ADVISORY COMMITTEE - GENERAL INFORMATION

This conference is certa nly developing its technique more rapidly than that at Paris did. Its quite apparent however that they are building on what Paris did, and then too, they have an infinite advantage in the narrower program and the quieeter in- environment. I went this morning to look at the work of the General information afcommittee of the Advisory Board. Ingalls who used to be with the War Industry Board, is the secretary. A Thompson man, when they came down he said nobody had any idea of what the committee was to do. Some thought it was to be sort of an informa" tion bureau, giving out addresses, locking up lost articles, etc. but quickly they realized their function. As they see it is is their business to find out for the members of the Conf. taxfai what the American people are thinking about each subject that comes up. This means of course that they must make a widespread search of the organis of public opinion. Their first move was to pledge 200 of the leading newspapers of the country to send to them daily all of their editorial special hews matter. The committee sends stamped envelopes and they are sent back promptly. The papers along the Eastern coast to the North arrive early in the morning and are brought by motor cycle to the committee and by 11 o'clock have been digested so that the conf. people can have before them the morning's reactions as far as the East is concerned.

They also draw on the special information of the War, Navy and State depts. They are in touch with the ~ureau of Foreign newspapers, freceiving their comment. They not only take the lead ing paper, but try to get opposition papers, so that no point of view will escape them. They are just adding to their list the labor papers. Of course this is capable of being made an immense service, if the

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opposition as well as the defense is codified.

Talk with Ingals about League of Nations. Evidently he thinks that it is inevitable that we should grow into it. Innotice that their digest after Harding's speech is especially full and almost entirely approval.

This newspaper service is an extension of the service that the Americans carried on at the hotel Crilon. in Paris.(Look up notes in N.Y.) (See Baker's book.)

If all the Americans around the Hotel Crilon could have been gathered into com mittees as this advisory board is and allowed to work off their wasting energies in a thorough study of different parts of the work before that conf. if they had been required then to get their ideas into a report, it would have saved an enormous amount of dissatisfaction. Whether the gentlemen would have contributed much to the delegates one cannot say, but certainly it would have saved an enormous amount of bitter and wasteful opposition. One beauty of the thing here is that there seems to be an organized place into which everybody can fit. You can get your notions before the advisory board through this information committee, for they take the me petitions and memorials and plans and letters,digest them, and if there happens to be anything useful, report it. Of course the government does not directly provide a center of opposition but it has not objected to the distinctly radical association on Limitationo f Armament which has its headquarters here. There seems almost no nat desire to demonstrate here. So far nobody has gotten seriously out of hand, the little flurry of the Chinese students has subsided apparently. The advocates of free India keep up their propaganda, without any disturbance. They go to the press meetings along with the rest, looking sour and fateful. but having every chance that the rest have to ask questions. They are

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spiking the revolutionists' guns here much in the same way that they did Mr. Ledoux at the Unemployment Conf. by inviting him in and letting him talk just as long as he waents to, giving his ideas a chance along with those of the most conservative. Its a much better plan than calling out the police when somebody takes the street corner to say something that you do not agree with.

Yr Comrade —

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