

U.S. NAVAL OFFICERS MUZZLED BY WHITE HOUSE, IS CHARGE

Henry Reuterdehl Tells Navy League Daniels Didn't Direct "Blow to Free Speech."

TALK BY FISKE FORBIDDEN

A direct charge that the "muzzling" of naval officers, particularly in the case of Admiral Bradley Fiske, was directed by the White House, was made by Henry Reuterdehl, naval expert and artist, at the convention of the Navy League at the New Willard today.

The accusation immediately followed the announcement that Secretary Daniels had permitted Admiral Fiske to read a paper before the league, which had already been approved by the department and published.

The direct result of the Reuterdehl statement and the reading of Secretary Daniels' letter was an outburst of cheering for Admiral Fiske. His paper, which was published in the Naval Institute, was read by William Lewis, mayor of Lake Forest, Ill.

Renewed Outburst. When Mr. Lewis started to read the paper he greeted with a renewed outburst of cheering, the thousand delegates jumping to their feet, stamping on the floor, and waving hats, handkerchiefs and programs.

The incident came after a series of papers had been read which more or less criticized the policy of Secretary Daniels. Today the speakers were the critics of the naval policy were made in papers read by Charles G. Curtis, of New York, and Henry A. Wise Wood, of the Aero Club of America.

It was at the conclusion of the reading of Mr. Curtis' paper on the need of a navy general staff, however, the defense commission that Col. Robert J. Thompson, president, announced the action of Secretary Daniels with regard to the Fiske paper.

"It is with regret and sorrow that I announce the Navy Department has taken this narrow view of this matter," Colonel Thompson said. "I cannot understand such an attitude, as it conflicts so with the policy of its sister department, the War Department, in San Francisco the War Department not only permits army officers to state their views but it has actually ordered officers to deliver lectures."

"Invasion of Rights." "Behind any department rules stands the Constitution of the United States and the rights of the citizens of the United States as defined by the Constitution. That an officer of fifty years' service should be denied the right to tell the people of the country the result of that service as reflected in his views is an invasion of those rights."

"It has always been my policy and wish as president of this league and personally to respect the great office of Secretary of the Navy."

"But I cannot help expressing my surprise and regret at this action. And I feel that I must say that, in view of the fact that the paper Admiral Fiske was to read has already been approved by the Navy Department, the only reason or effect of this order is to prevent our showing Admiral Fiske the esteem in which we hold him by the greeting he would receive when he read his paper."

William H. Clayton, of Delaware, sprang to his feet at the conclusion of Colonel Thompson's announcement, and declaring that the right of free speech was placed in the Constitution even before the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, proposed that when the reading of Admiral Fiske's paper by some other person was commenced the delegates make such a demonstration as would leave no doubt as to the esteem of the Navy League for the naval officer.

Proposes Three Cheers.

Before Colonel Thompson could introduce Mr. Lewis, Henry Reuterdehl, the naval expert and artist, demanded recognition, and in proposing three cheers for Admiral Fiske declared:

"It is because of the right of free speech that I can rise on the floor and say that never in the history of the navy has an officer been placed in such a false position as Admiral Fiske."

"Every political administration must have its heroes and its admirals. It is not allowed to read his own paper, once approved by the Secretary of the Navy, shows the narrow kind of persecution which naval officers might expect when speaking the truth uncovering the sins of the naval administration."

"And it is my belief that the deliberate gagging of the admiral does not come from the Navy Department originally, but from the White House."

"As a common, every day member of the League I rise and ask you to give Admiral Fiske, our most accomplished admiral of the navy, three ringing cheers, as an appreciation of his services to the country, to the flag and to the navy."

Two Extra Cheers.

The cheers were given and as some of the delegates did not get in on the first two, two extra cheers were given. Admiral Fiske, who has been reported present during the early hours of the meeting, could not be found, having slipped out of the meeting room just before the incident.

Advocating an increase in the income tax and the establishment of a national inheritance tax, Isaac M. Seligman, New York banker, told the delegates how adequate preparedness may be financed without hardship.

Mr. Seligman said that the raising money for national defense it would be wise to rely neither on indirect nor direct taxation alone. Charles G. Curtis, of New York, called the convention to order, and introduced Henry A. Wise Wood, of the Aero Club of America, a former member of the naval advisory board.

For Adequate Policy.

Mr. Wood advocated an adequate naval policy for the United States. He said that Germany, Japan, and Russia are sea-power nations with whom the United States might become involved in war. Great Britain, France, Italy, and Austria, he said, formed a passive group which, in normal times, would have no conflict of policies with the United States. The proper policy, therefore, would be to maintain a fleet in the Atlantic superior to that of Germany and one in the Pacific superior to that of Japan.

