

BLANTON CENSURED, FALLS LATER INFANT

House Is Unanimous for Formal Rebuke After Expulsion Proposal Fails.

BRAVADO FAILS IN SPEECH

Only 8 Votes Lacking in Nec- essary Two-thirds to Expel Texan for Vile Remarks.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Thomas L. Blanton, Democrat of Texas, was publicly censured by the Speaker in the House of Representatives today for "obscene" and "indecent" matter he had inserted in the Congressional Record after a resolution to expel him had failed by eight votes to obtain the necessary two-thirds. The vote for expulsion was 203 to 113 and for censure 293 to 0.

With the galleries filled with men and women who had listened for three hours to his colleagues condemning his act, Mr. Blanton, escorted by the Sergeant at Arms, walked slowly and sadly to the bar of the House.

"Mr. Blanton," said the Speaker, "by unanimous vote of the house, 293 yeas, nays none, I have been directed to censure you because when you had been allowed by the courtesy of the House to print a speech which you did not deliver upon the floor, you inserted in it foul and obscene matter which you knew could not have been delivered on the floor, and that disgusting matter which could not have been circulated through the mails in any other publication without crime was transmitted to thousands of homes and libraries throughout the country to be read by men and women, and, worst of all, by children, whose prurient curiosity would be excited by it. Because of that I have been directed to pronounce, and I hereby pronounce upon you, the censure of the House."

As he stood under the gaze of the gallery and of the House Mr. Blanton turned ashen and almost ran from the floor when the Speaker had completed the sentence. In the corridor he fell exhausted, striking his head on the marble floor. He rested a few minutes on a couch, refused medical aid, and shuffled to his office, tears running down his face as he forced his way between spectators and members who were leaving the session.

Blanton Shows Strain.

The bravado which marked his defense early in the day was absent as Blanton came before the bar toward the close of the day. The reaction of a man facing one of the most severe sentences possible to be administered by the House, was apparent. His features were drawn and his eyes showed plainly that he had been weeping during the two hours he had waited with his family, the verdict of his fellow-members. Even the Sergeant-at-Arms deserted him when he had placed him at the bar of the house, and he stood there alone, with the hisses reaching him.

Thirty Republicans voted against expulsion, and six Democrats voted for expulsion. Representative London, Socialist of New York, voted against expulsion, while Representative Sumners, Democrat, of Texas, an old political foe of Blanton, voted "Present."

There was a hush in the House when at 12:10 o'clock Representative Mondell,

Continued on Page Two,

The New York Times

Published: October 28, 1921

Copyright © The New York Times

BLANTON CENSURED. FALLS LATER IN FAINT

Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

Republican floor leader and author of the expulsion resolution, arose and began to indict the member from Texas, who sat across the aisle on the second row of the Democratic side. As he spoke in severe and condemnatory sentences of the action of Mr. Blanton, the latter sat unmoved. He kept nervously covering his eyes and listened without moving.

Mr. Mondell cited the circumstances surrounding the printing of the objectionable matter and then proceeded to indict Mr. Blanton in the following words:

"Unfortunately, the subject matter forming the basis of the charge is of such a character that it cannot be presented on this floor. Were I to cite, or even to offer, a small portion of these words, I should myself be subject to expulsion. Any one speaking the words contained in the Congressional Record would be subject to fine and imprisonment under the laws of the land. We can say no more in regard to the words upon which this charge is based than that they are unspeakable, vile, foul, filthy, profane, blasphemous and obscene.

"There is not a member who will not say that it is the vilest thing he has ever seen in print. Men do some things in anger, for which we forgive them. Men commit crimes under sudden uncontrollable impulses, for which we must be lenient. This crime against this House, its dignity, its honor, this crime against decency, against every law and usage of civilized man, was done deliberately, purposely, intentionally, without either regard for the law, for the statutes, or for the honor of this House."

Mr. Blanton was then allowed an hour for his defense. He spoke from the "well" of the House, and at first appeared contrite and willing to concede he had erred. But his manner changed toward the end and he declared that his conscience would not permit him to retract a thing he had done conscientiously. He refused to show regret, but won some sympathy as he explained how he had worked his way, and had lived an honorable life, but this was wiped out when his time was extended half an hour, and he declared that he would send the objectionable document to every man in the United States if he had the funds.

Seeing that he had lost the sympathy he had gained, he rushed from the chamber, without taking up the time allotted to him.

