

Espionage Act of 1917, June 15, 1917

(Contains Transcribed Excerpts, Pg. 3 of Document)

SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS. SESS. I. CH. 30. 1917.

219

whoever, in time of war, with intent that the same shall be communicated to the enemy, shall collect, record, publish, or communicate, or attempt to elicit any information with respect to the movement, numbers, description, condition, or disposition of any of the armed forces, ships, aircraft, or war materials of the United States, or with respect to the plans or conduct, or supposed plans or conduct of any naval or military operations, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for or connected with, or intended for the fortification or defense of any place, or any other information relating to the public defense, which might be useful to the enemy, shall be punished by death or by imprisonment for not more than thirty years.

SEC. 3. Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies and whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States, or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States, to the injury of the service or of the United States, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both.

SEC. 4. If two or more persons conspire to violate the provisions of sections two or three of this title, and one or more of such persons does any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be punished as in said sections provided in the case of the doing of the act the accomplishment of which is the object of such conspiracy. Except as above provided conspiracies to commit offenses under this title shall be punished as provided by section thirty-seven of the Act to codify, revise, and amend the penal laws of the United States approved March fourth, nineteen hundred and nine.

SEC. 5. Whoever harbors or conceals any person who he knows, or has reasonable grounds to believe or suspect, has committed, or is about to commit, an offense under this title shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

SEC. 6. The President in time of war or in case of national emergency may by proclamation designate any place other than those set forth in subsection (a) of section one hereof in which anything for the use of the Army or Navy is being prepared or constructed or stored as a prohibited place for the purposes of this title: *Provided*, That he shall determine that information with respect thereto would be prejudicial to the national defense.

SEC. 7. Nothing contained in this title shall be deemed to limit the jurisdiction of the general courts-martial, military commissions, or naval courts-martial under sections thirteen hundred and forty-two, thirteen hundred and forty-three, and sixteen hundred and twenty-four of the Revised Statutes as amended.

SEC. 8. The provisions of this title shall extend to all Territories, possessions, and places subject to the jurisdiction of the United States whether or not contiguous thereto, and offenses under this title when committed upon the high seas or elsewhere within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States and outside the territorial limits thereof shall be punishable hereunder.

SEC. 9. The Act entitled "An Act to prevent the disclosure of national defense secrets," approved March third, nineteen hundred and eleven, is hereby repealed.

Gathering for enemy in time of war, information of armed forces, etc.

Plans of public defense, etc.

Punishment for. Making false statements to interfere with operation of national forces, etc. *Post*, p. 553.

Inciting disloyalty, etc.

Obstructing enlistments.

Punishment for.

Liability for conspiring to do prohibited acts.

Other punishment. Vol. 35, p. 1096.

Punishment for concealing offenders, etc.

Designation of other prohibited places.

Ante, p. 218.

Proviso. Condition determining.

