

# IMPOSSIBLE TO RESCUE COAL STRIKE ORDER, SAYS OFFICIAL; CONGRESS READY TO SUPPORT WILSON IN TAKING OVER MINES; WALKOUT OF MEN MAY ENDANGER LABOR PLANKS OF TREATY

## SMITH TO COME HERE TO RENEW WAR ON HEARST

Accepts Offer of Citizens Committee to Meet Editor in Debate.

PUBLISHER IGNORES IT

Governor Will Talk Anyway and There Is Promise of Real Fireworks.

Gov. Smith is going to renew his attack on William Randolph Hearst on Wednesday night at Carnegie Hall and the tip is out that the renewal will be warm. Whether the renewal will be a joint debate, as Gov. Smith has challenged Mr. Hearst to make it, remains to be seen.

Yesterday a committee of 100 under the chairmanship of Jefferson De Mont Thompson, head of the Broadway Association and Colonel of the Hyman sky aviators, otherwise known as the Police Aviators Reserve, hired Carnegie Hall and placed it at the disposal of Gov. Smith and Mr. Hearst. Each was notified by telegraph. The Governor's "yes" came by the same method. Though the invitation was sent to both the place of business and the residence of the publisher no word had been received from him last night.

Governor Smith said in Albany last night that he would come to town this afternoon, would probably have something to say as soon as he got here, would speak at Carnegie Hall on Wednesday and at a downtown luncheon on Thursday. The Governor indicated that his supplies of high explosive and gas shells were ample for an offensive of such magnitude.

Each of the invitations issued by Col. Thompson yesterday referred to the challenge which Governor Smith issued to Mr. Hearst a week ago Saturday at the luncheon of the Women's Democratic Club.

## Each to Have Tickets.

If Mr. Hearst accepts the invitation he will have half of the tickets to dispose of so that the audience may be even at least.

To the Governor Col. Thompson telegraphed:

"In accordance with your publicly expressed challenge made a week ago to meet William Randolph Hearst in debate a committee of citizens of this city, of which I am chairman, has engaged Carnegie Hall for the evening of October 29 for the purpose of such debate. The hall will be at your disposal until noon next Tuesday, provided you accept this invitation.

"Please advise me without delay of your acceptance or declination. Your answer should be addressed to me at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel."

His message to Mr. Hearst followed.

Col. Thompson refused last night to give the names of the members of the committee of one hundred, which he stated it is understood, however, that the committee represents persons of all shades of social, political and business standing in the community, anxious only to see Gov. Smith turned loose once he has cleared the air at the luncheon. Friends of the Governor in town last night were not averse to saying that the Governor would be tickled pink at the opportunity offered him.

## Anti-Tammany Men Calm.

Supporters of the candidacy of Justice Newburger and other anti-Tammany candidates when Mr. Hearst is also supporting, professed themselves not at all disturbed by the political effort of Gov. Smith and his party are endeavoring to give the anti-Hearst fight. Despite the efforts of the Governor and the Democratic County Committee to make it appear that the anti-Tammany candidates bear the Hearst label the friends of these candidates say that this phase of the Governor's tactics will not hurt them.

It will be recognized, they say, as merely a desperate attempt on the part of the Tammany forces to turn their credit an explosion for which they may not have been responsible.

It was the general belief last night that Mr. Hearst would not accept the challenge. His newspapers have already said it irrelevant to the milk prices the first place. Yesterday it was generally conceded that Mr. Hearst would accept it at great disadvantage in a rough and ready verbal skirmish with the Governor who was one of the best debaters in the wide Assembly chamber with the Governor.

Col. Thompson would not say, in answer of hearing from Mr. Hearst yesterday what would be done with Mr. Hearst's half of the tickets to Carnegie Hall in case the publisher decides that he will not use them. Col. Thompson would not say whether they would be given to the anti-Tammany group or to the Hearst group. It was going to speak his mind, whether or not his appointment takes the platform with him.

## Dutch Press Plays Plea for Kaiser's Surrender

By the Associated Press.

