

54TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 371.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

Mr. HELGENSEN introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Ordering a referendum of the question of whether or not we shall declare war.

Whereas the United States has been insidiously dragged toward entanglement in the European war; and

Whereas through various propagandic agitations a war sentiment is being artificially engendered in this country; and

Whereas the horrors of war have never been more fitly described than in the immortal words of the late illustrious General Sherman, who said that "war is hell"; and

Whereas a declaration of war by the United States will bring untold sorrow and misery into hundreds of thousands of American homes, and hundreds of thousands of American wives and mothers will see their sons and husbands torn from them to die in the trenches; and

Whereas the question as to whom belongs the right to decide our foreign policies and whether war shall be declared or shall not be declared is lost sight of; and

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the appointment of a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives to provide a bill providing the farmers of the United States with better credit facilities for short-time personal loans.

By Mr. PARK.

FEBRUARY 14, 1917.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

Whereas we have but one authority with power to declare war, namely, the authority granted by the Constitution only to the Congress of these United States; and

Whereas the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of these United States recognize the inherent, inalienable right of the people of the United States to instruct their Government to do the will of the people: Therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That the Congress order a referendum of the question as to

4 whether or not we shall declare war to the people of these

5 United States (except in case of threatened invasion), so

6 that the will of the people on this vital question may be made

7 known to the Congress.

8 SEC. 2. That (except in case of threatened invasion)

9 the President shall take no action that may tend to involve

10 the United States in war until the result of said referendum

11 shall be made known to the Congress.

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JOINT RESOLUTION

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By Mr. [Name]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives

of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Congress order a referendum of the question as to whether or not we shall declare war to the people of these United States (except in case of threatened invasion), so that the will of the people on this vital question may be made known to the Congress.

SEC. 2. That (except in case of threatened invasion) the President shall take no action that may tend to involve the United States in war until the result of said referendum shall be made known to the Congress.