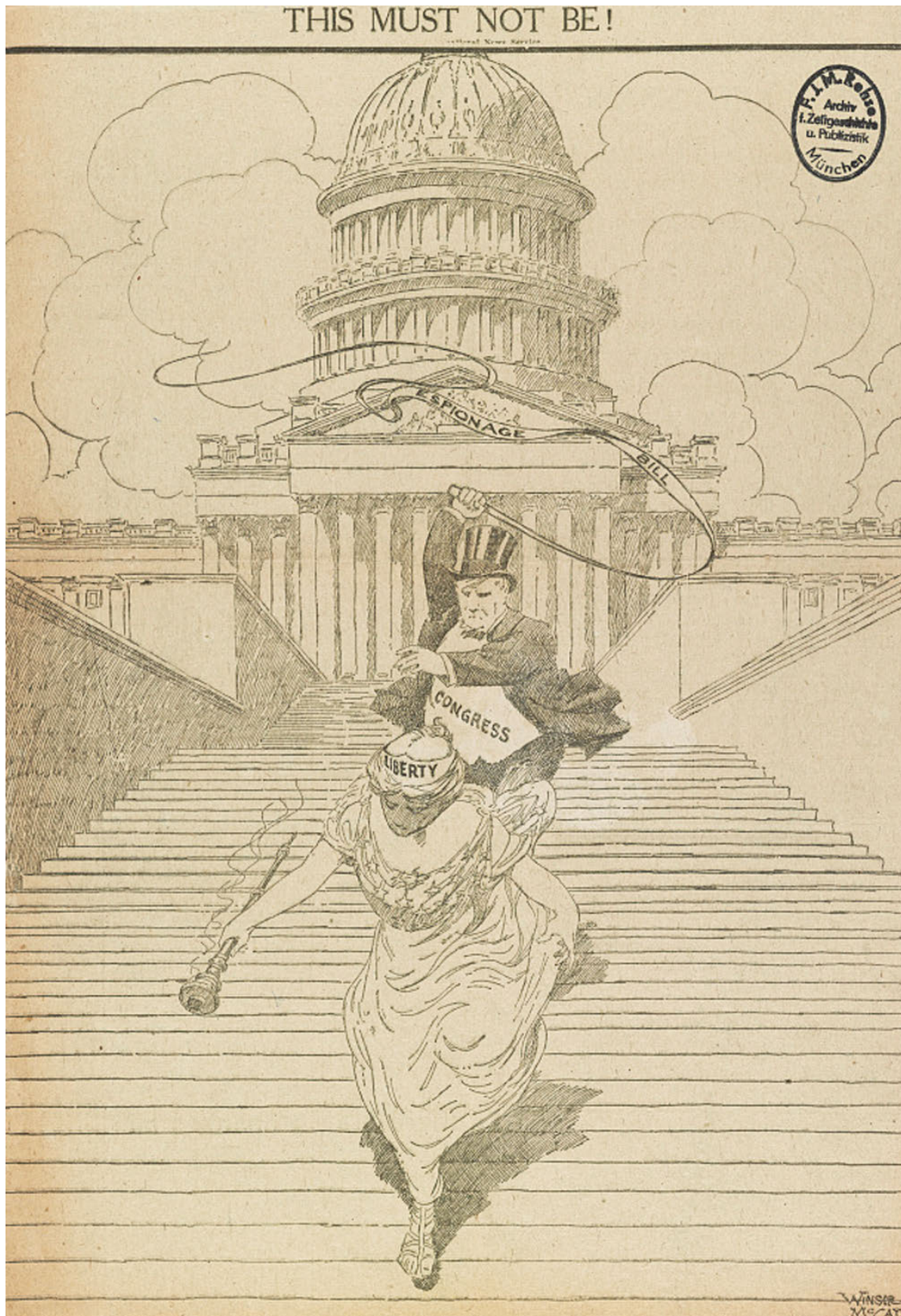
Courts-martial, etc., jurisdiction not affected. R. S., secs. 1342, 1343, 1624; pp. 230, 242, 275. Vol. 39, p. 650; Vol. 35, p. 621.

All possessions of the United States included.

Offenses on high seas, etc.

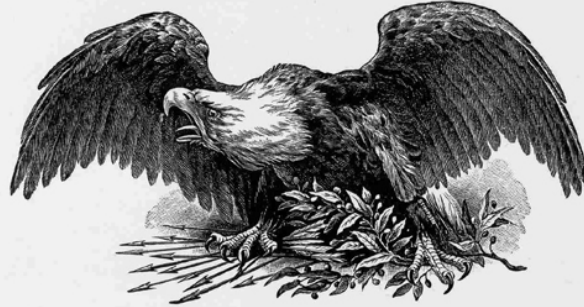
Former Act repealed. Vol. 36, p. 1084.

“This Must Not Be!,” May 2, 1917



McCay, Winsor, “This Must Not Be!” New York Journal-American, 2 May 1917. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Anti-German, Pro-American Soldier Broadside, May 2, 1918



From Vantage Points in America Pro-Germanism Shoots in the Back with Poisoned Bullets Our Boys "Over There"

GERMAN language papers, the teaching of German in public schools, the singing in any school of German songs, should be vigorously suppressed.

The very thought of Germany and of Germany's past and future must be made so odious and hateful to all decent human beings that the word German will for generations to come carry the meaning of all that is vile and inhuman wherever heard.

The world's civilization and the strength of our moral forces demand that all that is German in name or thought or deed must be regarded from the cradle to the grave as we now think of lustful, brutish beasts, of murderers, of treacherous scoundrels, of all the vilest criminals who have sunk to the lowest depth of human rottenness.