"Knowing its importance to two humble citizens of the United States, who had appealed to me as a representative of this Government for protection under the Constitution in their guaranteed rights," he said, "I delivered such remarks to the messenger, Mr. Sam Robinson, about 6 or 7 or 8 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, requesting that the same be published that night without fail in the Record. In every offense against the law the main ingredient is the intent. Who has sought in this case to ascertain the intent?"

"As God is my witness, I had no intent other than protecting citizens in their rights guaranteed under the Constitution and being of service to my country under my oath through apprising Congress and the Administration of

the awful conditions existing in the printing office. Desperate situations demand extreme means."

"I caused all improper words to be abbreviated exactly in the same manner as on the official court records in Texas," he continued. "Exactly such a course was pursued by the Government Printing Office itself with House Document No. 157, Sixty-sixth Congress, first session, which contained a report of Director John B. Densmore of the manner in which he used the dictograph in the office of the prosecuting attorney at San Francisco to obtain hoped-for evidence."

Mr. Blanton said he had been advised by one of the ablest lawyers in New York that the Congressional Record report of his remarks is mailable and asked that, with the objectionable affidavit stricken out, they be placed in the record. Mr. Mondell objected, declaring: "Any gentleman who can print anything of the villainess of that nature should not have leave to print any remarks in the record."

Mr. Blanton told of his life's history, beginning with his boyhood days on a dairy farm and related subsequent experiences in working his way through college.

"Forty-nine years I had lived in this land," he added. "What had I been guilty of during those forty-nine years? What act of moral turpitude?"

"Gentlemen, if I could have convinced myself that I had done wrong, I would be willing to get on my knees to every man in this house and beg his forgiveness. I would have come to you like a man, and have gotten on my knees to say that I had done wrong and have asked you to forgive me.

Says He Would Take His Medicine.

"But do you think when I have a conscientious feeling that I have done my duty that I would buy my office at any such price? This office means much to me. When I came here I was fairly well to do. In the fight that I have been making, conscientiously and earnestly, since I have been here to prevent this Government from becoming Sovietized, I have spent piece after piece of property. I caused first one good, fine bungalow to be gotten ready for sale and then another, and my good wife consented each time.

"When you kick me out today, I shall go home with borrowed money to pay my railroad fare—but I am not using that as any excuse for your action. You have a right to kick me out, if you think best, and I shall take my medicine. They say that I am a hard fighter but my fight seems to be over in the House. Show me an adversary that I have ever hit beneath the belt. Show me one. I am a fighter, but a fair fighter. I have never said one word about the House of Representatives, or its members, on the outside that I have not stood before you face to face and said it to your teeth.

"And I am a man who never squawks when my adversary's cold steel pierces my vitals. Gentlemen, I do not apologize to you, because in my inner consciousness of heart, with God as my witness, I do not believe that I have done wrong, or that I have done anything more than my duty."

Representative Finis J. Garrett, Acting Democratic leader, sought to have his resolution of censure substituted for that of the resolution of expulsion. Mr. Mondell made the point of order that it was not germane and the point was sustained. Mr. Garrett then informed the House he would present the resolution later. He and others pleaded for censure rather than the expulsion, insisting there was no intention of being indecent, but merely a desire to show a condition existing between organized and non-organized labor in the printing office. Representative Pou of North Carolina, Con-

nely, Black and Rayburn of Texas spoke along the same lines.

Text of the Resolution.

After the resolution of expulsion failed Representative Garrett called up his resolution of censure, which was adopted unanimously, with twenty-six members voting "Present." It reads:

"Whereas Thomas L. Blanton, a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas, did on the 4th day of October, 1921, ask unanimous consent to extend his remarks in the Congressional Record upon the improvements in the Government Printing Office, which consent was granted by the House, and

"Whereas, under such permission obtained the said Thomas L. Blanton did insert and cause to be printed in the Congressional Record for Saturday, Oct. 22, 1921, a certain letter or communication purporting to have been written by one Millard French to George H. Carter, Public Printer, which said communication contained language that was indecent, obscene, vulgar and vile as to render it unmailable had it been contained in any other than an official publication; and

"Whereas, The said Thomas L. Blanton, by taking the responsibility of inserting such matter in the Congressional Record, has offered an indignity to the House of which he is a member and to the people represented by the membership of the Congress, whose official organ the publication is for which he deserves the severest rebuke and drastic censure of the House; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the said Thomas L. Blanton be and is hereby voted the censure of this body and the Speaker of the House is hereby directed to summon him to the bar of the House and deliver to him its reprimand and censure."