

FOR PRESS INVESTIGATION.

Moore Asks Inquiry Into Charges on Preparedness Campaign.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—A demand for an investigation of charges printed in The Congressional Record by Representative Oscar Callaway of Texas, a pacifist Democrat, that "the J. P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding, and powder interests" had purchased control of twenty-five great newspapers to further the preparedness campaign, was made in the House today by Representative J. Hampton Moore, a Pennsylvania Republican. Mr. Moore said Mr. Callaway had obtained unanimous consent to extend his remarks in The Record, and his charges had not been read on the floor, "but buried in The Record."

"I question whether a single newspaper in the United States has taken cognizance of the remarks of the gentleman from Texas," said Mr. Moore. "I believe they constitute a matter of high privilege."

He said that unless some Democrat introduced a resolution to investigate the truth of the charges he would offer such a resolution.

Following the Moore speech Congressman Callaway told interviewers that he could produce proof of his charges, and said Representative Tavenner of Illinois would offer immediately a resolution for an investigation of alleged inspired newspaper articles in behalf of preparedness and participation in the European war.

Mr. Callaway's speech, as inserted in The Record, charged:

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

These twelve 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 twenty-five of the greatest newspapers. The twenty-five 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.

"The contract is in existence at the present time and it accounts for the news columns of the daily press of the country 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.

"The 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 the 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 'patriotism.' They are playing on every prejudice and passion of the American people."

Mr. Slayden asked Mr. Moore what he construed the word "sandbag" to mean.

"It means to drive Congress into a corner and make them believe we are in a state of war now," said Mr. Moore. He quoted an advertisement, signed by the American Rights League, which began:

"To the American people: Germany is at war with the United States. The repudiation of past pledges and the threat to destroy our ships and citizens constitute a virtual declaration of war. * * * It is no longer a question of whether there shall be war with Germany. There is war with Germany."

Mr. Moore said that among the signers of the advertisement were Dr. Lyman Abbott and the Rev. Randolph H. McKim, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, of this city, and went on to criticize the latter for his action as a minister of the gospel. Mr. Moore then proceeded to declare his own neutrality.

"I am neither pro-German, as some of the papers have recently insisted, nor pro-Ally," he said. "I am, as this Congress ought to be, pro-American and nothing else."