Not to think of Germany in this way would be to prove our own moral flabbiness and our own readiness to count as a bosom friend the unrepentant outrager of womanhood and the murderer of helpless infants.

The criminal, who standing by the side of the cradle murders in cold blood the helpless infant whom God had sent to bless the earth, is not more to be despised than Germany.

The lecherous scoundrel who betrays and outrages the innocent is not more deeply sunk in sin than Germany.

The murderer who, in order to enrich himself, kills the sleeping family and burns the dwelling has as his equals in foul depravity and devil-guided work millions and millions of Germans.

Germany the accursed is possessed of the devil and by the devil, and for its own financial aggrandizement murders, outrages, burns, starves, blisters unto death with its hellfire and smothers with hell-devised deadly gases millions of the very flower of our civilization.

Your boy and your neighbor's boy must stand between the women of this land and these brutish beasts—all because Germany for half a century has been training its armies and teaching its people to take whatever they wanted wherever and whenever they had the power, regardless of morality or of right and wrong.

Therefore Germany must be made odious to all the world, and no honest-hearted, pure-minded man or woman should during the life of this generation ever deal with a pro-German, ever buy or sell a German-made product, ever associate with a pro-German.

Ostracism in business and in private life should be the penalty of pro-Germanism, and he who fails to pursue this policy will show that he regards business or social ties more highly than morality and honor, and that he has no hatred of murder or lust or all the other vile crimes which have brought to the world the greatest sorrow and anguish ever known.

Let the nation therefore move with energy and unswerving determination to crush the reptile propaganda which has wormed its way into our nation and which now seeks to sink its poisoned venom into the breast that has warmed it into life.

"Locate, eliminate and exterminate" all that is pro-German in language, in thought or in deed, wherever found and under whatever guise.

We fight the most desperate, hell-devised power which humanity has ever faced, and if we show mercy it will be counted as weakness, and if we should punish not the guilty without any sentimental, neurotic ideas of morality such as those of degenerate women who write scented notes to murderers and bedeck the cells of rapists, we would cease to have any individual or national morality.

War, accursed war, war of murder, is being made against us, and we must fight to live.

We must fight Germany and pro-Germanism in whatever form they appear and utterly destroy their power for evil now in evidence throughout our country. Our beloved boys from "over there" call us to heroic work here to stand behind them and destroy those who are stabbing them in the back from vantage points in America.

May 2, 1918

By **RICHARD H. EDMONDS**, Editor *Manufacturers Record*, Baltimore, Md.

“Liberty Under the Law” - Sen. Warren G. Harding’s Speech, July 22, 1920

Sen. Warren G. Harding’s Speech to Americans about their “Liberty Under the Law”

