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A SENATOR TAKES A FALL OUT OF PATRIOTEERS AND ASKS SANITY OUR WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, D. C., Aug. 1.—Will it be from the national capital the death blow will be dealt efforts to capitalize patriotism for partisan purposes? Observers here are beginning to see a break in what might be called the conscription of intellect. The hysteria that shouted "disloyalty" at any one who differed in opinion from the hater had reached even to the congress of the United States. In a speech in the senate July 12 Senator Reed of Missouri flayed this practice and admonished his colleagues against denying the right of free speech to senators who might differ from the majority. He said:

"We ought to quit scolding each other because we venture to have an opinion. It is our business to have opinions, and we ought to quit challenging the good faith of members of this body.

"Mr. President, I have never read in history a story of such loyalty as is manifested throughout this entire land. I believe if we could do what the Almighty can do—open the heart of every man and every woman in this country—we should see there the story of a deathless love of country such as has never been engraven upon the hearts of any other people.

"There are a few people who may be disloyal; there are a few criminals born every day; there is a certain percentage of criminals born on this earth in every country and clime, just as there is a certain percentage of the deformed and of the insane; but there is not as great a percentage of disloyalty in the United States today, in my judgment, as there is of insanity.

"Look at the picture. We promulgate a law under which every boy or every man between 21 and 31 must leave his home at whatever sacrifice. They have left their homes; and you can count almost upon the fingers of your hand the numbers of those who resisted the draft. Four and a half million of them are in camps or are on their way to camps, and nearly 500,000 more have voluntarily joined the navy of the United States. I have visited some of these camps; I have heard the soldiers discuss their hardships with laughter on their lips; they jeer and laugh over the difficulties; they make light of them; and upon the tongue of every man I have talked with there has been but one expression—the desire that the order forward to France shall soon come, that he may be permitted to do his duty.

"YET YOU CONSTANTLY FIND A LOT OF CHEAP FELLOWS TRYING TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE LOYAL BY DENOUNCING EVERYBODY ELSE. I have heard senators of the United States denounced for their disloyalty who, with tears in their eyes, have put their arms about their first born and said, 'It is your duty to enlist and follow the flag.' I have heard great newspaper men accused of disloyalty who have given millions of their money to the country's cause. These evil stories are reported from lip to lip and from tongue to tongue, until at last they reach inside the German lines, and when they get there the Germans are convinced that we have riot and bloodshed and disloyalty and that the government is about to be overthrown. We are reading some stories from there now that may be similarly exaggerated; I hope they are not.

"If I could write a certificate to send to the kaiser of Germany, I would write this: 'There are 104,000,000 people in the United States; they are not Republicans; they are not Democrats; they are patriots, willing to spend their last dollar and to drain their veins dry in the cause of their country, and, until you have crushed that indomitable spirit that thrills their souls, and until you have destroyed all of their men, you can not succeed. Long before that hour can come your throne will totter, your scepter will be broken, the bloody sword will fall from your palsied hand, and your own enslaved people will rise to bless the flag that bears the emblem for America, for it will also be to them the emblem of liberty.'

BAER ON THE PROFITEERS
Congressman Baer of North Dakota, recently renominated for congress, strongly favors government action to curb profiteering in the necessities of life and articles in common use. Mr. Baer declares there is a great fallacy in the policy of allowing corporations and other to profiteer and then to extract part of their profits from them by taxation.

"The trouble with this," said Mr. Baer, "is that it is a tax on the con-

sumer in disguise. The money which the government receives is wrung out of the public by profiteering and then it is passed on to the treasury in part. The public pays the freight. The profiteering corporation or concern doesn't suffer, and in reality by this system escapes taxation and gets away with a sufficient amount of loot to pile up more net profits than it made in the pre-war period.

"What should be done is to hit at profiteering at the source. The prices of articles of ordinary use, of food-stuffs, clothing and so on, should be held down to a reasonable figure.

