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ON PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE BY
LIMITING THE NAVAL ARMAMENT AND
DIRECTLY SEEKING INTERNA-
TIONAL PEACE

REMARKS

OF

HON. ROBERT L. OWEN
OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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SENATOR ROBERT L. OWEN.

On promoting international peace by limiting the naval armament and directly seeking international peace.

Mr. OWEN said:

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish to give my adherence to the proposed amendment of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. BURTON]. I agree that it would be better for international peace if we should no longer continue to enlarge the great navy, which we already have established, the maintenance of which constitutes a very heavy tax on the people of the United States. To the arguments which have been advanced by the Senator from Ohio, by the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. CLAPP], and by the Senator from Maine [Mr. HALE], I wish to give my approval. I believe they are substantially right.

Always when the naval bill comes up the press is filled with alluring arguments about the conservation of peace by making preparation for war. Slowly I have come to believe, and I do believe, that these arguments in the public press are not in the interest of peace, but are in the interest of those who have something to sell.

Under the message of the President of the United States two years ago I supported the proposition to greatly enlarge this navy when the naval bill came up at a previous session. I did so, believing that we were in danger of some foreign complication. I have gradually changed my mind about that. I do not believe that we are in any danger whatever. The tremendous financial power of the United States, its far-reaching commercial connections with every nation of the earth, its ties by blood with every nation of Europe, make the idea of war well-nigh impossible.

I have been led to believe that when we are making these enormous expenditures—\$130,000,000 on this insurance policy against war—it would be well to appropriate a small amount directly for the purpose of promoting international peace, and I propose to offer an amendment that one-tenth of 1 per cent of the amount in this bill shall be used by the President of the United States for the direct purpose of promoting international peace. It is only a small amount; it is but one dollar out of a thousand, and since this bill is on the basis of insurance, I hope that everybody who believes in the insurance system will agree to the expenditure of one dollar out of a thousand in the direct promotion of peace.

I simply rose, Mr. President, to give my support to the doctrine that the time has come when we ought to set an example to the nations of the world, and demonstrate that we do not have any desire for aggression; that we do not feel inspired by ambition; that we are already beginning to curtail this vast naval upbuilding, and that we offer an example of limiting naval armament to the other nations of the world.

Actions speak louder than words with nations as well as with men. I have but little confidence in the man who invites me to peace while he runs for a gun. We have no sufficient ground to invite the other nations of the world to limit their naval armaments when we go on spending millions and tens of millions, and have now a naval budget of \$130,000,000. We ought to put a limitation upon naval expenditures, and we ought directly, as the nation best fitted to do so in all the world, to promote international peace, not by the possible suggestion that we are ready for war, but we ought to do it by direct action. We ought to invite the nations of the world to limit their naval armaments. I know of no proposal in the Senate for that purpose. Why do not those who desire the limitation of our own naval armament and who are in control of the affairs of the Senate pass a resolution through the Senate of the United States declaring in favor of the limitation of naval armaments?

Those who are in control of the affairs of government, those who are charged with the duty to the people of the United

States of directing the affairs of government, those who can, if they will, put upon the statute books the proper steps toward maintaining universal peace, owe it to their country and they owe it to the people of the world to take the first positive, direct step, as a national legislature, calling for universal peace and authorizing the officers of this Government to take those steps which are essential and necessary to promote the peace of the nations of the world. We are, as I have said, the best-fitted nation on earth to do that, both by great financial and commercial power and by geographical position, and because in our Nation center the ties of blood with every nation on the earth, and they would listen to us more readily than they would to those who are of an alien tongue, and who have no ties of blood.

Mr. President, I simply wish to give my support to the amendment proposed by the Senator from Ohio, limiting the building of new battle ships to one *Dreadnought*.

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Mr. OWEN. I offer the amendment which I send to the desk. The SECRETARY. On page 63, after line 17, insert:

That a sum equal to one-tenth of 1 per cent of the amount annually appropriated for the naval service by this act is hereby appropriated as a continuing annual appropriation to be used by the President of the United States in promoting international peace and in promoting an international agreement to limit the construction of naval armaments.

Mr. OWEN. I call for the yeas and nays—

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. President, I feel constrained to make a point of order on the amendment.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. What is the point of order?

Mr. PERKINS. That there is no estimate for it; that it proposes new legislation on an appropriation bill, and is in violation of Rule XVI.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair sustains the point of order.