

## GENERAL SALES TAX FOR SOLDIER BONUS, PLAN OF PRESIDENT

### Suggests in Letter to Fordney That Legislation Be Delayed if Proposal Is Not Feasible.

### CONSIDERS LEVY WILL NOT WORK A HARDSHIP TO READJUSTMENT Fully Realizes Great Difficulty Faced by Congress in Problem—Opposed to Piecemeal Payment.

President Harding informed Congress today he considered a general sales tax the only feasible method of raising funds for a soldier bonus.

The executive, in a letter addressed to Chairman Fordney of the House ways and means committee, suggested that unless Congress saw fit to enact a sales tax passage of bonus legislation should be temporarily postponed.

"I believe," the President wrote, "the American people will accept the levy of a general sales tax to meet the proposed bonus payments, and we should contribute thereby no added difficulties to the problems of readjustment. If Congress will not adopt such a plan it would be wise to let the legislation go over until there is a situation which will justify the large outlay."

Postponement might be wise. Declaring that the government had under consideration the disposition of surplus war properties and other transactions, which should bring "great relief" to the Treasury, the President said it would be wise to let the legislation go over if Congress did not deem it advisable to adopt the sales tax.

"It is fully realized how great is the difficulty which confronts the Congress in solving this difficult problem," the letter said, "an aware of the strong sentiment in Congress in favor of this adjusted compensation. I have spoken approvingly myself always with regard to the bestowal of the bonus when it may be done without such injury to the country as to make it a hardship to the ex-service men themselves which this expression of gratitude is designed to bestow."

Text of letter. The letter follows: In accordance with the promise made to yourself and your associates on the Senate side, which was charged with the responsibility of formulating the proposed bonus legislation, I have carefully looked into the program of taxation which has been suggested. In addition thereto I have made inquiry into the possibility of issuing either short-time Treasury notes or long-term bonds to meet the financial obligations of the proposed legislation will impose. It is not possible to commend to you either of the plans suggested.

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## REPUBLICAN ARMY OFFICERS IN TAILS OF ULSTER GUARDS

### Local Commandant and Two Others Captured and Rushed to Barracks.

### 34 DEAD IN BELFAST; INJURED NUMBER 114

### Effort to Burn Workhouse Is Frustrated—Evacuation to Be Carried Out at Once.

By the Associated Press. BELFAST, February 16.—Seumas Monaghan, local commandant of the Irish republican army, and two other republican officers, Patrick and Michael Murney, have been arrested at Newry by Ulster special constables. The officers were proceeding from Killeel, County Down, in the direction of Killybegs when captured. They were taken to Lisnacroghy, where they were searched, and afterward were conveyed to the Newry military barracks, under heavy escort. The Murneys are brothers of P. Murney, chairman of the Killeel board of guardians.

It is stated that an automatic pistol was found in the possession of Monaghan and seditious literature in the pockets of the two Murneys. Subsequent to the arrest of the officers, a bomb was exploded in the street near the barracks, and a number of persons were injured.

By the Associated Press. BELFAST, February 16.—The day opened with the death of a five-year-old child, who was struck by a bullet while playing in the street. A workman proceeding along Seaford street, in the Ballymacarrett area, was shot dead. Youthful gunmen held up workers in the Low Market district, and wounded one of them. The authorities today commanded the evacuation of the workhouse at Seaford street, and the removal of the bodies of the dead and injured.

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## MORE INSPECTORS, PLEA OF DISTRICT

### Congress Will Be Asked to Provide for Three Field Men and Four in Office.

The Commissioners will forward to Congress immediately a supplemental estimate for seven additional employees for the building inspectors' office, as the first direct step in improving conditions in that office which were brought to light by the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theater.

By the Associated Press. EL PASO, Tex., February 16.—Five thousand troops at Fort Bliss were being held today ready for any emergency which might arise along the border. They were mobilized last night when rumors were scattered in Juarez and El Paso that 3,000 men were assembling in the hills south of Juarez, and that the Juarez garrison was expected to "revolt." Juarez military and civilian officials strongly denied each report, but admitted they are aware that revolutionists are trying to recruit men in Chihuahua.

By the Associated Press. EL PASO, Tex., February 16.—The Mexican revolutionary junta in El Paso last night announced that it had received information that Gen. Salvador Alvarado of Yucatan and Gen. Carlos G. Hernandez of Sonora were planning to revolt against the Obregon government.

