

PROBE AIRCRAFT EXPENDITURES

Cummings Takes Responsibility for "Junket" Trip to Pacific Coast.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the democratic national committee, called before the house sub-committee investigating aircraft expenditures, to testify under oath Thursday night why he had permitted the publicity bureau of his organization to brand a proposed committee trip to the Pacific coast as a "junket," took responsibility for the statement and declared it was not a circumstance of what would come later.

From the moment he entered the committee room and introduced himself to the members demanding an explanation, until he went away, Mr. Cummings continually was smiling, while Chairman Frear pounded the table with great heat and stopped the proceedings to have certain replies stricken from the record.

With marked courtesy, Mr. Cummings, turning to the chairman and addressing him as "my good fellow," said that he knew before he arrived that he would be unable to satisfy the republicans. There were some sharp retorts from Chairman Frear, to one of which the witness, lighting a cigar from another and still smiling, declared, "My, wasn't that a delicate thrust."

Approves Article.
At the outset Mr. Cummings told the committee that while he had not read the particular article to which the republicans took offense, he quite approved it, except that it was not vigorous enough. It was during this questioning that Chairman Frear told the stenographer not to permit certain statements to remain in the record, to which the witness replied that in a court of justice he would have more rights. What the chairman wanted to know especially was the basis for the charge that the sub-committee was a "smelling committee," and that it soon was to start on a "junket."

Finally, after a sharp wrangle, Mr. Cummings said that he understood the committee contemplated a western trip to look into spruce conditions relating to aviation, when all of this had been gone over by Charles E. Hughes. "There have been other inquiries," the witness continued, "and this whole subject has been canvassed until it is threadbare. Moreover, the taking up a subject of this character by a committee which I submit is not friendly to the administration and not in a position to give an unbiased opinion, is a waste of time and public money, and in ordinary political parlance a 'junket.'"

Calls Trip "Junket."
"Is it fair to this committee when it is ordered to make a trip to call it a junket?" Chairman Frear asked. "I think so," Mr. Cummings replied. "It is perfect folly to spend money on a trip of this character when you ought really to send public accountants, and when there are so many other problems, including the high cost of living, demanding consideration."

"The republican organization," the witness went on, "has indulged in plenty of slander directed at the president of the United States and you should be sportsmen enough to stand mild criticism. This is not a marker to what's coming."
"If you do there will be an investigation by the house," the chairman interrupted.
"Fine," the witness replied, "I have quite enjoyed myself this evening."

In commending the public service

YEAR'S PAY FOR MEN



CONGRESSMAN J. M. BAER

Representative Baer, of North Dakota, has reintroduced his bill providing for a bonus of a year's pay for every man that served in the war, according to a report from Washington. The Baer bill provides that the revenue to meet this expense be raised by surtaxes on incomes over \$25,000 annually. He estimates \$2,400,000,000 will be required.

of Mr. Hughes who conducted the aircraft inquiry, Mr. Cummings said the difference between republican leaders in congress and the president was that the president had selected for the inquiry a man of known impartiality, while the other was a purely political investigation.

Questions Food Sales.

Rep. Magee, republican, of New York, asked Mr. Cummings for a yes or no answer bearing on the war investigation and the resultant sale of army food.
"Why, that's a trick question," the witness replied. "It's like asking a man if he has quit beating his wife."

"Strike that out," Mr. Magee shouted, and it was stricken out.

Chairman Frear contended that the democrats were making a concerted attempt to discredit the inquiry, while Mr. Cummings insisted that the republicans in control of congress were trying to criticize every single act of the administration during the war. The committee chairman brought out that prior to 1896 the witness was a republican.

He told how he and Mr. Magee and Rep. Lee, democrat of California, members of the committee, had protested against being forced to travel to the Pacific coast next month. Mr. Frear said he had been to the coast over every railroad so the trip was no "junket" for him.

THE MACCABEE.

South Bend Tent, No. 1, meets 1st and 3rd Friday evening, Byler Hall, 120 E. Wayne st. Frank Andrews, Comm. 5961-1

SAFER NOW.

We notice Mr. Wilson didn't adopt an open-house policy at the white house until the suffragette pickets had gone elsewhere.

ASKS FOR TROOPS TO RESCUE HIS DAUGHTER

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., Aug. 1.—A request that the United States government send troops into the Flat Top mountains near here to rescue his 14-year-old daughter from an alleged band of outlaws and army deserters, who, he claims, is being held prisoner by them, was made Thursday night through the Bluefield army recruiting office by Kenna Abshire, of Camp Creek.

Manderville Farley, alleged leader of the gang and who is said to have deserted from Camp Lee, Virginia, was shot by Abshire several days ago when the father made an effort to rescue his daughter single handed. Farley escaped into the mountains with the girl despite his wounds.

Abshire, in making the request for troops, suggested that the war department approve the use of soldiers now stationed at Camp Lee for the expedition.

KENYON WANTS WILSON TO CALL LABOR MEETING

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—Sen. Kenyon, republican, Iowa, Thursday introduced a joint resolution authorizing the president to call an international labor convention and appoint American delegates.

In explaining his resolution, Sen. Kenyon said that such a meeting was provided for under the League of Nations covenant, but said Sec'y of Labor Wilson feared the peace treaty might not be ratified in time for such a meeting next October as planned.

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