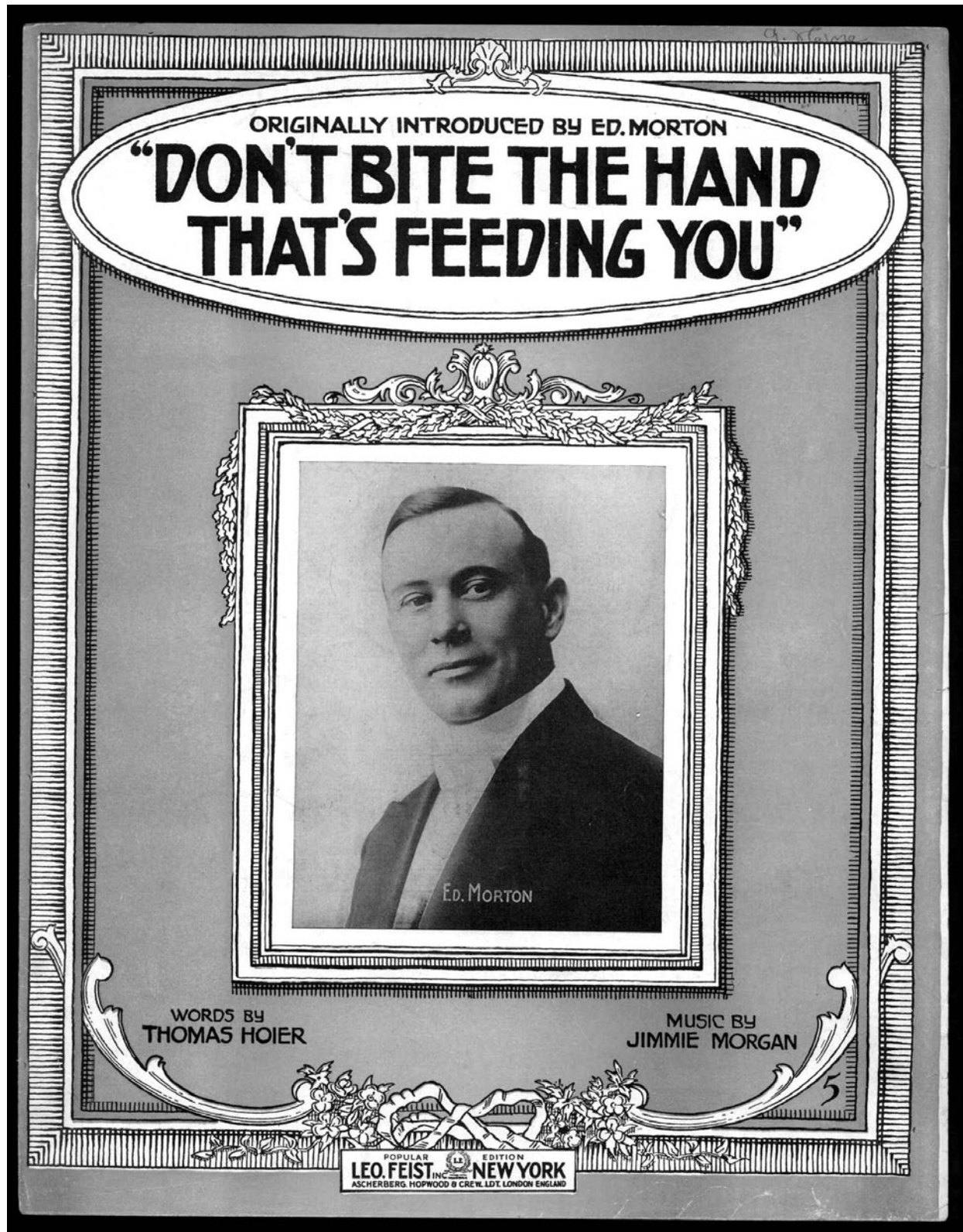
My countrymen, the menacing tendency of the present day is not chargeable wholly to the unsettled and feverish conditions caused by the war. The manifest weakness in popular government lies in the temptation to appeal to group citizenship for political advantage. There is no greater peril. The Constitution contemplates no class and recognizes no group. It broadly includes all the people with specific recognition for none, and the highest consecration we can make today is a committal of the Republican party to that saving constitutionalism which contemplates all America as one people and holds just government free from influence on the one hand, and unmoved by intimidation on the other.

It would be the blindness of folly to ignore the activities in our own country which are aimed to destroy our economic system and to commit us to the colossal tragedy which has both destroyed all freedom and made Russia impotent. This movement is not to be halted in throttled liberties. We must not abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of press, or the freedom of assembly, because there is no promise in repression. These liberties are as sacred as the freedom of religious beliefs, as inviolable as the rights of life and the pursuit of happiness. We do hold to the right to crush sedition, to stifle a menacing contempt for law, to stamp out a peril to the safety of the Republic or its people when emergency calls, because security and the majesty of the law are the first essentials of liberty. He who threatens destruction of the government by force, or flaunts his contempt for lawful authority, ceases to be a loyal citizen and forfeits his right to the freedom of the Republic.

Let it be said to all of America that our plan of popular government contemplates such orderly changes as the crystallized intelligence of the majority of our people think best. There can be no modification of this underlying rule, but no majority shall abridge the rights of a minority. Men have a right to question our system in fullest freedom. But they must always remember that the rights of freedom impose the obligations which maintain it. Our policy is not of repression. But we make appeal today to American intelligence and patriotism, when the Republic is menaced from within, just as we trusted American patriotism when our rights were threatened from without.


