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WARNS THE PRESIDENT TO AVENGE THE SUSSEX

Frank J. Sprague Predicts That Wilson Will Be Defeated If He Yields to Germany.

Frank J. Sprague, President of the Sprague Corporations, member of the Naval Consulting Board, and an Annapolis graduate of the class of 1878, sent the following telegram to President Wilson last night:

The President, Washington, D. C.

If, as now seems certain, the *Sussex* was sunk by a German submarine, the hitherto unparalleled crime of the destruction of the *Lusitania* is outdone, and every promise made to you and these United States is but an insolent mockery. In such case continued intercourse with the German Government or harboring of its representatives is unthinkable, and this conclusion is not affected by the actual escape of death of American citizens whose lives have been jeopardized.

It is evident that whatever advantages may be reaped from a renewal of the practices of frightfulness are considered as far outweighing any loss of American friendship. In fact it is but fair to conclude that Germany does not believe that there will be any diplomatic break, however vile her acts and however at variance they are to her pledged word.

Her Ambassador has had the effrontery to state that a diplomatic break meant war, a threat which can only mean in reality the possibility of even more unbridled attacks upon Americans whether traveling on foreign or domestic ships, and a suggested German uprising in this country. Such threats have not disturbed even so small a State as Portugal.

If these are the alternatives of submission to the upholding of American rights, then let the air be cleared, and I and mine, as well as millions of others of your countrymen, are ready for the test and any sacrifices which may follow.

No one acquainted with German discipline believes for one moment that a submarine commander would dare sink the *Sussex* unless his orders gave him direct authority or ample latitude

of judgment. Hence no satisfactory disavowal by Germany is conceivable unless attended by verbatim copies of all orders issued by her State and Naval Departments for the guidance of submarine officers. And in case disobedience of such orders is claimed such display of instructions should be accompanied by the record of immediate sentence of death by court-martial of the offending officer and the carrying out of the penalty in the presence of an American representative. In this connection the drastic language of the Austrian demand on Serbia may be recalled.

The time for letter parley with a Government which only respects force, and which says one thing while in its heart and by its act it means the contrary, has passed, and if this latest and unspeakable outrage upon humanity and upon the sovereignty of this nation goes unpunished, then not only Germany but every American may safely assume that there is no present offense so heinous as to stir this country to action.

Speaking politically, should unhappily this be the result of the attitude of the present Administration, as voiced by yourself and the Secretary of State or as determined in conjunction with the Foreign Relations Committees of the Senate and the House, I do not believe that you can command the suffrage of one in a thousand of all those of differing political faith who, for placing the country's welfare above partisanship, voted for you and have worked and hoped for your success in full realization of the many and great trials and difficulties besetting your high office, and your political opponents will next November send the Democratic Party down to one of the worst defeats known in American history.

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of Electrical and Consulting Engineers
and New York Electrical Society.