This afternoon the speakers are President Edmund J. James of the University of Illinois; Henry W. Ward, S. Stanwood Menken, Dr. Joseph Marshall Flint and Herbert L. Satterlee.

This evening's banquet will be at the Willard. George van L. Meyer, former Secretary of the Navy, and John Temple Graves will speak.

LIVELY TIME AHEAD OVER GASOLENE

Senator Kenyon Calls Present Conditions "Outrageous and Scandalous."

That lively times are ahead over the gasoline situation is predicted by members of both houses of Congress.

Senator Kenyon, who yesterday got a resolution through the Senate calling on the Department of Justice for information as to what reports it had on the gasoline and oil situation, declared today present conditions are "outrageous and scandalous" and said he intended trying to bring about relief.

Senator Kenyon, who was formerly assistant to the Attorney General, and who is thoroughly familiar with the operations of the dissolution decree in the Standard Oil case, will wait for a report on his resolution. He wants to know, first, just what the Department of Justice is doing.

Senator Kenyon will move for a Senate investigation later if it seems advisable. Such an investigation would strike not merely at detailed facts about conditions in the gasoline and oil industry, but would aim to find out what the Standard Oil subsidiaries are doing.

It is pointed out that if it could be shown there is violation of the Standard Oil decree, contempt proceedings would be in order.

Meantime, a number of House members are active trying by various resolutions and measures to reach the evils of which the public is complaining.

Coal Trucks Damaged In Fire at Garage

Several big coal trucks of the J. Maury Dove Company were damaged in a fire shortly before 7 o'clock last night in the Dove Company garage in the alley at Twenty-first, Twenty-second, H and I streets northwest.

Origin of the blaze is not known, William Monroe, a colored truck driver, was burned on the hands and arms fighting the flames. He was treated at Columbia Hospital.

A number of big coal trucks were in the garage when the fire started. Some of them were run out into the alley.

Damage to the trucks and the garage building is estimated at \$2,000.

MILK REGULATION URGED AT HEARING

Rules Committee Told of Insanitary Methods of Many Dairymen.

Proposed Federal regulation and inspection of intrastate shipments of milk and dairy products will again be considered by the House Rules Committee on May 10, following an initial hearing yesterday afternoon on the Lanthicum resolution. Congressional investigation and legislative action touching the alleged unwholesomeness of a large percentage of dairy products.

Experts of the Department of Agriculture, representatives of women's organizations, dairymen, and others attended the preliminary hearing. Impure milk as the conveyor of tuberculosis to children was discussed by several of the witnesses. That the investigation would be a good thing if only to establish the truth or falsity of charges against dairy products was contended at the hearing.

Among the witnesses were Dr. A. J. Melvin, chief of the Federal Bureau of Animal Industry; Dr. John R. Mohler, assistant chief of the bureau, and prominent women delegates sent down from women's organization and civic societies in New York and Philadelphia.

Those who testified on the other side of the matter were Dr. G. L. McKay, secretary of the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers, and Mr. William C. Tracy, secretary of the National Dairy Union.

Congressman Lanthicum conducted the hearing personally, assisted by Ralph H. Chase, of Washington, general counsel, and John H. Ferguson, president of the Maryland Federation of Labor and the District of Columbia Federation of Labor. Among the exhibits presented by Mr. Lanthicum were resolutions and letters of indorsements from 429 State and city health and food officials, labor unions, civic organizations, women's clubs and societies for the study and prevention of tuberculosis, from all parts of the country.

When questioned by Mr. Chase Dr. Melvin said that a large percentage of the dairy products used by the American people is not wholly fit for consumption. He declared that local inspection is not sufficient, that he does not know of a single State which has a comprehensive inspection system.

CLERKS PLAN FIGHT FOR RULE REVISION

Union Will Take Immediate Steps to Influence Legislation of Favorable Nature.

Immediate steps to influence legislation favorable to Government employees will be considered at a meeting of the executive committee of the Federal Employees' Union Monday evening.

The committee will meet tonight in room 206 of the Ouray building. At this time written suggestions concerning the phraseology of the constitution of the union will be considered.

With material gathered at those two meetings the executive committee is expected to report at a full meeting in National Rifle's Armory at 7:30 o'clock, April 21.

G. W. U. Law Debaters Will Contest Tonight

Senators Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, George Sutherland of Utah, Robert Broussard of Louisiana, Justice George E. Downey, of the United States Court of Claims, and Joseph E. Davies, chairman of the Federal Trades Commission, will judge the debate on the minimum wage question by the senior and junior debating societies of the Georgetown University Law School tonight.

