

HOUSE BARS SPELLING IN PRESIDENT'S STYLE

No Public Funds for Printing "Simplified" Documents.

REFORM HAD DEFENDERS

Won Preliminary Skirmish on Point of Order, but Final Vote Was 142 to 25 Against Them.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—President Roosevelt's reformed spelling received its death blow in the House to-day, in so far as concerns its chances of ever becoming the official spelling of the Public Printer, and its opponents are also congratulating themselves that the paragraph in the Legislative Appropriation bill which brings this about will also prevent the President himself from employing his hobby in any official document.

This paragraph in the section of the bill referring to the Government Printing Office follows directly upon a clause increasing the salary of the Public Printer from \$4,500 to \$6,000 a year, and reads:

"No money appropriated in this act shall be used in connection with printing documents authorized by law or ordered by Congress or either branch thereof unless the same shall conform to the orthography generally accepted in the dictionaries of the English language."

It was incorporated in the Legislative bill by a vote of 142 to 25, after the original clause reported from the Appropriations Committee had been stricken out on a point of order.

The President did not lack champions in debate upon the floor. Crumpacker, (Rep.) Indiana; De Armond, (Dem.) Missouri; Shackelford, (Dem.) Missouri; Mann, (Rep.) Illinois, and Payne, (Rep.) New York, were busy raising points of order and employing every means known to parliamentary procedure to defeat the opponents of the President and his simplified spelling, and they did succeed in knocking out the original clause, only to go down before the Bingham amendment. Fighting them at every turn were Gen. Bingham, (Rep.) Pennsylvania; Tawney, (Rep.) Minnesota; Sullivan of Massachusetts, Littauer, (Rep.) New York; Lacey, (Rep.) Iowa, and Gen. Grosvenor, (Rep.) Ohio.

The most solemn man in the House, and his name is Crumpacker, was the first of the President's defenders. He raised a point of order against a paragraph of the Legislative bill, which effectually prevented the adoption of simplified spelling in Government printing, asserting that it changed existing law. He agreed to hold his point in reserve, and Representative Sullivan came forward.

"I hope you will not become the champion of the President in this new attempt at Executive usurpation," he said. "If the President can change 300 words, he can change the spelling of 300,000. The Public Printer is appointed by the President. He will follow his bidding. Confusion and discord will surely follow, and thus one man out of 80,000,000 will settle the spelling of all. If the President is permitted to do this a new court language for the American Empire will be made by Executive decree."

Chairman Tawney of the Appropriations Committee took the floor to explain the committee's slap at Executive order spelling and revealed fearful conditions in the Brander Mathewized printing office. Mr. Tawney was not humorous; he was in deadly earnest.

"The foreman told me," he shouted, "that the office was all in the air. When they got a Supreme Court brief one page of it would be printed in one style of spelling and another in another. Unless this provision is adopted there will be chaos! chaos!"

Here Mr. Crumpacker came to the rescue of Carnegie and chaos. He insisted on his point of order.

Mr. Lacey promptly rose to argue against the point.

"Suppose the President should order the use of Volapuk or Esperanto," said he, "would it be changing existing law to prohibit that? This is simply a declaration that the English language as she is spoke and spelled shall be preserved as she is. This is not the American language, it is the English language, and we have no more right to change it than they have in Australia or New Zealand."

"To now adopt this legislation," replied Crumpacker, splitting infinitives with reckless prodigality, "would be to seriously retard the gradual reform in spelling which is going on all the time."

This fired the train to Tawney, who exploded with a loud bang.

"Has Congress," he detonated, jumping up and waving his hand wildly at the solemn Crumpacker, "less power in that regard than the Chief Executive? What will be the effect on the language of the President's executive order?"

Crumpacker dodged, and Grosvenor got the floor, wanting to know if Congress

had not the power to curtail the whims of the Public Printer.

"Suppose," he said, "he prints in Choc-taw and spends a lot of money doing it. Can't we stop that?"

"I observe a significant fact," interrupted Mr. Towne. "This clause appears in Page 23, Paragraph 23, and Line 23 of the bill, and it ought to be on its way."

"Not yet," snapped Grosvenor. "I am in that 'twenty-three' list myself, and if I read the New York papers aright, so is the gentleman from New York. The last campaign put us both there, and that was in violation of existing lawmakers and yet it wasn't subject to a point of order."

"Before going too far," said Mr. De Armond, the assistant Democratic leader, "it is well to consider if we are likely to be embroiled with Great Britain for legislating the language out of existence. The language was theirs before it was ours. I believe, however, that with the increase of the navy which is going on we need not hesitate to make some changes."

"Why should not a man, in office or out of it, have some individuality in spelling? Why should he not gratify his tastes? Why circumscribe him?"

Mr. Crumpacker demanded a ruling on his point of order, and when Col. Hepburn, who occupied the Chair, ruled in his favor, the opponents of simplified spelling were routed for a moment. It was only for a moment, however.

Gen. Bingham arose with the substitute resolution given above, which covered the same ground as that which had been stricken from the bill, and yet was not open to a point of order. Although it was a forlorn hope, the President's champions returned to the attack.

For an hour the old arguments were gone over until at last the House shouted in unison for a vote and adopted the amendment.