We call on all America for steadiness, so that we may proceed deliberately with the readjustment which concerns all the people. Our party platform fairly expresses the conscience of Republicans on industrial relations. No party is indifferent to the welfare of the wage earner. To us, his good fortune is of deepest concern, and we seek to make that good fortune permanent. We do not oppose, but approve, collective bargaining, because that is an outstanding right, but we are unalterably insistent that its exercise must not destroy the equally sacred right of the individual in his necessary pursuit of a livelihood. Any American has the right to quit his employment, so has every American the right to seek employment. The group must not endanger the individual, and we must discourage groups preying upon one another. And none shall be allowed to forget that government’s obligations are alike to all the people.

“Don’t Bite the Hand that’s Feeding You,” 1915 (Pg. 1)




Morgan, Jimmie, Hoier, Thomas and Leo Feist, “Don’t Bite the Hand That’s Feeding You,” 1915. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Don’t Bite the Hand that’s Feeding You,” 1915 (Pg. 2)



SONGS THAT SHOULD BE IN EVERY HOME!



A Love Episode in a New Setting, a Hit from coast to coast.
“Down Among The Sheltering Palms”
 by James Brockman & Abe Oleman

CHORUS *p-f*

Down a-mong the shel-ter-ing palms, O hon-ey, wait for me, O hon-ey, wait for me; Meet me down by the

A Fascinating Indian Love Ballad.
“My Pretty Firefly”
 by Stanley Murphy, Jack Glogau & Al. Piantadosi

CHORUS *p-f*

My pret-ty Fi-re-fly, For you I'll live and die, And 'neath the west-ern sky, If you say,

A Catchy, Irresistible, Tune-ful Oriental Melody. A Big Hit!
“I Want To Go To Tokio”
 by Joe Mc Carthy & Fred. Fischer

CHORUS *p-f*

I sing a-high sing a-lee sing a-low; That means I want to go to To-ki-o, I got a sweet-heart who's

A Masterpiece Melody by Fred. Fischer, - the King of Popular Melody Writers.
“If The World Should End Tomorrow, I'd Be Tonight With You”
 Words by Arthur J. Jackson

REFRAIN *passionato* *mf*

I would love you till the skies would fall, I would love you till the end of all, I would

A Hypnotizing Melody that deals with the oldest Theme in the world in the newest way.
“If We Can't Be The Same Old Sweethearts, We'll Just Be The Same Old Friends”
 by Joe Mc Carthy & Jimmie V. Monaco

CHORUS *p-f*

If we can't be the same old sweet-hearts, Then we'll just be the same old friends, For I want some-one like you, Just to

You can get above Songs from your Dealer or Direct from us at 15 cents each, postpaid.
 Published and Copyrighted by LEO. FEIST, Inc., Feist Building, 231-235 W. 40th St., New York. A-42
 You can also get above pieces for your Talking Machine or Player Piano.

"Don't Bite the Hand that's Feeding You," 1915 (Pg. 3)

3

Don't Bite The Hand That's Feeding You

Words by THOMAS HOIER Music by JIMMIE MORGAN

Tempo di Marcia

Till Ready

Last night, as I lay a -
You re - call the day you

sleep - ing, A won - der - ful dream came to me, I
land - ed, How I wel - comed you to my shore, When

saw Un - cle Sam - my weep - ing For his child - ren from o - ver the sea;
you came here emp - ty hand - ed, And al - leg - iance for - ev - er you swore;

Copyright MCMXV by LEO FEIST Inc. Feist Building N.Y.
International Copyright secured and reserved
London-Ascherberg, Hopwood & Crew, Limited

3309-3

"Don't Bite the Hand that's Feeding You," 1915 (Pg. 4)

4

— They had come to him, friend-less and starv - ing, — When from
— I — gath - ered you close to my bos - om, — Of —

ty - rant's op - pres - sion they fled, — But now they a -
food and of clothes you got both, — So, when in

buse and re-vile him, — Till at last in just ang er he said: —
troub - le, I need you, — You will have to re - mem - ber your oath: —

CHORUS

"If you don't like — your Un-cle Sam-my, — Then go back to your home o'er the sea, —

3309-3

“Don’t Bite the Hand that’s Feeding You,” 1915 (Pg. 5)

5

— To the land from where you came, What-ev-er be its name; But don't be un-

grate-ful to me! If you don't like the stars in Old Glor-y, If you

don't like the Red, White and Blue, Then don't act like the cur in the

stor-y, Don't bite the hand that's feed-ing you? "If you you?"

