

Reed Meets His Match In Bok Investigation

Missouri's Jimreed Discomfited by Skillful Fencing and Sharp Repartee of Former Editor of a Woman's Magazine

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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Washington, January 21—Edward W. Bok, crusader for peace, sat calmly before a committee of the United States Senate hostile to the League of Nations and told all the details of his prize award plan—all the details which he thought was the Senate's business.

What Mr. Bok refused to tell was how much money he personally had spent or how much money he had in the bank.

"It was all my money—every penny of it and I don't see that it is anybody else's business," he said.

Various Senators tried to convince Mr. Bok that the expenditure of unlimited sums by private individuals for the purpose of influencing legislation in Congress involved a "moral menace" to which the Philadelphia editor replied that he was not interested in generalizations and that all he knew was what he himself had done and he saw no harm in spending his own money to ascertain public sentiment on an issue of paramount importance.

When Senator Greene of Vermont spoke about men of "unlimited wealth" using the same means to further their own opinions, Mr. Bok smilingly denied that he was a man of "unlimited wealth."

Senator Reed of Missouri endeavored by cross questioning to make Mr. Bok say the object of the peace award plan was to "exert pressure" on Congress but Mr. Bok fended back and insisted he was simply trying through some 90 civic organizations with millions of members to ascertain public sentiment and that he "hoped" it would have an effect but he "didn't necessarily expect it to have an effect."

Mr. Bok disclaimed responsibility for whatever literature was sent out by the various civic organizations simply saying he paid for the pamphlet reprinting the winning peace plan, about seven million in number.

He professed not to know the detailed cost of this but had authorized his bankers to pay the bills. He wouldn't say how much of an expenditure this might involve. All he would say was that it was his own money.

Senator Reed of Missouri endeavored to show by his questions that it was a matter of criticism for individuals to influence Congress.

"Just what do you mean by propaganda—what is your definition," asked Mr. Bok suddenly of Senator Reed.

Taken aback by the question, the Missouri Senator, who doesn't like to be subjected to the kind of cross questioning that he tries on witnesses, fired back:

"You ought to know—and if you don't you ought not to try to regulate the affairs of the world."

Mr. Bok joined in the laugh of derision with which the crowd greeted the Missouri Senator's discomfiture.

The committee inquiry has resolved itself incidentally into a farcical episode. The only purpose of the investigation is to discredit, if possible, the efforts of some of the most important civic bodies in America to express themselves through a non political channel on the question of peace. Mr. Bok said he did not know whether the referendum vote would approve or disapprove the winning plan—his only concern was to get an impartial judgment divorced from politics.

Mr. Bok did not criticize the "talk" in the United States Senate but simply said he had had letters from people who wanted to talk and he thought the peace award plan would furnish that opportunity.

Early in the inquiry, Mr. Bok revealed that "some of the most prominent men in the United States" had written him personal letters telling him of their intention to write plans and he had told them not to give him their plans but to submit them to the jury.

Senators Moses of New Hampshire and Reed of Missouri tried to elicit from Mr. Bok the names of the "prominent men" but he said they were "personal letters" and he did not care to reveal them. The committee held a hasty consultation in which Senator Caraway of Arkansas, Democrat, jokingly remarked that inasmuch as probably no members of the committee would be named as coming within the category of "the most prominent men in the United States" there was no need to give publicity to the men in Mr. Bok's list.

All in all the committee investigation failed at its first session to bring out a single new fact that has not already been made public. The

or the recent edict of Cardinal Begin forbidding modern dancing and extremes of dress and behavior in his diocese. There is a connection between the two, because ever since the cardinal's pronouncement, prominent members of the Catholic Church have been zealous critics of all amusements.

It was Judge Choquette who, having witnessed the objectionable picture, ordered the film seized and the exhibitor arrested. The theater owner, appearing for trial, pleaded that the provincial board of censors had passed the film as harmless.

The court ruled that laws of the

province overruled decisions of the censors, but it wanted to hear the views of the chief censor. After a few minutes the chief censor advised that the benefit of the jury, the chairman of the Quebec board of censors, was called.

He testified that while he had ordered a few cuts, it was his expert opinion that the girls in the picture dressed no worse than members of the so-called best society in Quebec; that the dances were the same as those to be witnessed in Quebec nightly before Cardinal Begin's axe fell, and that the kissing was rather more chaste than not. The court reserved decision.

Catholic Cardinal Stirs Old Quebec

His Attitude On Questionable Amusements Results In Suppression Sensational Film

By M. S. NEWTON

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Quebec, Jan. 22.—Seizure of the film "Flaming Youth" as violently immoral, and the arrest of the Quebec theater owner who exhibited the picture, all after the provincial board of motion picture censors had passed it as o. k. has given the ancient city of Quebec something to gossip about.

It is doubtful which is the greater sensation—the seizure of the picture

suspicion on which the committee has been acting is that some outside selfish interest financed Mr. Bok's peace award scheme. The committee learned in ten minutes that nobody but Mr. Bok has done so. From now on the effort will be to attempt to use the committee's meetings as a means of hitting back at the literature being sent out by the organizations favoring the winning plan which provides for far-reaching reservations to the League of Nations Covenant. The committee is led by members of the "irreconcilable" group who are unalterably opposed to American entry into the League of Nations under any circumstances.



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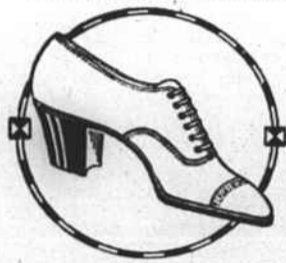
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