson were in the white house party.

The first applause that interrupted the president followed his statement that the Tampico incident showed a "new spirit" on the part of the Huertistas.

ALL MERCHANT SHIPS MUST LEAVE VERA CRUZ HARBOR

Vera Cruz, April 20.—Commander Charles F. Hughes, chief of staff of the United States Atlantic fleet, today called on General Gustavo Maas, commander of the federal troops at Vera Cruz, and on the commander of the port, and instructed them to order all merchant vessels out of the harbor.

Navy Department Statement. Washington, April 20.—The navy department gave out this statement: "American merchant vessels have been ordered out of Vera Cruz harbor in accordance with the president's instructions to consular officers to warn Americans to leave Mexico for their own safety."

2ND DIVISION OF ARMY GETS RUSH ORDER

Houston, Texas, April 20.—The second division of the United States army here on a practice march began a hurried movement back to Texas City and Galveston today on orders from Washington. The fifth brigade was rushed aboard troop trains but the remainder of the big army unit, which brought nearly 10,000 men here, was ordered to march back to the coast—60 miles. Plans were made for the fourth brigade to go aboard transports, although it was said no sailing orders have been received.

The plan was to have the fifth, numbering nearly 5,000 men, ready for sailing to Vera Cruz by Tuesday morning if a troop movement were ordered.

HOUSE AND SENATE AGREE TO JOINT SESSION

Washington, April 20.—The house upon assembling immediately and unanimously passed a concurrent resolution for a joint session with the senate at 3 p. m.

The senate without debate adopted the house resolution for a 3 o'clock joint session.

Not a dissenting vote was cast in the house against the resolution for a joint session to receive "whatever communication the president shall be pleased to make." It was a solemn and quiet house that stood while Chaplain Henry D. Conden offered prayer.

"Oh, God, a question of grave consequence confronts us here today," said the chaplain. "A crisis which affects thousands of people must be met. Impart to the president, his advisers and the members of this congress wisdom, courage and fortitude that they may act in accordance with the highest conceptions of truth and justice and right, so that civilization may be advanced and things which make for peace and righteousness may progress."

The silence that greeted the prayer continued as Representative Underwood presented the resolution fixing 3 o'clock for the joint session.

CONGRESS TO MEET AT 3 O'CLOCK

Washington, April 20.—After conferring with white house officials congress leaders agreed on a joint session of both houses at 3 p. m. today and the foreign affairs committees began work on a resolution.

President's Message To Congress On Mexican Situation

President Wilson laid the Mexican situation before congress today in these words: "Gentlemen of the Congress: "It is my duty to call your attention to a situation which has arisen in our dealings with Gen. Victoriano Huerta at Mexico City which calls for action, and to ask your advice and co-operation in acting upon it. On the ninth of April a paymaster of the U. S. S. Dolphin landed at the turbid bridge landing at Tampico with a whaleboat and boat's crew to take off certain supplies needed by his ship, and while engaged in loading the boat was arrested by an officer and a squad of men of the army of Gen. Huerta. Neither the paymaster nor any one of the boat's crew were armed. Two of the mere were in the boat when the arrest took place and were obliged to leave it and submit to be taken into custody, notwithstanding the fact that the boat carried, both at her bow and at her stern, the flag of the United States. The officer who made the arrest was proceeding up one of the streets of the town with his prisoners met by an officer of higher authority, who ordered him to return to the landing and await orders; and within an hour and a half from the time of the arrest orders were received from the commander of the Huertista forces at Tampico for the release of the paymaster and his men. The release was followed by apologies from the commander and later by an expression of regret by Gen. Huerta himself. Gen. Huerta urged that martial law obtained at the time at Tampico; that orders had been issued that no one should be allowed to land at the turbid bridge; and that our sailors had no right to land there. Our naval commanders at the port had not been notified of any such prohibition; and, even if they had been, the only justifiable course open to the local authorities would have been to request the paymaster and his crew to withdraw and to lodge a protest with the commanding officer of the fleet. Admiral Mayo regarded the arrest as so serious an affront that he was not satisfied with the apologies offered, but demanded that the flag of the United States be saluted with special ceremony by the military commander of the port.

