

# CRITICS OF WILSON ASSAILED BY LEWIS

## Illinois Senator Charges That Lodge and Knox Conspire to Discredit the President.

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#### Cites Course of McKinley in 1898 and Roosevelt in 1901 as Prece- dents for Wilson's Course.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—In a speech in the Senate today Senator Lewis of Illinois, the Democratic whip, assailed Senator Lodge of Massachusetts and Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, charging that they had deliberately undertaken a conspiracy to discredit President Wilson at home and abroad in the attitude they have assumed in attacking his course in the peace negotiations.

He charged that the two Senators were actuated in their attitude by an effort to so interfere with the achievements of the President at the Paris conference that the Republican Party could make political capital out of it at the next election. The Republicans, he said, wanted the President to fail in his endeavors at Paris.

Senator Lewis declared that the two Senators, in criticizing President Wilson for having assumed to lay down peace terms without first consulting the Senate, probably overlooked the policy adopted by President McKinley in the war with Spain, when he authorized a peace protocol without going to Congress, and that of President Roosevelt, who had authorized the United States Army to co-operate with those of four other nations in intervention in China in 1901. While these same Senators, he said, in different capacities upheld the acts of the two Republican Presidents, they had condemned the course of President Wilson.

#### Seeking a Presidential Issue.

"The concurring assaults by certain leaders on the Republican side upon everything that President Wilson has attempted in Europe," said Senator Lewis, "and in refusing to approve anything undertaken discloses, as I charge, a conspiracy to discredit him and to defeat any designs he enters upon by giving the European negotiators to understand that the Senate is opposed to the President, that it objects to his measures, and that it is speaking with the power to revise, reverse, and repudiate him. The object is to prevent the President from accomplishing anything, and the purpose of this is that when they have dishonored his errand and defeated his objects they may then cry to the American public, 'The President is a failure, his mission is a failure, his failure has made America ridiculous and lost for the United States all the fruits of the war and made a mockery of the sacrifices of blood and lives of its children.'"

"This would make the Presidential issue and this, I charge, is the political purpose of the eminent leaders who assail with constancy of time and method everything the President is doing to secure peace and to secure full results from the victory obtained by the United States in her participation with the Allies. I do not object to the eminent Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. Knox, or the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. Lodge, artful in his leadership of the Republican side, qualifying for the support of Colonel Roosevelt and his following for the nomination for President by biding their time until they can catch the expression of opposition of the Colonel and then rising in the Senate to say 'So say we all of us,' but I do object to the country being deceived as to the design and the President of the United States dishonored by false political pretenses to accomplish their purpose.

#### Condemn All Acts of Wilson.

"I prove this charge by calling to the attention of the American public that not one of these gentlemen who have criticized each course of the President and condemned each action and the omission of any action, have ever approved any one thing the President has undertaken or expressed since he began his mission in Europe. Nothing he has said has received their indorsement, not even a well wish for a successful journey through which his life might be preserved from the perils of the sea, nor an approval of a speech or line in praise of his own country or her noble sons has ever received indorsement nor one expression of gladness or praise for the welcome, the cheer and the reception given him in behalf of America. Nothing he has attempted but is condemned; nothing he has spoken or accomplished has been praised or indorsed. Surely the American public will not be deceived as to the meaning of this remarkable spectacle.

"I now charge that the views of the distinguished Senators who made the assault upon the policies of the President, opposing what he is doing and demanding him to do other things that he is not doing, are in direct opposition to the views that these same Senators have expressed upon similar subjects upon previous occasions. I charge that the assault is for the purpose of convincing European negotiators that if they accept the positions presented by the President, the Senate will overthrow them, and by this it is presumed the European negotiators will take license to defeat the President in what he proposes and can put their reasons for doing it on the ground that they are serving interests of the American people represented by the Senate which are opposed, as they will say, as shown by the views of the Senate, to what the President proposes."

Senator Lewis wanted to let the European delegates to the Peace Conference know, he said, that "the true situation, so far as the United States is concerned, is that the Senate has nothing whatever to do with what the President is doing and that the President is under no obligations to submit his plans to the Senate or any other legislative branch of the Government."