3309-3

FELLER, SONS & DORNER, NEW-YORK.

Morgan, Jimmie, Hoier, Thomas and Leo Feist, "Don't Bite the Hand That's Feeding You," 1915. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Language Proclamation Correspondence #1, June 1, 1918

Truter

Sioux City, Ia., 6/1, 1918.

The Hon. W. L. Harding,
Des Moines, Ia.

Harding

My dear Governor:

Long before your proclamation regarding the use of the foreign languages in public meetings the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Sioux City, Ia. has been conducting their services in the English language, and these not only as a side issue. Every Sunday at 10 a. m. we had for those who could not get the full benefit of the English service the very same in the German, and right after this German service we had the English service with the identical and very same sermon as in the German. Likewise in our parochial school the medium of instruction was the English in all eight grades, and since I am pastor, we even introduced to be more in harmony with the public school the public school books; only those branches pertaining the religion were taught in the German. Your proclamation, therefore, was indeed a hard blow for our members who proved their 100% loyalty, and are now prohibited to worship and serve their Lord in communion according to their best ability and conscience.

I guarantee you, Governor, that not one word outside of the Scriptural Truth is brought before the hearers. We strictly adhere to the Lord's principle: "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." Matth. 22, 21. upon which principle even our constitution of this our God-blessed country is framed, where we and our children should enjoy the absolute separation of state and church.

We belong to the Missouri Synod whose founders have left Germany just on account of oppression, and have therefor absolutely no connection whatever with the church in Germany which is not even Lutheran.

Encouraged by the enclosed letter, which I wish to have it returned, I, requested by my members who as before said proved themselves to be loyal, beg you to permit us to conduct our services in both languages.

Very respectfully,

L. A. Mattadiess

Language Proclamation Concern Letter #2, June 3, 1918

M. W. Colbert, Mayor

J. C. Jacobsen, Clerk

Incorporated Town of Danbury, Iowa

Office of the City Clerk

Danbury Ia
June 3rd 1918.

Governor Harding
Dear Sir

I received your proclamation by mail, and before I undertook to do anything, I thought it well to ask you for a little advice. As I want to get on the right road, should I have signs printed, and posted in public places? Also order your proclamation printed in our local paper? Some Mayors are giving the telephone manager, an order to stop foreign languages spoken over the telephone, is it up to the telephone people to look after this, or would it be advisable for the mayor to issue this order. Now I am writing this inquiry, so I will be in the right. Please advise me as soon as possible.

Yours Very Truly
Maurice W. Colbert
(Mayor)

Language Proclamation Concern Letter #3, June 6, 1918

C. A. Gavert
Pastor
Swedish Ev. Luth. Mission Church
1111 Seventh Street

Auto Phone 1848

Sioux City, Iowa,
June 6th, 1918

Governor W. L. Harding
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Governor:-

Forgive me for writing to you in regard to the proclamation regarding the language question here in Iowa.

My church here, the Swedish Mission church in Sioux City, has a membership of 290 about. The church is intensely loyal, and always has been. We have bought Liberty Bonds all of us, and W.S.S., and have an auxiliary Red Cross that meets every Wednesday to sew for our dear soldier boys. Our church have invested this years building fund, which is approximately \$1500, in Thrift Stamps, and we are very proud of it. In every way possible have we helped the country, and will till our dying day.

My members have mostly imigrated when at an advanced age. They are therefore incapacitated to understand a sermon in English, i.e. most of them. It is very pathetic to see them weeping in there homes because they can not gather in church any more to hear the Word of God in their language. Now, my dear Governor I appeal to you, if it would be possible for me to use the Swedish language in the Sunday forenoon services. But Sunday evenings use the English, and thereby get used to the change. I feel so sorry for my members. It is very pathetic, and, therefore, I appeal to you as a man of justice to grant us this favor.

Would you please answer me before Sunday. If the time does not allow to send it by mail, please wire at my expense.

Your humble fellow-citizen,

C. A. Gavert
5

Letter from President Woodrow Wilson to the Nation, July 26, 1918



JULY 26, 1918.