"The incident cannot be regarded as a trivial one, especially as two of the men were taken from the boat itself—that is to say from the territory of the United States; but had it stood by itself it might have been attributed to the ignorance or arrogance of a single officer. Unfortunately it was not an isolated case. A series of incidents have recently occurred which cannot but create the impression that the representatives of Gen. Huerta were willing to go out of their way to show disregard for the dignity and rights of this government and felt perfectly safe in doing what they pleased, making free to show in many ways their irritation and contempt. A few days after the incident at Tampico and orderly from the U. S. S. Minnesota was arrested at Vera Cruz while ashore in uniform to obtain the ship's mail and was for a time thrown into jail. An official dispatch from this government to its embassy at Mexico City was withheld by the authorities of the telegraphic service temporarily demanded by our charge d'affaires person. So far as I can learn, such wrongs and annoyances have been suffered to occur only against representatives of the United States. I have heard of no complaints from other governments of similar treatment. Subsequent explanations and formal apologies did not and could not alter the popular impression.

which it is possible it had been the object of the Huertista authorities to create, that the government of the United States was being singled out, and might be singled out with impunity, for slights and affronts in retaliation for its refusal to recognize the pretensions of General Huerta to be regarded as the concessionalist provisional president of the republic of Mexico.

"The manifest danger of such a situation was that such offences might grow from bad to worse until something happened of so gross and intolerable a sort as to lead directly and inevitably to armed conflict. It was necessary that the apologies of General Huerta and his representatives should go much further, that they should be such as to attract the attention of the whole population to their significance, and such as to impress upon General Huerta himself the necessity of seeing to it that no further occasion for explanations and professed regrets should arise. I, therefore, felt it my duty to sustain Admiral Mayo in the whole of his demand and to insist that the flag of the United States should be saluted in such a way as to indicate a new spirit and attitude on the part of the Huertistas.

"Such a salute General Huerta has refused, and I have come to ask your approval and support in the course I now propose to pursue.

"This government can, I earnestly hope, in no circumstances be forced into war with the people of Mexico. Mexico is torn by civil strife. If we are to accept the tests of its own constitution, it has no government. General Huerta has set his power up in the city of Mexico, such as it is, without right and by methods for which there can be no justification. If part of the country is under his control.

"If armed conflict should unhappily come as a result of his attitude of personal resentment towards this government, we should be fighting only General Huerta and those who adhere to him and give him their support, and our object would be only to restore to the people of the distracted republic the opportunity to set up again their own laws and their own government.

"But I earnestly hope that war is not now in question. I believe that I speak for the American people when I say that we do not desire to control in any degree the affairs of our sister republic. Our feeling for the people of Mexico is one of deep and genuine friendship, and everything that we have so far done or refrained from doing has proceeded from our desire to help them and not to hinder or embarrass them. We would not wish even to exercise the good offices of friendship without their consent. The people of Mexico are entitled to settle their own domestic affairs in their own way and we sincerely desire to respect their right. The present situation here has none of the grave implications of interference if we deal with it promptly, firmly and wisely.

"No doubt, what is necessary in the circumstances to force respect for our government without recourse to the congress, and yet not exceed my constitutional powers as president; but I do not wish to act in a matter possibly of so grave consequence except in close conference and co-operation with both the senate and house. I, therefore, come to ask your approval that I should use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such an extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States, even amidst the distressing conditions now unhappily obtaining in Mexico.

"There can in what we do be no thought of aggression or of selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind."

THE DAY IN CONGRESS. By Associated Press. Senate: Senator Chamberlain introduced a bill to appropriate \$50,000,000 for national defense and other purposes.

Arranged to meet in joint session at 3 p. m. with the house to hear President Wilson's address on the Mexican situation.