#### President's Power to Make Peace.

"The present undertakings of the President," he said, "are as Commander in Chief of the army and in that capacity he has the authority to determine the conditions of the peace settlement. I want to inform all peace negotiators that the President will remain with such power until the full treaty of peace or compact of peace has finally been accepted and peace declared and the armies withdrawn as a result of that acceptance. Treaties made by the President as the head of the civil government and after the war has come to end, is a different subject-matter from making peace by protocol or agreements. In the first instance of a treaty being made by the President the Senate must ratify; in the second, where the President serves as Commander in Chief, agreeing upon terms of peace for the purpose of withdrawing the armies, he serves as the Commander in Chief and executes the authority of the law and of the people vested in him as Executive, and wholly apart from the interference, the opposition, the approval, or repudiation of the Senate."

#### Problems for League of Nations.

Taking up the proposal for the formation of a League of Nations, Senator Lewis said:

"Unless some arrangement in the form of an international agreement providing a method by which nations can have peace and their disputes be settled to avoid war, the war we have fought will be in vain. Each nation with claims and principles at stake, as it believes them, seeing no method existing through which it can secure peace and obtain its rights, will turn to the only method left and which has just been adopted—war. We will have Italy with her claims conflicting with the Jugoslavs, and these determined by war; the Slavs in Serbia, Greece and Rumania, Poland and Russia, Bohemia, Austria and Turkey, with their conflicting claims; and these countries again will light the torch of war and the conflagration will

spread to those lands with interests imperilled by the conflict, and fortunate we will be if there is not a return to the carnage and desolation through which we have just passed. In this connection will be the issue of China and Russia against Japan remaining in Manchuria, and the contention of China against Japan keeping the territories of China captured from Germany which were previously Chinese territory taken by Germany. If there be no court or arrangement now made to meet this situation and appease this conflict we may look for another war between China and Japan, inviting Siberia and Russia at the border to enter the conflict and incite intensified strife throughout the world."

#### Scouts Temporary Entente Idea.

Alluding to the suggestion made by Mr. Knox in his resolution now pending before the Foreign Relations Committee demanding postponement of all discussion of the League of Nations, Senator Lewis said:

"The eminent Senator from Pennsylvania—late the Secretary of State—presents but one thought throughout his able utterance, all of his expressions being a mere amplification of that simple thought. It is, that with the League of Nations postponed there should be an entente of nations with America as a central figure, which should be the court to which any nation could go, presenting a prospect of being assailed in war, and that this entente would then co-operate to avoid the war. What is this if it be not a League of Nations? And I ask the Senator how could such an entente succeed?"

"If it would succeed by merely a partnership in the League of Honor then a League of Nations would succeed by the same method. If it could only succeed by the navy and the army of the combined nations, then we have the force made necessary to the entente which both Senators say is necessary for success of the league, but which they use as the basis of their opposition. Surely the country must see the emptiness of these protests, the want of substance in the criticisms, and the amusing inconsistencies in the positions.

"These reverse attitudes by the eminent Senators would be ridiculous and laughed into contempt were it not that they came from sources that are entitled also to respect because of the ability they represent, the patriotism of their personal lives, and the great constituencies for which they speak.

"I appeal to both as I do to their aides and their supporters, is there not a patriotism which serves country and that rises higher than policies which serve party? At this time is it not the policy that politics stop at the water's edge, and that while the President is on foreign soil contesting for the supremacy of the United States, he receive the unanimous co-operation of the United States Senate; that they hold high his hands, encourage and inspire his heart, and by their co-operation and indorsement impress upon the minds of every negotiator who shall confront the President that the principal thing which he seeks is the thing which this nation demands, and that in his every voice, his every contention, his every plea, his every demand, there is the response and echo from the Congress of the United States to the world, saying: 'We are with him, America is behind him, he is our President, and as against foreign competitors and in foreign fields of conflict for the supremacy and dignity of the United States we have one prayer—God speed him; one purpose, victory to his every undertaking!'"