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I take the liberty of addressing you upon a subject which so vitally affects the honor of the Nation and the very character and integrity of our institutions that I trust you will think me justified in speaking very plainly about it.

I allude to the mob spirit which has recently here and there very frequently shown its head amongst us, not in any single region, but in many and widely separated parts of the country. There have been many lynchings, and every one of them has been a blow at the heart of ordered law and humane justice. No man who loves America, no man who really cares for her fame and honor and character, or who is truly loyal to her institutions, can justify mob action while the courts of justice are open and the governments of the States and the Nation are ready and able to do their duty. We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion. Germany has outlawed herself among the nations because she has disregarded the sacred obligations of law and has made lynchings of her armies. Lynchers emulate her disgraceful example. I, for my part, am anxious to see every community in America rise above that level with pride and a fixed resolution which no man or set of men can afford to despise.

We proudly claim to be the champions of democracy. If we really are, in deed and in truth, let us see to it that we do not discredit our own. I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives it any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer, and does more to discredit her by that single disloyalty to her standards of law and of right than the words of her statesmen or the sacrifices of her heroic boys in the trenches can do to make suffering peoples believe her to be their savior. How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples, if we disgrace our own by proving that it is, after all, no protection to the weak? Every mob contributes to German lies about the United States what her most gifted liars can not improve upon by the way of calumny. They can at least say that such things can not happen in Germany except in times of revolution, when law is swept away.

I therefore very earnestly and solemnly beg that the governors of all the States, the law officers of every community, and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States, all who revere America and wish to keep her name without stain or reproach, will cooperate—not passively merely, but actively and watchfully—to make an end of this disgraceful evil. It can not live where the community does not countenance it.

I have called upon the Nation to put its great energy into this war and it has responded—responded with a spirit and a genius for action that has thrilled the world. I now call upon it, upon its men and women everywhere, to see to it that its laws are kept inviolate, its fame untarnished. Let us show our utter contempt for the things that have made this war hideous among the wars of history by showing how those who love liberty and right and justice and are willing to lay down their lives for them upon foreign fields stand ready also to illustrate to all mankind their loyalty to the things at home which they wish to see established everywhere as a blessing and protection to the peoples who have never known the privileges of liberty and self-government. I can never accept any man as a champion of liberty either for ourselves or for the world who does not reverence and obey the laws of our own beloved land, whose laws we ourselves have made. He has adopted the standards of the enemies of his country, whom he affects to despise.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Woodrow Wilson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

75643°—18

WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1918

“Loyalty” - A Speech by the American Ambassador to Germany, 1918 (Pt. 1)



Gerald, James W., “Loyalty,” 1918. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Loyalty” - A Speech by the American Ambassador to Germany, 1918 (Pt. 2)

“Loyalty”

*Ambassador James W. Gerard's warning to German Americans,
“Every citizen must declare himself American -- or traitor!”*

I know that it is hard for Americans to realize the magnitude of the war in which we are involved. We have problems in this war no other nations have. Fortunately, the great majority of American citizens of German descent have, in this great crisis of our history, shown themselves splendidly loyal to our flag. Everyone had a right to sympathize with any warring nation. But now that we are in the war there are only two sides, and the time has come when every citizen must declare himself American -- or traitor!

We must disappoint the Germans who have always believed that the German-Americans here would risk their property, their children's future, and their own neck, and take up arms for the Kaiser. The Foreign Minister of Germany once said to me “your country does not dare do anything against Germany, because we have in your country 500,000 German reservists who will rise in arms against your government if you dare to make a move against Germany.” Well, I told him that that might be so, but that we had 500,001 lamp posts in this country, and that that was where the reservists would be hanging the day after they tried to rise. And if there are any German-Americans here who are so ungrateful for all the benefits they have received that they are still for the Kaiser, there is only one thing to do with them. And that is to hog-tie them, give them back the wooden shoes and the rags they landed in, and ship them back to the Fatherland.

I have travelled this year over all the United States. Through the Alleghenies, the White Mountains, and the Catskills, the Rockies and the Bitterroot Mountains, the Cascades, the Coast Range, and the Sierras. And in all these mountains, there is no animal that bites and kicks and squeals and scratches, that would bite and squeal and scratch equal to a fat German-American, if you commenced to tie him up and told him that he was on his way back to the Kaiser.