"The method of permitting profiteering and then taking part of the profits out of the profiteer, which is now so freely advocated, is simply a scheme, and an adroit one, to compel the consumer to pay the cost of the war. We have all heard objection to paying the cost of the war by consumption taxes. If such objections are sound, then we shouldn't assent to a system that imposes taxes on the consumer by indirection.

"I voted for \$2.40 wheat, but I doubt if it would have done the farmer much good. If he has 20 cents more put in one pocket and 40 cents taken out of the other by the selfishness of the profiteers, he isn't helped. The farmer will not profit as much by \$2.40 wheat as by \$2.20 wheat if the administration will go down the line and fix fair prices on implements, shoes, clothing and other things that the farmers and consumers generally have to buy.

Referring to the talk of imposing an 80 per cent tax on profiteering concerns, Mr. Baer declared this inadequate and that the profiteers could well afford to snap their fingers and laugh at such a proposal, as it meant they would "make their getaway" with tremendous gains out of the necessities of the people.

"The big business man, the big profiteering corporations, as shown by the report of the federal trade commission," Mr. Baer added further, "is making inordinate profits. The small business man in the Middle West, and doubtless elsewhere, is being taxed to the limit. He is not getting any fat war contracts either. The result is that the condition of the small business man is not healthy. It is like taxing sick men."

PLAY JOHN D'S WAY
A war is on between the Rockefeller Foundation crowd, which has set out to influence not only the American schools and churches but the American habits of play, and the group led by Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the president, who want the people in each community to govern their own recreation enterprises.

The Rockefeller people have worked through the Playground Association of America. This organization is headed by Joseph Lee of Boston, a brother-in-law of Senator Lodge. The house committee on the judiciary has favorably reported a bill for the federal incorporation of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. It will ask congress for \$100,000 as a starter, to pay its bills.

Miss Wilson and her friends have for years been working to get the American schoolhouses made the home of community recreation activities. In the District of Columbia this has been granted by law, and there is a rapidly developing community spirit which is wholesomely democratic and constructive in character. The appearance of the rival movement, backed by the funds and staff of the Rockefeller Foundation, and seeking to absorb the democratic organization by pledging the payment of all necessary expenses for rapid growth at once, has caused a considerable protest.

When the incorporation bill comes up in the house it is quite likely that some of the members will offer battle. They fought, some years ago, to drive a horde of Rockefeller employees out of the department of agriculture and the department of commerce. Now they propose that Rockefeller money shall not swallow up the movement to put the people **GALLEY TWENTY-ONE** of each school district in direct and democratic command of community recreation. They are suspicious of this all-pervasive generosity of John D. Jr. to the churches, the colleges, the schools and now to the people's play. They will ask why he does not hire a lobby to get congress to increase his personal income tax.

MC CUMBER OUT OF DATE
Senator McCumber of North Dakota stubbornly opposed public operation of telegraphs and telephones during the final debate on the subject in congress, "except in the event of military necessity."

"Mr. President," said McCumber, "if I now believed that it was necessary, in order to maintain the national security or defense, to take over the telegraph and telephone lines of the country, I should be guilty of little less than treason if I failed to place those instrumentalities of communication in the hands of the government. If I believed that there was a reasonable probability that the government might be injured in any way by withholding that control, I could not square my adverse vote with a sense of patriotism and loyalty to the country.

"But knowing, Mr. President, the inexperience of the government in the operation of any line of business, knowing how strikingly inefficient and grossly extravagant in all cases have been our government operations, I think I am entitled to know wherein the necessity for government operation of these lines of communication arises; and in all sincerity, I ask someone to give me that information. I am averse, I will admit, to government ownership or operation of any line of activity that private ownership or private operation could properly conduct."

The North Dakota senator concluded that within 30 days after the government should get hold of the lines the employees would be demanding a raise of wages, and that would add half a billion dollars to the cost of operation. Accordingly, government control would be a "real injury to the government of the United States."

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