Senator Cummins will deliver an address on public speaking, following the debate.

James P. Rosatter, of Pennsylvania, president of the senior debating society, will preside. The senior debaters to argue the affirmative will be Herbert Russell Young, of Texas, and Chester King Gould, of Alabama. The junior debaters will be John Joseph O'Day, of the District, and James Vincent Giblin, of Massachusetts.

BIBLE PAGEANT TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON

American Bible Society to Celebrate Its Hundredth Anniversary May 6 and 7.

In celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the American Bible Society a demonstration of unusual proportions is planned for Washington May 6 and 7.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is honorary chairman of the general committee in charge, and John W. Foster and Dr. Merrill E. Gates are honorary vice presidents. The active chairman is the Rev. Dr. George A. Miller, and R. H. Chapman is secretary.

May 6, a pageant covering the history of the various translations of the Bible will be given morning, afternoon, and evening in Convention Hall. This will be given especially for Sunday school pupils. Admission will be by card only.

The next afternoon there will be a meeting at the east front of the Capitol, with the United States Marine Band to furnish the music, and prominent speakers.

At 4:30 o'clock members of the society will gather at Memorial Continental Hall where President Wilson and other notables will speak.

The celebration is a national one, and various delegations as well as national officers will be here.

Mrs. Randolph Forrest and J. Wilder Tomlinson will be in charge of the pageant.

The celebration marks the 100th anniversary of the day in May, 1816, when a convention of local Bible societies met in New York city to organize the American Bible Society. The mayor of New York presided, and the first president of the society was Elias Boudinot, an officer in George Washington's army, and president of the Continental Congress in 1782. The second president was John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

On May 9, this year, a meeting will be held in the same room in the New York city hall in which the organization was effected 100 years ago.

Mark Rosenthal, 26 N street northwest, injured one of his ankles yesterday afternoon when his foot caught in a frog of the street car slot at Ninth and G streets northwest.

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of sturdy but light weight wool serge and wool crepe. Norfolk and other styles in black, navy, light blue, brown, and heliotrope, some with white silk collars.



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No. 4

Bethlehem Steel Profits and Policies in Armor Contracts

To the Members of Congress:

The Bethlehem Steel Company is solicitous that its position with reference to armor contracts with the United States Government be clearly understood. Essential facts are:

- First We are urging no plan of preparedness. We have advocated no policy involving increased expenditures by the Government for any purpose.

We are attempting to show, in the frankest and most open manner, that it would be unnecessary and unwise for the Nation to spend \$11,000,000 to build a Government armor plant, because:

Existing facilities can supply every need, and
The Government can buy armor at least as cheaply as it can manufacture it for itself.

- Second If the United States should become involved in war or threatened war, the Government of this country can have any product we manufacture—armor plate or anything else—at any price it chooses to pay; and under such circumstances, and regardless of price, our entire plant will run 24 hours a day with every pound of energy behind it.
- Third It has been stated that this Company has realized enormous profits from the manufacture of armor plate. The fact is that armor is the least profitable article we manufacture.

In our armor plant—which is useless for any other purpose—we have invested \$7,100,000. That same amount of money invested in a steel rolling mill would have earned a profit of \$1,400,000 a year. Yes, that investment in armor plant has produced only average annual gross receipts of \$1,415,590.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAME AMOUNT INVESTED IN A COMMERCIAL PLANT WOULD HAVE PRODUCED AS MUCH PROFIT AS THE TOTAL RECEIPTS (COVERING EXPENSES AND PROFITS) FOR ARMOR SUPPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

- Fourth The profits realized by this Company in 1915 were not from armor plate.

Our total sales in 1915 were about \$200,000,000, of which the gross amount received for armor plate amounted to but \$2,000,000—not two per cent of our total business.

At the present time we can obtain in Europe almost any price we choose to ask for our products; but we have not since the war began raised the price for any ordnance products to the American Government.

We now offer to reduce the price of armor plate for the United States from \$425 to \$395 a ton. The price paid now—\$425 a ton—is less than that paid by any great naval power.

It is said that if our offer is accepted, and the Government plant not built, the price of armor will soon begin "soaring." That there is no danger of any such contingency, and as an earnest of our policy—

We will agree to make armor at the reduced price named, for at least five years; or

We will agree for an indefinite period to make armor at any price which the Federal Trade Commission may name as fair.

CHAS. M. SCHWAB, Chairman
EUGENE G. GRACE, President

Bethlehem Steel Company