

Congress Drops Separate Board For Air Fleets

Senate and House Heads
Join For Daniels—
Baker Plan.

Special to The Free Press.
Washington, June 27.—The administration's \$600,000,000 bill for a great air fleet will provide for a broad expansion of the powers to be exercised by four big government boards, whose activities are to be closely co-ordinated in perfecting the general aircraft scheme.

These boards are the national advisory commission, the aircraft production board of the council of national defense, the joint board of the army and navy on cognizance and the airplane technical board.

Agreement is Reached.

Decision to lodge the widest authority in these bodies and to make them the directing force in carrying to completion the aircraft plans projected, was reached tonight following a conference participated in by Rear Admiral David W. Taylor, chief constructor of the navy; Brigadier General George O. Squier, chief of the signal corps of the army, and leaders of the senate and house.

The proposal to establish a separate department on aeronautics virtually was dumped overboard tonight. Both senate and house leaders who formerly championed the suggestion acquiesced in the view expressed by Secretaries Baker and Daniels that the air fleet bill should leave to the agencies already organized the matter of executing the program.

Senators Brady and Sheppard, ardent spokesmen in the senate in behalf of a separate aeronautical department, have dropped, for the time being, efforts to press the Sheppard-Hulbert bill.

Executive Hearings Continued.

The senate sub-committee on military affairs, of which Senator Sheppard is chairman, today continued in executive session hearings on the Sheppard-Hulbert bill. Rear Admiral Taylor and Brigadier General Squier were the only witnesses.

Both were unqualified in opposition to the creation of an independent aero department. Their statements that such a step would be unwise from a military standpoint and would serve to upset war plans, already under way, were supported by exhaustive facts and figures which were made a part of the record. The testimony of the army and navy chiefs was not made public.

Senator Sheppard announced the administration's bill would be ready for transmission to both houses of congress by the end of the week.

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