

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER DEMAND OF PRESS OF U. S.

No Armistice and No Agreements With Kaiser

The press of the United States almost unanimously condemn the German answer to President Wilson. Extracts follow:—

New York Herald: "If the American people have any 'say' . . . the German plea for an armistice will be granted only on terms similar to those granted to Bulgaria. There must be immediate transfer to the armies of the victorious allies of all German arms and munitions of war. Unconditional surrender . . . must be followed by the punishment demanded by justice."

New York Tribune: "Victory in this war . . . is but a means to justice, and by justice we mean death to the Kaiser and to the authors of all that unspeakable criminality committed in his name. . . . If this be not the verdict of the American people, we do not know them. Our answer is that the will of the people is greater than all circumstances."

Boston Herald: "A prolonged discussion may in the end result against Germany, but it is certainly disheartening to us, and must be equally so to our allies, for the very simple reason that we do not know what is in the President's mind and there is no way of finding out. The real diplomatists at the present time—our Senator Lodge has aptly put it—are Foch and the allied armies. The sooner and sharper this discussion by note comes to a halt, the better. If it does not lead at once to unconditional surrender, let Foch do it."

Boston Globe: "Acts, not words, must come from Germany. The German government, the German people, can put faith in us. They have our guarantees. But we cannot put faith in them while the German army is still a weapon for a war lord's hand, and surrender is the only guarantee that can be given us. The sight of the armies of the high priests of militarism stacking arms in acknowledgment of defeat is a sight the world is entitled to see."

Boston Post: "Let Germany recall its submarine fleet and surrender it. Let it surrender its high seas fleet as well. Let it permit the allies to occupy Heligoland and Kiel. Evacuate and surrender Metz and the whole string of forts along the Rhine. With guarantees similar to those it would be safe to suggest an armistice. Without them an armistice is unsafe."

Philadelphia North American: "We do not pretend to deny that Germany's answer to President Wilson's queries makes an early peace possible."

But if there is any sanctity in the world-wide demand for a peace of justice and permanency; if there is any need for the final overthrow of autocracy and the destruction of its military power, then civilization was never nearer to the abyss of disaster than it is at this hour."

Baltimore Sun: "If Germany is acting in good faith, in its answer to President Wilson, then, as Secretary McAdoo says, her acceptance of the President's demands amounts to unconditional surrender. If so, the war is won. It is not worth while to go on fighting for something that we already possess. Obviously the thing to do in these circumstances is to find out whether she is acting in good faith, if what she means by acceptance of the President's terms, and what we mean by it, are one and the same thing."

Providence (R. I.) Journal:—"The answer to any proposal for an armistice must come from military commanders, sword in hand. Germany, retreating to her own borders on the western front and facing overwhelming military defeat and the capture of immense quantities of supplies and ammunition, accepts what? A proposition she believes to have been made to her that she retire unmolested to her own territory, there to wage the war in any way she sees fit. It is vital that Washington disabuse Germany's mind of this belief at the earliest possible moment."

Worcester Telegram:—"There is but one condition that can save the Hun from the grinding destruction of General Foch's terrible advance. That condition—an armistice. It would change all conditions and military lines. Later General Foch would need to plan a new and different offensive. Let Foch alone and nothing can stop his entry into Berlin. No armistice."

Springfield Republican:—"On its face, the reply seems to be an unconditional surrender. If it is honestly meant, and upon this point the President should be able speedily to present convincing evidence, the totem may soon sound for peace. The reply is as direct and explicit as a brief categorical reply could well be."

Louisville Courier Journal:—"The man in the White House must draft the program of civilization in its future dealings with the despoiler; that he and his colleagues of the allied governments will permit the Hun to retire to his bloody lair still a belligerent is unthinkable. . . . The arms of Germany and Austria must be stacked on the battle line. . . . Wait for him (the President) before you talk, or even think peace."

Toledo Times:—"Germany expresses a willingness to evacuate conquered territory, in Dr. Solff's note to President Wilson. That would seem to be the crux of the situation. For Germany voluntarily to withdraw her soldiers to the German frontier means conservation of man power, a shortening of the line and an excuse to again yell 'we are waging a defensive warfare.' The withdrawal of her troops must be superintended by the allies, so the evacuation achieves the same purpose as a military victory."

