

HARMONY FLEES FROM DEMOCRATS IN NEW CONGRESS

Both Floor Leaders Fight Chief Measures of Wilson's Programme.

CHOICE OF CLARKE SPLIT "OLD GUARD"

Defence, Chief Question at Issue, Hangs in Doubt as Legislators Gather in Capital.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Facing a formidable array of problems, in the solving of which the Democrats are sorely divided, while the Republicans are united and jubilant, Congress will be convened at noon to-morrow for the last long session of the Wilson administration. With a floor leader in the House at odds with the White House on the most important administration measure, of national defence, and with the President pro tempore of the Senate opposed to the administration on the ship purchase and other features of the Wilson programme, the path of the Democrats scarcely seems strewn with roses.

Already, in the selection of Clarke for President pro tempore, the administration has suffered a severe blow. Clature in the Senate, one of the expedients of Mr. Wilson for ramming his ship purchase bill through, died almost immediately after Mr. Clarke's election by the Democratic caucus. Even the "old guard" Democrats in the Senate are split wide open as the result of a fight against Senator Clarke. Real harmony is next to impossible.

Majority Is Scented

Scarcely a Democrat in Congress approves of the administration programme in every particular. It will be hard sledding from the top of the gavel, especially in the House, where the Democratic majority is cut now to twenty-four. Mr. Fitzgerald, despite the prayers of the administration that he might be elected judge and thus be removed as prodder of Democratic extravagance, is on hand not only as chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee, but as virtual leader of the Tammany delegation in the House. The Tammany men do not like the administration, and they favor the Bryan men even less. The Bryan men in the House were strong for the administration last season, but now they have seen a light, especially on preparedness, and they consider Mr. Wilson a militarist even more dangerous in his army and navy programmes than Tammany. With the defection of either faction the Democratic majority in the House will dwindle to less than nothing. Of this fact Republican Floor Leader Mann is perfectly cognizant, so he has told the Republicans that they must stay within a few hours of the Capitol, where they can be reached by telegraph.

Defence Comes First.

National defence and the means of providing money for it are out the chief problems which the Congress will face. Democratic leaders who had hoped to make military preparedness a non-partisan question are not confident of success, notwithstanding the widespread endorsement given President Wilson's programme by prominent members and organizations affiliated with minority parties. The chief stumbling block is the method of raising the enormous revenues which will be needed.

Certainly Republican leaders have indicated they are ready to make political capital of the Democratic dilemma should the party in power find itself compelled to resort to a bond issue or other financial measures hitherto condemned by them.

Washington is enlivened to-night with the last of the arriving members of the new Congress, all of them aware of the huge legislative tasks ahead. The nation's lawmaking bodies have not been in session for nine months, the longest legislative hiatus in the last two administrations.

Wilson to Speak.

President Wilson will outline the salient needs of the country in an address to Congress Tuesday noon. The President is not expected to present a detailed form of the legislation the administration has in mind, but as Congress proceeds he plans to send messages on special subjects.

The President's first communication probably will concern chiefly the needs of the army and navy, giving especial attention to revelations and responsibilities growing out of the European war, and what may be done to finance a plan of preparedness. It is still Democratic, but not so overwhelmingly as on previous occasions when President Wilson addressed it. In the Senate the party has a slightly increased majority, but the party will have only a majority over all of 24 votes. This is regarded as a narrow margin in a body composed of 435 members, requiring a party defection of only thirteen votes to defeat a measure.

Fewer House Democrats.

The new House is officially classified to consist of 229 Democrats, 127 Republicans, 6 progressives, 1 Independent, 1 Socialist and one vacancy. In the Senate there are 55 Democrats and 40 Republicans. Republican ranks in the House have been swelled by the return of many familiar political figures who were leaders in the long period of Republican supremacy. Among them are ex-speaker Joseph G. Cannon and William B. McKinley, former chairman of the Republican legislative committee, both of Illinois; Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, son-in-law of Colonel Roosevelt; William A. Rodgers, of Illinois; Ebenzer J. Hill, of Ohio, a Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee, and John Q. Tilson, both of Connecticut; George E. Foss, of Illinois, ex-chairman of the Naval Committee; Cyrus A. Bulwinkle, of New Hampshire, ex-chairman of the pension committee; George W. Loud, of Michigan; Benjamin A. Focht, Daniel F. Lafean, of Pennsylvania, and others. Prominent members of the Sixty-third House who do not reappear at this session are Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, who now is a Senator; A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania; Robert F. Brannan, of Louisiana, who also went to the

DEMOCRATS PICK BIG NAVY MEN

House Committee Selections Assure Support for President.