House: Arranged a joint session. The McGillicuddy workmen's compensation bill was ordered favorably reported by the judiciary committee.

Foreign affairs committee arranged for a meeting immediately after President Wilson's address.

PRESIDENT WILL TELL WHOLE STORY

By Associated Press. Washington, April 20.—The president will tell the whole story at the capitol at 3 o'clock," said the secretaries as they passed out at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting.

It became known that they considered Charge Alaga's latest communication as containing nothing new.

Counsellor Lansing of the state department had pointed out to the cabinet various precedents. Cabinet officers said they had discussed "the various steps in the situation."

THE N. C. STATE GUARD READY FOR SERVICE

Special to The News. Raleigh, April 20.—Adjutant General Young of the state guard says practically all the companies of the guard, infantry, cavalry coast artillery, naval militia and medical and other corps have signified their readiness to enlist for Mexican service. He expects a general order for mobilization of the national guard, including North Carolina to be issued most any time now. The North Carolina guard has about 7,000 men and while the minimum for field service is 5,168 this means that just as soon as the order comes from Washington to Governor Craig for the state guard to mobilize there will begin the enlistment of additional men up to the minimum war strength.

CARRANZA AND VILLA CONFER

By Associated Press. Juarez, April 20.—Conferences between Carranza and Villa began at Chihuahua today, according to an official report received here.

It is understood among rebel officials they will take no part in opposing the United States over the Tampico incident unless rebel territory is invaded.

As To State's Rights To Regulate Rates

By Associated Press. Washington, April 20.—The right of the state to regulate insurance rates was settled today by the supreme court upholding as constitutional the Kansas fire insurance law of 1909.

Chief Justice White and Justices Vandevanter and Lamar dissented, claiming that insurance was a private contract with which the state had no right to interfere.

Justice Lamar declared that the decision upheld the principle that the state had the right to fix the price of every article on the markets.

Justice McKenna, for the majority of the court, declared insurance had become so clothed with a public interest as to distinguish insurance from ordinary business and to classify it with the business of running a hotel or a railroad.

Gunboat Reaches Key West

By Associated Press. Key West, Fla., April 20.—The gunboat de Luzon and the tender Yankton arrived here early today for coal and provisions. Both will proceed at once to Mexican waters.

Rate Cases Go Over

By Associated Press. Washington, April 20.—None of the important pending rate cases was decided today by the supreme court.

CONGRESS WILL BACK UP PRESIDENT SAYS CLARK

By Associated Press. New York, April 20.—"Congress will back up the president," declared Speaker Champ Clark here early today. "There will be no division between the president and congress on that question. And the whole country will stand behind the president as well as congress." The speaker, however, expressed hope of finding a peaceful solution of the situation.

MAJ. GEN. WOOD TO COMMAND AMERICAN FORCES

Washington, April 20.—Secretary Garrison announced today that in the event of hostilities with Mexico, Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, would command the American forces.

Full Text Of Note Wherein Huerta Refused to Meet Demand

ATTITUDE OF MEXICAN PRESS

Mexico City, April 20.—Newspapers of the Federal capital today restricted themselves to brief comment on the statement given out by the foreign minister, devoting themselves chiefly to expressions of approval of the attitude taken by the Mexican government.

El Imparcial declared that General Huerta had given "high proof of his discretion and loyalty," and concluded: "A people like a man should prefer death to dishonor."

El Pais said: "The Tampico incidents as a reason for war are infamous and as a basis for the assertion of right are ridiculous."

It adds: "In these solemn moments serenity is the only hinge that can save us, but should the time come to show ourselves patriots it is indispensable to unite in facing death and sacrifice with the valor of justice."

20 TORPEDO BOATS ARE ORDERED OUT

By Associated Press. Pensacola, Fla., April 20.—Orders were received early today directing the flotilla of 20 torpedo boat destroyers here to put to sea this afternoon, meeting Rear Admiral Badger's fleet in the gulf and accompanying it to Tampico. Officers said the destroyers with two tenders were ready to depart.