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## U. S. TROOPS MOBILIZE; HEAR OF MEXICO REVOLT

### Charged With Setting Military Expedition on Foot in U. S.

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## MAN ATTENDS HIS OWN INQUEST AND JURY THEN DECIDES "HE'S ALIVE"

By the Associated Press. MONTREAL, February 16.—Jeremie Belliveau enjoys the distinction of having been the central figure at his own inquest. The jury decided he was alive. Six months ago a body found in the Lachine canal was identified as that of Belliveau, who had been missing from his home in Cornwall, Ont., for a long time. The coroner's jury found a verdict of accidental death, and in time Mme. Belliveau made plans to reinter the body. Then Belliveau made a reappearance, and plans necessary by coming back.

The coroner was called upon once more, this time to state what was to be done about the living Belliveau, who explained that he had been unavoidably detained in jail for six months.

## U. S. HOPES PARLEY WILL BE POSTPONED

### America in Awkward Position Over Genoa Conference, Spars for Delay.

By the Associated Press. LONDON, February 16.—The probability of a delay of three weeks in the opening of the Genoa economic conference was conceded in British official circles today. This was the first indication in such circles that the French were likely to win their contention that it was impossible to start the conference on the date originally chosen, March 5.

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## BUSINESS MEN ASK CONGRESS TO ACT IN REDUCING RENTS

### Merchants and Manufacturers' Association Declares D. C. Prosperity Imperiled.

### 300 TO 400 PER CENT INCREASES REPORTED

### Failures Attributed to High Costs of Business Properties—Remedial Laws Asked For.

Declaring that business prosperity in Washington is being imperiled because rents on business properties have increased during the last five years as much as 300 and 400 per cent, local industrial interests, through the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, today petitioned Congress to take immediate steps to bring about legislation correcting this great abuse.

The petition was in the form of a letter to Senator Ball, chairman of the Senate District committee, drawn up by a special committee of the association appointed by President Andrew Stepan, and was signed by R. P. Andrews, chairman; Leonard Levy, George E. Hebbard, George F. Killian and F. W. Harper. This committee was appointed following the adoption of a resolution by the board of governors Tuesday advising Congress "of the necessity of immediately including business property in the provisions of the Ball rent act, which would prevent the exclusion of some time ago business property from the operation of the act."

Legislation Asked. The petition points out that while it is believed that the control and supervision of business and the person "should be limited at all times," the business men are nevertheless "conscious that when an extraordinary situation arises, the effect of which is to impair the common good, Congress should and must enact legislation to exercise a corrective influence."

The statement contains the opinion that "a substantial part" of business failures for 1921 were due to the "inordinant" rents that were assumed by retail merchants. "Information has reached this association that during the last five years business property rents have mounted to heights absolutely unobtainable, entirely out of keeping with the actual value of the properties."

"It must be borne in mind that in practically every business property lease the lessee must bear the burden of all improvements and repairs and, indeed, some of them carry provisions requiring taxes and assessments."

"The average of the last five years shows a 300 per cent increase in the most trying period that we have passed through. But that situation long ceased, due to the fact that practically everything except property rents has dropped. Therefore, those who are disposed to interfere with the common welfare of the community by maintaining excessive rents should be made to perform their duty. The practice can be continued only at the expense of the entire community."

"One of the great mercantile agencies has reported that the total business year of 1921 was a record for 1921, was 13,602, an increase of 135 per cent over the previous year, of which 13,399, or 71.3 per cent, were among retailers. If business property owners are entitled to a greater share of the business, they should have it, but we submit that in instances where tenants are forced to pay excessive rents, the result is a situation wherein the business is impoverished."

"We believe that the former amendment of the rent control act is a grave mistake made in exempting business property. "Since the absence of control, demands have been made on lessees for increases, the undertaking of which can only be accomplished by the gradual curbing of the rent control act. There is no reason why any business should be run solely for the benefit of the landlord or any one individual."

"We trust that you and your conferees in the Senate and House will take immediate steps to bring about legislation correcting the great abuse of excessive rents for business property in the District of Columbia."

NOTED RESTAURATEUR DIES. PARIS, February 15.—Alexander Duval, proprietor of a well-known chain of popular restaurants in Paris, died today. He was one of the most representative Parisian figures.

Believes People Will Agree. Granting that it is not fair to oppose any proposed plan without offering a substitute, let me repeat that

Dog Stops Runaway Horse by Taking Reins In Teeth and Jumping

By the Associated Press. GENEVA, N. Y., February 16.—A runaway horse was stopped on a business street today by a dog that seized the reins in its mouth. The horse belonged to James Cappola, a steward at the Waldorf-Astoria. The animal became frightened at the noise of an approaching trolley car and bolted. The dog of the rig to the rear, seized the reins in its mouth and jumped between the horse and a standstill.

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