

PRESIDENT RESENTS NEGRO'S CRITICISM

**Refuses to be Cross-Questioned
About Racial Segregation
in Government Offices.**

STANDS BY HIS POLICY

**"Two Years Ago You Were Thought
to be a Second Lincoln," Said
Equal Rights Spokesman.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—Segregation of white and negro civil service employes in Government departments, a system inaugurated during the present Administration, is to be continued. President Wilson made clear his views on the subject today when he received a delegation representing the National Independence Equal Rights League. The President resented the attitude of the spokesman, William Monroe Trotter, of Boston, who was quoted as having attempted to cross-examine Mr. Wilson, when the President explained that the question was not a political one, and that he would not be influenced in his decision by the threats of the league to oppose the Democratic Party.

President Wilson informed the delegation that never since he had been in office had he been addressed in such an insulting fashion. He said that if at any time in the future he should consent to receive representatives of the league, that body would have to designate another spokesman. After the interview, which had been scheduled for fifteen minutes, had continued for nearly an hour, the President rebuked Trotter for the aggressiveness of his attitude and dismissed the delegation.

The President said the policy of segregation had been enforced for the comfort and the best interests of both races in order to overcome friction. He made it clear that he had endeavored in every way to assist the negro race toward its independent development, and assured the delegation that he would gladly investigate any individual cases of discrimination which they might from time to time present to him. The problem, he said, was one which had no place in politics.

Talks of Negro Bolt.

When the President had concluded his remarks, Trotter stepped forward and began questioning Mr. Wilson. He suggested that unless the Administration abandoned the segregation policy the Democratic Party could expect the united opposition of the negro voters in 1916. He charged that the Administration had been influenced in its decision by Secretary McAdoo, Postmaster General Burlison, and John Skelton Williams, Controller of the Currency.

"Two years ago," said Trotter, "you were thought to be a second Abraham Lincoln"—the President tried to interrupt, asking that personalities be left out of the discussion. Trotter continued to speak, and the President finally told him that if the organization he represented wished to approach him again it must choose another spokesman, adding that he had enjoyed listening to the other members of the committee, but that Trotter's tone was offensive.

Here Trotter denied that he had any passion, but the President told him he had spoiled the cause for which he had come and said he expected those who professed to be Christians to come to him in a Christian spirit.

Trotter continued to argue that he was merely trying to show how the negro race felt, and asserted that he and others were now being branded as traitors to their race because they advised the colored people "to support the ticket."

This mention of votes caused Mr. Wilson to say that politics must be left out, because it was a form of blackmail. He said he would resent it as quickly from one set of men as from another, and that his auditors could vote as they pleased, it mattered little to him, so long as he was sure he was doing the right thing and at the right time.

The President spoke frankly saying that if the colored people had made a mistake in voting for him they ought to correct it, but that he would insist that politics should not be brought into the question because it was not a political problem. With some emotion he asserted he was not seeking office, and that a man who sought the office of the Presidency was a fool for his pains. He spoke of the intolerable burden of the office and of things which he had to do which were more than the human spirit could carry.

Merely a Human Problem.

Emphasizing that he did not care in the least for the political considerations involved, Mr. Wilson urged that he wanted his auditors to understand that it was a human problem and not a political problem. While the American people wanted to support the advancement of the negro, the President was sure that as practical men everybody knew that there was a point at which friction is apt to occur. The question must be stripped of sentiment and viewed in its fact, because the facts got the better of the individual whether one desired it or not.

Trotter then led the way from the President's office. Once outside Trotter said:

"What the President told us was entirely disappointing. His statement that segregation was intended to prevent racial friction is not supported by facts. For fifty years negro and white employes have worked together in the Government departments in Washington. It was not until the present Administration came in that segregation was drastically introduced, and only because of the racial prejudices of John Skelton Williams, Secretary McAdoo and Postmaster General Burlison."

Others in the delegation included the Rev. Byron Gunner, of Hillburn, N. Y., President of the league; Thomas Walker, Chairman of the Washington branch of the league; M. W. Spencer, of Wilmington, Del.; the Rev. E. E. Ricks, and F. Morris Murray, of Virginia.

As the delegation was leaving the White House, Trotter announced that a mass meeting would be held next Sunday at the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington to protest against the attitude of the Administration.