The reference was to Huerta's proposal that the American flag be hoisted at a public place in Tampico and saluted by 21 guns and, besides, the severe punishment of Hinojosa, stipulating that all this be done within 24 hours.

The term was later extended when diplomatic pourparlers were begun between the sub-secretary of foreign affairs in Mexico, the minister being absent at that date and continued until now.

The president of Mexico when informed of the case ordered another investigation of the facts and punishment of the guilty officer if it were proved he was blameworthy. He also authorized the minister of foreign affairs to express regret on account of the incident. When he became aware that the American government supported the request of Rear Admiral Mayo relative to a salute of the American flag which had not been insulted, he proposed to show his good will toward the American people though he did not think that such a request was just, proposing that the flags of the two nations be hoisted and saluted reciprocally and simultaneously.

"When the American government did not agree with that idea but insisted upon Rear Admiral Mayo's request, giving assurance that according to international practice the salute would be returned by American cannon after the salute to the American flag, it was not accepted by President Huerta, who insisted upon his proposition."

"Then the American government determined that pourparlers be brought to an end by the final decision of President Huerta within a term which expired at 6 o'clock tonight, announcing that if by that time he had not agreed to the salute of the American flag as requested the affair would be presented to the American congress for decision.

"The Mexican government, believing that the salute in question was of no importance unless previously and formally agreed upon by both sides, proposed the signing of a protocol and the minister of foreign affairs presented last night a draft of such protocol to the American charge d'affaires, Nelson O'Shaughnessy.

"O'Shaughnessy answered that he must consult his government; that he would advise the minister of the nature of this answer and this afternoon he communicated to the minister the fact that his government did not accept the idea of a signature of any protocol whatever but wanted an unconditional salute of the American flag.

"The Mexican government, refusing, feeling it had done all possible, in view of the friendly understanding between the two governments and believing the acceptance of such an imposition would be equivalent to yielding by Mexico to humiliation. The Mexican government is confident that the civilized world will find its conduct has been wise and temperate, that it has

AMERICANS WARNED TO LEAVE VERA CRUZ

By Associated Press. Vera Cruz, April 20.—All American and other foreign women have been asked by Consul Canada to take refuge on vessels now in the harbor, preferably on board the Mexico of the Ward line and the Esperanza which has been chartered by the United States navy.

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast for North Carolina: Fair, colder tonight. Tuesday fair, moderate winds, mostly westerly.

(Continued on Page Five.)

Mexican Official Makes Public Statement Setting Forth Attitude of Huerta Government With Regard to Demands Made By American Government For Salute to Flag.

Huerta Brought Matter to Crisis by Flatly Refusing to Comply With Demand—Wanted Uncle Sam to Sign Protocol—This Was Refused.

Mexico City, April 20.—Portillo y Rojas, minister of foreign affairs, in announcing that it would be impossible to agree to the demand of the United States that the flag of that country be unconditionally saluted, gave out the following statement:

"On April 9th, between 11 and noon, a boat without an American flag and with nine marines and one officer landed at a point called the sBach of Turbide in Tampico. Colonel Raymond Hinojosa, who has charge of defending that point, detained the marines and officer and conducted them to the presence of the general who had command of the fort Ignacio Morelos Zaragoza.

"It should be remembered that at this time the port not only was under military control but was withstanding an attack by rebels.

General Zaragoza immediately and without even investigating the case put the marines and the officer at liberty, placed Hinojosa in prison and sent an apology to Rear Admiral Mayo, commander of the American fleet.

"We thought the incident closed but unfortunately this was not so because Mayo sent to him sometime afterwards an ultimatum which was presented to him by the staff of the chief of the fort, General Zaragoza; that the American flag be hoisted at a public place in Tampico and saluted by 21 guns and, besides, the severe punishment of Hinojosa, stipulating that all this be done within 24 hours.

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