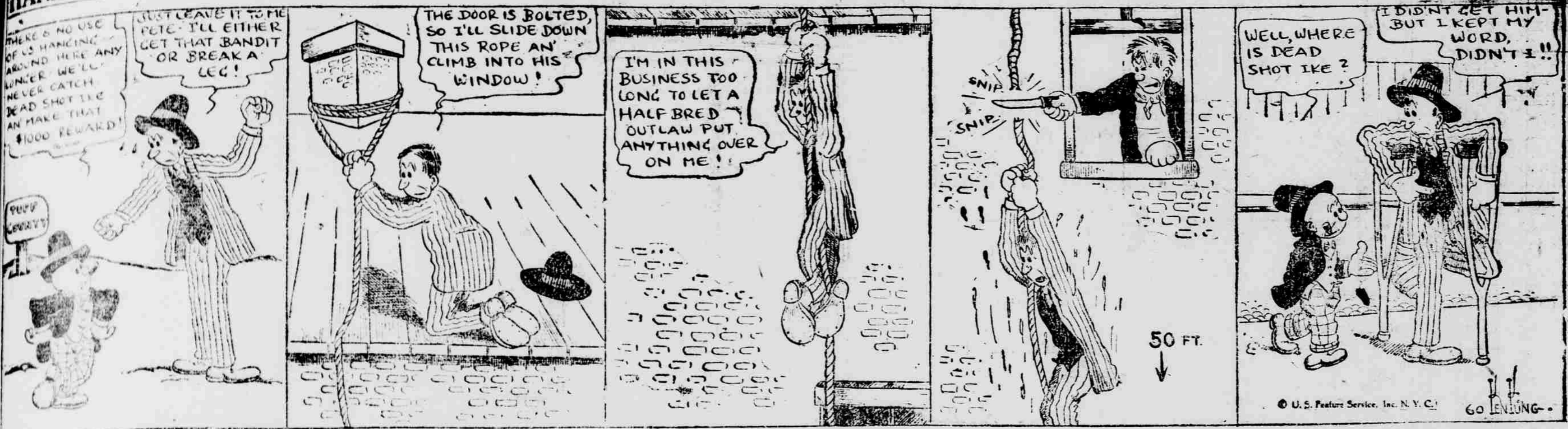


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PRESIDENT DISPLEASED AS EARLY AS 1917

(Continued from page 1)

cabinet, and therefore there could have been no disadvantage in awaiting action with regard to matters concerning which action could not have been taken without me.

"This affair, Mr. Secretary, only deepens a feeling that was growing upon me. While we were still in Paris, I felt, and have felt increasingly ever since, that you accepted my guidance and direction on questions with regard to which I had to instruct you only with increasing reluctance, and since my return to Washington I have been struck by the number of matters in which you have apparently tried to forestall my judgment by formulating action and merely asking my approval when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment because I had not an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence.

"I, therefore, feel that I must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion that if I should prefer to have another to conduct our foreign affairs you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in my hands, for I must say that it would relieve me of embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give your present office up and afford me an opportunity to select someone whose mind would more willingly go along with mine.

"I need not tell you with what reluctance I take advantage of your suggestion, or that I do so with the kindest feeling. In matters of transcendent importance like this the only wise course is a course of perfect candor, where personal feeling is as much as possible left out of the reckoning.

"Very sincerely yours,"

"WOODROW WILSON."

"Hon. Robert Lansing, secretary of state."

Thanks Wilson For Candid Letter

"The Secretary of State, Washington, Feb. 12, 1920.

"My dear Mr. President:

"I wish to thank you sincerely for your candid letter of the 11th in which you state that my resignation would be acceptable to you, since it relieves me of the responsibility for action which I have been contemplating and which I can now take without hesitation as it meets your wishes.

"I have the honor, therefore, to tender you my resignation as secretary of state, the same to take effect at your convenience.

"In thus severing our official association I feel, Mr. President, that I should make the following statement which I had prepared recently and which will show you that I have not been unmindful that the continuance of our present relations was impossible and that I realized that it was clearly my duty to bring them to an end at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest.

"Ever since January, 1919, I have been conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations in Paris, to our foreign service, or to international affairs in general. Holding these views I would, if I had consulted my personal inclination alone, have resigned as secretary of state and as a commissioner to negotiate peace. I felt, however, that such a step might have been misinterpreted both at home and abroad, and that it was my duty to cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged. Possibly I erred in this, but if I did it was with the best of motives.

"When I returned to Washington

in the latter part of July, 1919, my personal wish to resign had not changed but again I felt that loyalty to you and my duty to the administration compelled me to defer action as my resignation might have been misconstrued into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace or at least into disapproval of your views as to the form of ratification. I therefore remained silent, avoiding any comment on the frequent reports that we were not in full agreement. Subsequently your serious illness, during which I have never seen you, imposed upon me the duty—to remain in charge of the department of state until your health permitted you again to assume direction of foreign affairs.

"Believing that that time had arrived, I had prepared my resignation, when my only doubt as to the propriety of placing it in your hands was removed by your letter indicating that it would be entirely acceptable to you.

"I think Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has marked this correspondence and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that in calling into formal conference the heads of the executive departments, I sought to usurp your presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought. I believed then and I believe now that the conferences which were held, were for the best interests of your administration and of the republic, and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did.

"I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval when it was impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I have, it

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Catarrh has never yet been cured by these local applications. Have you ever experienced any real benefit from such treatment?

Throw these makeshift remedies to the winds, and get on the right treatment. Get a bottle of S. S. S. today, and commence a treatment that has been praised by sufferers for nearly half a century.

S. S. S. gets right at the source of Catarrh and gives satisfactory results. For special medical advice free regarding your own case, address Medical Director, 51 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.

is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, advised you, in my opinion that action should be stated at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I conceived to be a function of the secretary of state and I have followed the practice for the past four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs.

"I need hardly add that I leave the office of secretary of state with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief.

"Forgetting our differences and remembering only your many kindnesses in the past, I have the honor to be, Mr. President,

"Sincerely yours,

"ROBERT LANSING."

"The President, the White House."

President Wilson's Reply

"The White House, Washington, Feb. 13, 1920.

"My dear Mr. Secretary:

"Allow me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of February 12. It now being evident, Mr. Secretary, that we have both of us felt the embarrassment of our recent relations with each other, I feel it my duty to accept your resignation, to take effect at once; at the same time

SQUEEZED TO DEATH

When the body begins to stiffen and movement becomes painful it is usually an indication that the kidneys are out of order. Keep these organs healthy by taking

GOLD MEDAL HARLEM OIL CAPSULES

The world's standard remedy for kidney, liver, bladder and uric acid troubles. Famous since 1895. Take regularly and keep in good health. In three sizes, all druggists. Guaranteed as represented. Look for the name Gold Medal on every box and accept no imitation.

adding that I hope that the future holds for you many successes of the most gratifying sort. My best wishes will always follow you and it will be a matter of gratification to me always to remember our delightful personal relations.

"Sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON,"

"Hon. Robert Lansing, secretary of State."

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