THE HAGUE, Oct. 26.—The entire Dutch press joins in scathing criticism of an article advocating the surrender of the former German Emperor for trial which appeared recently in the weekly Journal *Nieuw Amsterdamsche Courant*. The article, written by Prof. J. A. Van Hamel, the Dutch publicist who was selected by Sir James Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, as head of the legal department of the secretariat of the league, argues that the question of the extradition of the former Emperor should not be treated as a purely legal matter. It should instead be regarded from the point of view of the new jurisprudence, belonging to the new era, and formal juridical obstacles should not be permitted to stand in the way of the extradition of Wilhelm of Hohenzollern.

## POLICE HOLD 11 IN BOY MURDER

Admissions Said to Bare Plot to Get \$178,000 in Bonds and Kill Messenger.

## PLANNED IN A ROADHOUSE

Slaying of Young Binkowitz Last August Traced to Band—2 Women in Net.

The police now have eight men and two women under arrest, and a ninth man is being brought here from Chicago by two detectives, in connection with the disappearance of Benjamin Binkowitz, a Wall Street messenger boy, with \$178,000 worth of Liberty bonds last August, and the subsequent murder of Binkowitz, whose mutilated body was found lying in a clump of bushes alongside the Millford Turnpike, eleven miles from Bridgeport, eight days after the theft of the bonds.

The police say that several of the men under arrest are Italians with unsavory reputations and criminal records as gunmen of Harlem's Little Italy, while the man en route from Chicago, Harford Jimmy Delmar, is widely known in underworld circles of Connecticut cities as a swagger fellow "unafraid of the devil himself."

Admissions of the prisoners and evidence unearthed by the New York detectives have brought to light an amazing conspiracy to steal the bonds and then get rid of Binkowitz by the easiest method at hand, in which the messenger boy was used as a tool, with no intention of ever giving him his share of the proceeds of the robbery. The scheme was hatched at a roadhouse near Bridgeport, one of the worst resorts of the entire State, which was frequented by crooked men and crooked women, where knockout drops are administered, murders are committed and customers are robbed as fast as they drink themselves under the table.

## Plot Hatched in Roadhouse.

Half a dozen men gathered around a table in this roadhouse early in August and among them, the police say, were Jimmy Randolph and Joe Spotto, both chauffeurs. They were arrested by detectives yesterday in a house in 228 East 119th street, the heart of Little Italy. The others were equally well known to the police as dangerous criminals.

One of the men there knew Binkowitz, the police say. He knew that Binkowitz was a messenger boy and was a frequent customer for good times and things to drink, and for women, and he told the others he believed the boy was in the habit of carrying large sums for his employers, and that he believed the boy could be reached and induced to run away with valuable securities. That part of the conspiracy was settled, and then one of the men proposed that after Binkowitz got the bonds and had joined them they show the boy a good time for one night—or what was his idea of a good time—and then kill him.

The police say that this scheme met with general approval, because it would make one less in the division of the loot. According to the police, one of the men under arrest being wise in the ways and the haunts of Little Italy, was appointed to hire the assassins, and the men then at the table and taking part in the planning of the conspiracy, were members of the band that killed the boy, among them Spotto, who collapsed when brought to Police Headquarters yesterday, charged with complicity in the crime.

## Boy Goes to His Death.

There is something of a hiatus between the time the conspiracy was hatched and the Binkowitz boy was induced to steal the bonds, and the police do not know just how the slayers were engaged, who engaged them, or how much money was promised for the job. The price, however, could not have been large. At any rate Binkowitz stole the bonds and is believed to have gone directly to Bridgeport and met the others. There the idea of a good time was abandoned and there was a party at a

## MEXICANS SLEW TWO U. S. FLIERS FOUND STARVING

Pathetic Messages Reveal Fate of Officers Lost on Border Patrol.

## MURDERERS ARE KNOWN

Bodies Brought to San Diego—Show Crime Was Committed for Robbery.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Oct. 26.—It was officially announced here to-night that Lieuts. Cecil H. Connolly of San Diego and Frederick B. Waterhouse of Weiser, Idaho, army aviators missing since August 31, were slain in Lower California by two Mexican fishermen. The announcement was made upon the arrival here of the destroyer Aaron Ward bringing the bodies of the two aviators from Bahia Los Angeles, on the Gulf of Lower California, to which point they had flown after losing their way in a border patrol flight from Yuma, Ariz., to San Diego.