37 CHAIRMANSHIPS GO TO THE SOUTH

Fitzgerald, of New York, Gets His Old Place—London for Labor Body.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Revealing that the South retains a large majority of the committee chairmanships of the lower body, the Ways and Means Committee announced to-day the Democratic committee selections for the next House. The party caucus subsequently approved the nominations. Republican members of the House committees will be announced by the minority leader next week.

Of the chairmanships Southern Democrats will hold thirty-seven in the next House. Democratic chairmen from other sections will number twenty-one. Representative John J. Fitzgerald, of New York, is the only Northern Democrat assigned to the chairmanship of a Class I committee. He will continue as the head of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Considerable interest attached to the personnel of the committees of Naval and Military Affairs, which will handle the administration's national defence programme. These committees do not appear to have been "packed" either for or against the defence programme, but the administration, it was figured to-night, will have a safe majority of the Democrats of the Committee on Naval Affairs. Little party trouble is expected in the Committee on Military Affairs.

Real Defence Fight in House.

There are three holdover "small navy" advocates on the committee—Gray, of Indiana; Buchanan, of Illinois, and Hensley, of Missouri. The Democratic members probably will stand eight to five for the administration programme and the Republicans are counted upon to support a big navy, insuring the report of the naval bill. The real fight on defence, however, will come in the House, rather than in committee.

Many New Measures.

Important measures which will be urged upon Congress include: Laws to extend the American merchant marine, rural credit improvement through establishment of farm loan banks, upon which a joint committee has been working for many months; Philippine self-government and ultimate independence, revision of the trust laws to prevent dumping of cheap foreign products into American markets after the war and to permit American manufacturers to establish collective selling agencies abroad, national prohibition, prohibition for the District of Columbia, a Federal amendment for woman suffrage, amendments to the bank law, modification of the seaman's national child labor law, conservation legislation for water power sites, mineral resources and a law for regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the issuance of railroad securities.

The Long Delayed Treaty with Colombia.

The long delayed treaty with Colombia, including an expression of regret for the partition of Panama and providing for payment of \$25,000,000, is still pending. The Nicaraguan treaty, proposing payment by the United States of \$3,000,000 for another canal strip and naval station rights, is in the Senate, and the new treaty for a financial protectorate over Haiti will be sent in at once. It is the purpose of the majority to force all the treaties to a vote.

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both Mr. Longworth and Mr. Hill to get their old places back. One additional member is to be allowed the Committee on Labor. This place will accommodate Meyer London, of New York, the Socialist member of the House. The caucus approved Mr. London's appointment as a member of the committees on Mines and Mining and Expenditures in the Department of Labor.

The more important committee chairmanships held by Southern Democrats are the same as last session. Reappointments were in part as follows:

Judiciary, Webb, North Carolina; Interstate Commerce, Adamson, Georgia; Banking and Currency, Glass, Virginia; Postoffice, Moon, Tennessee; Naval Affairs, Padgett, Tennessee; Military Affairs, Hay, Virginia; Rivers and Harbors, Sparkman, Florida; Foreign Affairs, Flood, Virginia; Agriculture, Lever, South Carolina; Public Lands, Oklahoma, Indian Affairs, Stephens, Texas; Rules, Henry, Texas; Insular Affairs, Jones, Virginia.

Practically all of these chairmen are regarded as legislators who will stay on the reservation on any matter of

HOW CAN DIPLOMATS HEAR WILSON SPEAK?

Only One House Gallery for Three Hostile Camps.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The one place where there is likely to be room to spare when President Wilson reads his message in the House on Tuesday is the Diplomatic Gallery, which is usually filled to overflowing. The diplomats are still trying to find a way to get there, but no one has yet offered a solution.

Cards were sent to them as usual to-day, but no effort was made to arrange a division into the three parties, neutral, German and allied. A State Department official was asked what the diplomats should do about it. He suggested that when one came to the gallery he could peek in and see if an enemy were there—in which case he could go away again. It is understood the diplomats do not take kindly to

CLARKE OUT FOR SHIP BILL

Arkansas Senator Now Says He Can Support McAdoo Plan.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Prospects for the administration merchant marine bill at the coming session of Congress were enhanced to-night, when it became known that Senator James P. Clarke, of Arkansas, who led the Democratic revolt against the ship purchase bill in the last session, looked with

favor upon the new ship bill proposed by government leaders. Senator Clarke, who was renominated for President pro tempore by the majority caucus after a spirited fight based on his opposition to the ship purchase bill in the last session, let it be known that he would not oppose the new merchant marine measure drafted after conferences between Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield.

The Arkansas Senator, during the debate in the Democratic caucus Friday, was asked by several administration Senators for his opinion on the new bill. He frankly stated that he saw no objection to it and could give it his support.

The bill now proposed contemplates a naval auxiliary merchant marine which he can favor, and provides for government ownership of stock only in case private capital is lacking, thus eliminating the dominant government incorporation feature of the old bill.

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