Detroit Free Press:—"It is far from being an unconditional surrender. . . . There is no certainty that Berlin is not more immediately eager for an armistice than it is for peace terms. . . . But the chancellor is making a plain bid for an armistice pending evacuation. Such a concession is not to be thought of in dealing with so disreputable and perfidious an enemy as Germany."

Lowell Courier-Citizen:—"If Germany means surrender, let Hindenburg surrender his sword to Foch,

as Lee surrendered his to Grant at Appomattox. Mr. Wilson is being invited into a bargain peace. Flat, unmistakable, downright surrender is the lightest punishment that fits Germany's crimes and on it the American people and all their allies ought constantly to insist."

Portland Press:—"Prince Maximilian's reply cannot be interpreted as an unconditional surrender by Germany. If America keeps her high purposes in mind, the reply cannot end the war at this time. The imperial German autocrats, speaking through the lips of a camouflaged government, are grasping at the only straw in the whirlpool of despair, to save their armies from annihilation and themselves from punishment."

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune:—"All this means is that Germany begins to realize that if Foch is not stopped, she is terribly beaten. President Wilson cannot contemplate parity pending complete surrender without . . . exaction of all stolen territory, including Alsace-Lorraine. There is no room for discussion of details of evacuation."

Baltimore American:—"There is just this phase of the evolved situation upon which to base expectations of a near peace—of peace, say within six months. This is in the possibility that Germany will quickly accept the inevitable and the inevitable is unconditional surrender. This is the one and only condition that can be accepted preliminary to an armistice."

Springfield, (Mass.) Union:—"If we were dealing with a nation other than Germany, we might believe the proposed armistice was a genuine step toward a just peace, but in the circumstance we can believe nothing of the sort. No trust whatever can be placed in the words or promises of the German government. Her negotiations are plainly intrigues, having their roots in treachery and deceit. Unconditional surrender is not all we must exact from her; there is reparation to be made, indemnities to be paid. She must pay the full price she now longs for and the first price toward that peace is the surrender of Ludendorff's sword to Foch."

New Haven Journal-Courier:—"The reply to the Beast of Berlin should be no further exchanges with him or his official representatives. It is the same old game, played with increased dexterity it is true, but the same old game. The Bulgarian example of evacuation will answer all purposes. What Germany is ready for is an armistice and an armistice means a recovery of her strength. She cannot have it!"

New York Times:—"Surrender, not an armistice, must be the condition precedent to any talk about peace. . . . No peace can be made with the Hohenzollerns. . . . Peace must be signed in behalf of Germany by an authority having neither the will nor the power to seize the next favorable occasion to begin a new war of imperial ambition."

New York American:—"We have won the victory; let us secure the fruits of victory. America has been the determining factor in the winning of the war; let us make sure that America secure her dominating object in the war . . . to make the world safe for democracy."

New York World:—"Coming from any honest and respectable government, such a reply as Germany has made to President Wilson's inquiries might safely be accepted as an unconditional surrender. Coming from the German government . . . it must be accepted for what it is—an offer of a surrender without . . . security whatsoever for compliance with any provisions or promise."

Chicago Tribune:—"While the German army is still in formidable being, to enter into discussion is to invite disaster. An armistice purchased at the price of a mere evacuation of invaded territories would be an excellent bargain for Germany from the point of view of the present perilous German military situation. We should be foolish indeed to accept it."

St. Louis Republic:—"Who knows whether the German reply is a sham or an honest step towards peace? Nobody in America has the means for knowing equal to those which the President and his advisers enjoy. He may be trusted to detect the fraud."

Philadelphia Inquirer:—"There can be no peace that does not bring to the bar of justice—not a bar of revenge—the criminals who have committed such fearful crimes against humanity and in utter violation of international law."

Washington Post:—"The mere fact that Germany ostensibly accepts President Wilson's program of world peace does not justify anyone in presuming that President Wilson must proceed to negotiate with the enemy. There may be a thousand reasons why he will not do so and one reason alone is sufficient: The enemy is unbeaten. No peace conference will be held while Germany holds a sword in her hand."