According to Major R. S. Bratton, head of the military party sent from here to recover the bodies, the slayers were from a Mexican sloop. Their identity is known to the United States and Mexican Governments and steps are being taken to capture them.

## Notes Tell of Suffering.

The destroyer also brought a part of a story of the suffering endured by the young aviators, in the form of notes scrawled on the wings and fuselage of the De Havilland airplane in which Connolly and Waterhouse made their last flight. Some of these messages, evidently written while the aviators were being held by the slayers, were of such a tragic nature that Major Bratton asked the newspaper reporters to refrain from using them, out of consideration for the officers' families.

Major Bratton said the two aviators had gone nineteen days without food or at least without much to sustain them. The fate that drew them far from their air path remained with them until the very last. Major Theodore Macaulay, one of his flights to find them, flew within sixty miles of the spot where they stood guarding their plane.

Later, on the afternoon of September 6, they were landed from a canoe on the shore of Bahia Los Angeles by the same fishermen who are accused of having killed them five days later, and at that time were only twelve miles from Los Flores silver mine where they might have received protection and food.

## Lost Direction in Storm.

One of their messages, scratched on the airplane fuselage with a knife or nail, said the aviators remained in the air four hours and five minutes, that they ran into a rain storm and lost their sense of direction. When they sighted the Gulf of California they thought they were flying up the coast instead of southward along the east coast of the Gulf of California.

Another message told how the aviators attempted vainly for two days to catch fish to appease their hunger. They then started walking northward toward the border, but returned to their airplane in thirty-six hours when their supply of water became exhausted. The aviators drank the water from the radiator of their plane. This proved sufficient to allay their thirst up to the time they were taken to Bahia, Los Angeles, from Guadalupe Bay, where the plane landed, by the fishermen.

## Major Tells of Expedition.

Major Bratton in an account of the expedition said:

"The Aaron Ward arrived at Bahia Los Angeles at 2:15 P. M. October 18. We immediately went ashore, with Richards acting as guide, and in a few moments had discovered the grave. The bodies had been disturbed, the skulls subsequently removed the motor from the fuselage, and then disinterred and the formal inquest started.

"There was absolutely no question that the bodies were those of Connolly and Waterhouse."

The officer then told of the party's going up the gulf to Guadalupe Bay, twenty miles to the northward, where the plane piloted by Connolly and Waterhouse was discovered on the beach.

"The two aviators had made a perfect landing," continued. "But Mexicans subsequently removed the motor from the fuselage, stole all of the ammunition for the two machine guns and carried away other equipment. The motor evidently was too heavy to carry away and it was found nearby. The wheels, engine, machine guns, compass and other equipment worth salvaging were taken aboard the Ward."

Last Message Copied.

"We took notes of all the messages scratched on the fuselage and wings, the first one of which was made five days

## MEN TENTATIVELY CHOSEN FOR TREATY COMMISSIONS

England, France and Italy Hope American Will Be Chairman of Reparations.

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PARIS, Oct. 26.—Negotiations between Paris and Washington regarding the men to be selected for places on the peace treaty commissions to represent the United States have reached a point apparently where tentative selections have been made and even have been communicated to some of the other Governments.

This would seem to indicate that President Wilson is preparing to accept the treaty, even with some reservations. The other Governments have their lists prepared, to be announced the day the treaty becomes effective.

The idea of the Administration apparently is that the Americans shall be ready to step into their places as soon as the Senate makes it possible; this course is being urged by the other Powers, which obviously intend to hold back the work of these commissions until the United States is represented, even though the treaty becomes effective before the Senate acts. Some of these commissions are lucrative posts, Germany paying the salaries; others will be paid by the Governments.

The Supreme Council, although it has discussed the commissions, failed to fix a date when they were to organize for work. Under Secretary Polk, head of the American mission, expects that the date will be set early in November, although he does not look for ratification by the American Senate by that time.

An insistent desire manifested at the meetings of the Supreme Council by the other Powers to have Americans on the commissions is regarded as convincing proof by many here that some of the reservations at least will be accepted quickly by the Supreme Council in order to bring about speedy participation by the United States.

