

October 13, 1919.

MEMORANDUM OF L. D. WALK UPON MR. COMPER'S RESOLUTIONS.

This Conference was called together to devise methods by which industry could be stabilized and to bring about new relations between capital and labor. The Conference was not called to deal with any specific exhibit of present industrial unrest nor to give judgment on attempts or upon failures to make attempts for immediate adjustment.

discussed
The Conference looks to a future program to bring such exhibits as are current, such as the steel strike (granted as most important in it's relationships) longshoremen strike, laundry workers and the railway men who have given an example by their agreement to defer their strike until this Conference should have time to devise methods which would give reasonable hope of correcting the serious causes of their dissatisfaction; which would give reasonable assurance that their complaints and difficulties will be wisely considered and that facts will be discussed upon which intelligent judgment can alone be based.

Should this motion prevail it would be an injustice to those leaders who have shown restraint in deference to the President's wishes. It would make of this Conference a board for adjusting labor disputes now pending. The President's request that busy people come together and that railway men defer the strike implies a genuine expectation that the deliberations of this Conference will bring out a method if not an industrial charter where capital and labor may meet on another relationship. Such a plan or plans should be conceived in a statesman-like manner and this Conference should not be deflected from it's purpose by any one issue however great that issue may be. Profound thought and fair impartial search for the truth are moral obligations laid upon each and every delegate to this Conference. It is in essence a public trust placed upon us as individuals.

Although for the reasons stated above this Conference cannot be deflected from it's solemn purpose. The issues involved in Mr. Comper's motion are so momentous that it is incumbent upon this Conference to publicly state it's belief that adequate measures should be immediately taken by some authoritative person or organization to bring out the facts involved in this particular strike and it is my judgment that the members of the Conference, particularly the group representing the public, should have available, not surface testimony, but statistical facts that are current concerning this and other labor disputes.

-2- Memorandum of L. D. Wald upon Mr. Gomer's Resolutions.

I would also urge that publicity be given to our convictions that in the spirit in which this Conference was called and in the spirit with which people responded to the call, both sides in the steel controversy take steps, jointly or separately, to secure a Committee or Board that may in essence carry out Mr. Gomer's proposal. The importance of this Conference is so unquestioned and it's business so fraught with the public interest that should such a board be selected it ought not to be drawn from our members. If, however, the people selected are delegates to this Conference they ought to resign, leaving their places for others who will concentrate on the business of the Conference.