

---

# Congressional Record.

SIXTY-FOURTH CONGRESS,  
SECOND SESSION.

VOLUME LIV, PART 3.

FROM JANUARY 27, 1917, TO FEBRUARY 12, 1917.

PAGES 2105 TO 3174.

---

7

10118

Mr. MOORE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAGSDALE, and Mr. CALLAWAY ROSE.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Texas, a member of the committee.

Mr. CALLAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the Record a statement that I have of how the newspapers of this country have been handled by the munition manufacturers.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas asks unanimous consent to extend his remarks in the Record by inserting a certain statement. Is there objection?

Mr. MANN. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, may I ask whether it is the gentleman's purpose to insert a long list of extracts from newspapers?

Mr. CALLAWAY. No; it will be a little, short statement, not over 2½ inches in length in the Record.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. CALLAWAY. Mr. Chairman, under unanimous consent, I insert in the Record at this point a statement showing the newspaper combination, which explains their activity in this war matter, just discussed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MOORE]:

"In March, 1915, the J. P. Morgan interests, the steel, ship-building, and powder interests, and their subsidiary organizations, got together 12 men high up in the newspaper world and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press of the United States.

"These 12 men worked the problem out by selecting 179 newspapers, and then began, by an elimination process, to retain only those necessary for the purpose of controlling the general policy of the daily press throughout the country. They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 25 of the greatest papers. The 25 papers were agreed upon; emissaries were sent to purchase the policy, national and international, of these papers; an agreement was reached; the policy of the papers was bought, to be paid for by the month; an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies, and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers.

This combination is the backbone of the present time, and it

The 25 papers were agreed upon; emissaries were sent to purchase the policy, national and international, of these papers; an agreement was reached; the policy of the papers was bought, to be paid for by the month; an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers.

"This contract is in existence at the present time, and it accounts for the news columns of the daily press of the country--

ity. I will not stop except to say that that it was not clear from property and in a day or two the most and the Whites were seized, and that in precautions with station, every courtesy change of these Ger- lying was done in Germany under very strictly wanted Dec- and being on a war, dangerous "rumor" at the United States situation from Penn-

the. For feet: the re- sions of war; books, for manufacturing and sold, and for the caps and buttons; rubber clothing of olive in many yards; and being on a war, dangerous "rumor" at the United States situation from Penn-

and Mr. CALLAWAY said the gentleman I mentioned consent I have of how the filed by the munition Texas asks unani- by forcing the right to object pose to insert a long in, short statement,

showed showing the best activity in this from Pennsylvania.

the steel, ship- building organiza- tions, got together 12 men high up in the newspaper world and of newspapers in the to control generally

selecting 179 news- of papers, to retain through the general policy. They found of all of the great of newspapers in the country of these policy of the press

being filled with all sorts of preparedness arguments and misrepresentations as to the present condition of the United States Army and Navy, and the possibility and probability of the United States being attacked by foreign foes.

"This policy also included the suppression of everything in opposition to the wishes of the interests served. The effectiveness of this scheme has been conclusively demonstrated by the character of stuff carried in the daily press throughout the country since March, 1915. They have resorted to anything necessary to commercialize public sentiment and sandbag the National Congress into making extravagant and wasteful appropriations for the Army and Navy under the false pretense that it was necessary. Their stock argument is that it is 'patriotism.' They are playing on every prejudice and passion of the American people."

Mr. MOORE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the last word. I am in favor of this paragraph in the Navy appropriation bill, because I think the country ought to be fully prepared for any possible invasion; but I think the Congress ought to be careful about encouraging "rumors of war" when war has not actually been declared. Perhaps it would be safe to leave this matter to the President of the United States and to those who have direct knowledge upon the subject. I call attention, however, not only to these false reports of the *Housatonic* and about the *California*, but the steamship *Philadelphia* was reported sunk since the President was here, and yet the next day, after these reports had gone over the country like wildfire and everybody got excited about the *Philadelphia*, which naturally attracted interest in that great city and in the State of Pennsylvania, we found the *Philadelphia* had safely arrived in port, so that report was also in error. Now, whether by design or not I do not know, but it seems that most of these false reports come from London. There seems to be an intense desire there to tell us about German outrages and about American blood shed on foreign ships or to find that some American ship has been shot up. This colored man, George Washington—

Mr. BARKLEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOORE of Pennsylvania. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BARKLEY. But was not there a statement in the morning paper that the colored man on that ship was a British subject?

Mr. MOORE of Pennsylvania. I am coming to that. The dispatches have made it appear that because of the loss of George Washington, an alleged American citizen, we are now in position to declare war against Germany. This morning's papers have headlines something like this: "Death of American on wrecked *Turino* reported to London. An American negro fireman, George Washington was killed, according to a report received to-day when the British steamship *Turino* was sunk by a German U boat in the war zone."

Now, that is enough to inflame every American—

Mr. MOORE of Pennsylvania. Not at this time. I simply urge that the true facts and only the true facts be reported at this time when we are at the verge of an outbreak with a foreign country. [Applause.] I think it would be better for some of the editors to "shut up" when they do not know what they are talking about. [Applause.] I think it would be better for some of these professional patriots who have determined our international relations in advance, and who insist upon adjusting our diplomatic affairs in this crisis, to not only "shut up," but go tie a rope around their necks, attach an anchor to it, and jump into the sea. We could better afford to dispense with their meddlesome services than to plunge the people of this country into a foreign war. I think it would be far better for this country. [Applause.]

Mr. Chairman, I regret to say it, but we are gradually turning over the business of Congress, turning over all our constitutional rights, turning over our powers delegated by the people, to a lot of editors, theorists, and college professors who are not capable of conducting our affairs and to whom we should not abdicate.