## LADY ASTOR TO BE CANDIDATE

Accepts Invitation of Plymouth Unionists to Run for Parliament.

## WOULD SUCCEED HUSBAND

Her Victory Means First Woman to Sit in Commons Would Be American Born.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—Lady Astor has accepted the invitation of the Plymouth Unionists to become a candidate for the House of Commons for the seat in Plymouth vacated by the elevation of her husband, Viscount Astor, to the House of Lords.

In a telegram to the Unionist committee at Plymouth she says: "Fully conscious of the great honor and grave responsibility, I accept your offer to stand for Plymouth."

Lady Astor will be opposed by both Liberal and Labor candidates in her campaign for the Plymouth seat in the House of Commons. The election will probably take place November 15.

Lady Astor's acceptance of the candidacy makes the prospect excellent that the first woman to sit in the English Parliament will be American born, as Plymouth is held to be a safe Unionist seat.

Making allowance for the present unpopularity of the Coalition Government, which has accounted for the heavy transfer of votes in all recent bye-elections, it is hardly considered likely that there will be a sufficient turnover of votes to destroy the majority of more than 5,000 by which Waldorf Astor gained the seat at the last election against the combined Liberal and Labor vote. Therefore, unless the question of sex should enter largely into the contest and cause a wholesale transfer, or abstention of voters, there is every likelihood that Lady Astor will win the seat.

Lady Astor is very popular in Plymouth, where she has always been known as a woman of high social and local municipal affairs. It is rumored in Plymouth that Lord Astor does not altogether approve of his wife's candidacy.

A number of women candidates took advantage of the electoral reform to stand for Parliament in the elections last December, but all were defeated except the Countess Markievicz, who refused to assume her seat in conformity with the Sinn Fein policy on this subject. Lady Astor was Miss Nannie Langhorne, a famous Virginia beauty.

## DRY BILL WITHHELD FROM PRESIDENT

Speculation Renewed About Action on Measure.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—The prohibition enforcement bill and Attorney-General Palmer's opinion as to the measure's constitutionality, it was said to-night at the White House, has not been placed before the President.

The statement immediately led to renewed speculation as to whether Mr. Wilson would sign it or permit it to become a law Tuesday midnight without his signature.

Dr. Grayson authorized to-night the following statement as to Mr. Wilson's condition: "The President had a very good day."

Liberty Bonds—\$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000—be bought and sold instantly. John Blair & Co., 61 Broadway.—Ad.

## SENATE LIKELY TO CURB LABOR IF MINERS QUIT

Decisive Action Expected at First Sign of Disloyalty by Unions.

FAIL TO TAKE INITIATIVE

Thomas of Colorado Also to Speak in Warning—Affects International Conference.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—One of the first results of the coal strike, if it becomes effective, will be to impel the United States Senate to consider eliminating all the international labor provisions from the peace treaty. Already there is a definite move on foot to achieve this end. The first sign of disloyalty of organized labor to established government in the United States will, it is believed, bring swift and decisive action in the Senate and win a majority to the cause now advocated by a limited number of Senators.

It was because of labor's loyalty during the war and adherence to established Governments that the Peace Conference agreed to incorporate an international labor programme in the treaty. The resourcefulness and patriotism of American labor during the war caused President Wilson heartily to endorse the plan. If organized labor, however, is about to turn disloyal and attempt to carry into effect threats against the Government of the United States this Government probably will feel absolved from any obligation to champion legitimate concessions to labor and Senators who heretofore have been disposed favorably toward labor may find it necessary in the interest of the country to take a radically different view.

## WILL LOCK OUT SPANISH LABOR

Congress of Employers, Sitting at Barcelona, Decides Upon Drastic Action.

## EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 4

Government Plans Steps to Protect Workmen From Severe Reprisal.

MADRID, Oct. 26.—The Congress of Spanish Employers, sitting at Barcelona, declared to-day a general lockout of workmen throughout Spain. The lockout order will be effective Tuesday, November 4.

The Minister of the Interior in announcing the decision of the Congress of Employers said it was an act of provocation against the workers and expressed the hope that the employers would cooperate with the Government in establishing industrial peace and not carry out the measure.

"At a moment when the workers are asking nothing," he added, "the action of the employers is foolish."

In addition to declaring a lockout the congress also decided to make its organization permanent as a protest against the alleged crimes of the syndicalists and take steps looking to the protection of the employees. The employers declare that their action has been taken as a protest against the Government's failure to protect the employers' interests. The employers are dissatisfied with the new social laws granting workers shorter hours and providing pensions.

The Government is taking all necessary measures to deal with the situation. It is probable that the decision to renew the constitutional guarantees will be revoked.

The Governor of Barcelona has begun negotiations with the employers and workmen with a view to preventing the lockout.

The actors of Spain have formed a union.

## PRESIDENT RESTS AS WIFE READS TO HIM

No Public Matters Are Laid Before Executive.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—President Wilson obtained considerable rest to-day after several days, during which the difficulties of the National Industrial Conference and the threatened coal strike had forced Rear Admiral Grayson, his physician, to rescind in part the order against his active participation in Government affairs.

Secretary Turpin spent Sunday out of the city, and so far as could be learned no public matters were laid before President Wilson. Mrs. Wilson spent practically the entire day with her husband reading to him light verse and fiction.

While impending events held little prospect, White House officials were benefited to-night that this week, the fifth of the President's illness, would bring less interruption to the rest cure prescribed by Dr. Grayson.

In his midday bulletin to-day Dr. Grayson said:

"The President continues to improve slowly."

Dr. Grayson authorized to-night the following statement as to Mr. Wilson's condition: "The President had a very good day."

## GERMANS PROPOSE NEW PEACE PALACE

Intimate Small Hope for League of Nations.

GENEVA, Oct. 26.—The Swiss newspapers have received circulars from Germany proposing to members of an "international peace palace" which is to be established in Dusseldorf. In the palace, which is to be constructed at a cost of \$1,225,000, will be a high central tower for wireless telegraph apparatus. In addition there will be quarters for newspaper offices and provision for stock exchange, railway and maritime agencies and banking and commercial exchanges.

The circular says in part: "We will thus be able to construct practical enterprises for work, which neither the League of Nations nor the Peace Palace at The Hague can possibly perform. The creation of Carnegie remains in the theoretical domain, while the League of Nations is still unborn."

## German Debt Reaches \$40,800,000,000 Already

By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, Oct. 25 (delayed).—The gravity of the financial condition of the nation was frankly admitted by the Government to-night in a public session of the National Council. Government representatives stated that the national debt is already 172,000,000,000 marks (normally \$69,000,000,000) and that it will rise to 204,000,000,000 marks by April 1, 1920, after all credits under the budget have been realized upon. Germany's pre-war debt amounted to 5,000,000,000 marks.

A Government representative said it would cost Germany as much to wind up the war as it did to conduct the four years hostilities.

According to this estimate, it would appear that Germany and the United States will cost her about 200,000,000,000 marks for reparations, pensions and reestablishment of industrial conditions.

## WILSON BACKED BY GOVERNORS

Coal State Executives Agree With Assertion That Strike Is Unlawful.

## IOWA READY TO MINE

Lowden of Illinois Wires "The Sun" That Strike Means Soviet Rule.

The Governors of three coal mining States—Iowa, Ohio and Illinois—sent telegrams to THE SUN last night expressing their approval of the stand taken by President Wilson in the threatened coal strike and of the statement made by him in which he characterized the strike as unjustifiable and unlawful. Their statements follow:

To the Editor of THE SUN:

DEAR MORNINGS, Oct. 26.—Replying to your telegram, the President's statement, if backed up, will avert the strike and suggest that steps be taken to distribute coal now on hand. State and Federal governments should cooperate to mine and distribute coal. The governors of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia have expressed willingness to meet in conference on the coal situation. If Federal effort fails, I believe the States as individuals have power to mine coal, or at least to make it possible to mine coal.

Governor of Iowa.

To the Editor of THE SUN:

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Oct. 26.—The statement of the President is most plain. When a special interest conflicts with the interests of the people as a whole the former must give way. The strike, no doubt, has been a powerful weapon in the hands of labor to improve its conditions. So long as the strike affected directly only the employees of the public utility industry, the threatened coal strike, however, is a strike against the American public. In fact, it is likely that the public will suffer more than the operators themselves.

Whenever any organization whether of capital or labor becomes so powerful as to be able to give or withhold from the public the necessities of life, such organization must come under the control of the Government; otherwise, the public becomes greater than the whole. If the only alternative to a strike or lockout by such an organization is the compulsory arbitration of differences between employers and employees engaged in such vital undertakings, compulsory arbitration to that extent will have to come.

Those leaders of labor who meet such a proposition with the threat of a general strike do not help the cause of labor. A general strike would mean in effect an effort to substitute Soviets for the Government. It is the development of the people are not yet ready to abandon their form of government. Illinois will cooperate with the President to the extent of its power, to the end that its people shall not suffer.

FRANK O. LOWDEN, Governor of Illinois.

To the Editor of THE SUN:

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct. 26.—President Wilson has expressed the conscience of the nation.

JAMES M. COX, Governor of Ohio.

## CONGRESS FAVORS VIGOROUS ACTION

Discussions Take Place on What Should Be Done.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—President Wilson will have the thoroughgoing support of Congress if he proceeds to deal with the industrial problems in the spirit of yesterday's Cabinet pronouncement regarding the coal strike. The unflinching declaration of the Administration's attitude came just at the right time to forestall efforts at assumption of leadership by the legislative end of the Government. Members of both houses have become convinced in the course of the last fortnight that vigorous measures must be formulated for dealing with the situation. They have realized that the Executive alone has the authority necessary for handling such affairs, and the assurance that the Administration is prepared to assume official control has brought a feeling of much relief.

Senators and Representatives have been discussing measures to be taken which to amplify and fortify Government control and to convince the would-be strikers that it will not remain supreme in the face of real national danger. Their discussions have been earnestly formulated opinion as to what can and should be done. Their views are in line with the policy outlined by the Cabinet pronouncement.

## Opinion in Senate.

In the Senate opinion has settled down to a conviction that unless the coal strike is averted the mines must be taken over by the Government. It was realized that the Lever law gives the President all the power he needed to do this, the adoption of a resolution favoring such a proceeding was earnestly discussed. It was even suggested that a law be passed definitely establishing it as the step to be taken in existing circumstances so that the governmental machinery might be set up and cranked to work automatically through the Government departments if the President's health were not such that he could direct matters.

"There is practical unanimity among Senators in favor of taking over the coal mines," said one Senator who has been taking much interest in the development of the industrial crisis. He expressed the opinion that if the President would take this step Congress without delay would provide him with any additional authority that he may need, appropriate funds and support him generally.

Another proposal that has been discussed is the passage of a measure providing a plan of compulsory arbitration for such a case as the coal strike requiring that the dispute must be submitted to investigation and arbitration and that the Government must not cease production pending or after the decision. Compulsory arbitration is not popular with labor and is strongly opposed by many legislators. Yet some members under ordinary circumstances would vote against it, have declared that to meet the present emergency they would do so if it seemed necessary.

## Volunteer Mine Workers.

One proposal which was discussed to-day looked to raising a volunteer army of mine workers to enter the pits if the men should insist on laying down their tools despite the Administration appeal. It was pointed out that there are in the country tens of thousands of men who have worked in coal and other mines and are skilled workers though not now engaged in mining. Letters from some of these indicate that in an emergency there would be a generous response from the country to such a call.

Still another proposal is that men from other mines—copper, gold, silver, quarries and the like—be called on to substi-

Executive Board of Miners' Union Will Make "Suitable Reply."

TO MEET WEDNESDAY

Cabinet's Decision Forestalls Action by Senate and House.

GIVES FEELING OF RELIEF

Hopeful Atmosphere Prevails in National Capital Over the Situation.

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 26.—A "suitable reply" to President Wilson's statement holding the impending coal miners' strike to be not only unjustifiable but unlawful will probably be drawn up at the meeting of the international executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, to be held here Wednesday, according to a statement to-day by William Green, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Green declined to comment on the President's statement pending such action as the board may take further than to say that it is an impossibility now to rescind the strike order effective November 1.

"I suppose that a suitable reply to the President's statement will be drawn up at the meeting Wednesday," said Mr. Green. "The meeting had already been called for that date, but consideration of the President's statement will now be the most important business before the board."

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