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CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS

by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME I

August 21, 1923 - December 28, 1923

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Coolidge Collection

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VOLUME 1

August 21, 1923 - December 29, 1923

The White House

Washington

March 3, 1929

My dear Mr. Harrison:

By direction of the President I sent to you yesterday by express a wooden box about 11 x 15 x 10 containing transcripts of the conferences held by the President with the Washington newspaper correspondents. When the box arrives will you please see that it is properly marked to show that it contains these reports, which I have written out and kept on file during the administration.

Many thanks for your attention.

Very truly yours,

Erwin C. Geisser

Mr. J. L. Harrison,
Forbes Library,
Northampton, Mass.

This is a copy of the letter which
accompanied the box in 1929.

Original letter is in n7+C77Ef13
Coolidge Collection

August 21, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Correspondents.

X I have a number of interesting inquiries here and one of the first is relative to the reports of observers returning from Europe, whether they point to the necessity of any change in the American attitude toward European affairs. So far as I get any information from them, it doesn't point to the necessity of any change. Those returning confirm the wisdom of the attitude that has been maintained since I have known about things in Washington. They realize the difficulties over there, perhaps more acutely by reason of immediate contact with them than we can here, and I think they can see that there isn't anything that American can do at the present time other than proceed with the course that it has mapped out.

X An inquiry about Mexico. A report has been made by the two Commissioners, Mr. Warren and Mr. Payne. That is in the hands of the State Dept. being digested and considered. When that work is finished a report will undoubtedly be sent to me with recommendations as to what attitude ought to be adopted toward the provisions of the report and the recommendations that are in it. After that has been determined, should it then be possible to resume relationship with Mexico, I think the procedure would be the appointment of a Charge de Affaires. Some time later the question would be taken up of the appointment of an Ambassador to represent ~~Mexico~~ us and, of course, the reception of an Ambassador here to represent Mexico. Now I don't want to be asked about the details. Those you get more properly from the State Dept. Nor, do I know just when they will have finished their study of the report and their digest of it, so that they will bring their recommendations to me. But I think very shortly.

X An inquiry about the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Representatives of that body came in yesterday and more in the way, I thought, of paying their respects than of a desire to promote any particular policies at the present time. They assured me of their hearty desire to cooperate and, of course, in return I assured them of my desire to listen to any reports or any proposals they might have and render any possible assistance in promoting business welfare in the U. S., because if that is going on happily and well there is very little chance of unemployment, very little chance of any distress among those that first feel the pinch of distress in times of depression.

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An inquiry about when we intend to move into the White House.

X We are going to get in as soon as we can. It is possible that we can come over this afternoon. We would like to go in quietly, not without observing the befitting dignity of moving into the White House, but with as little ostentation as possible, on account of the circumstances, of course with which you are familiar, that surround our taking up our residence there.

An inquiry about the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act, and the establishment of a Tariff Adjustment Board. No settled policy has been adopted in that respect. Of course, the Tariff Commission has a large file of information that it would be impossible for any other board to collect for a long time. They have policies and customs and traditions there that are exceedingly helpful to them in getting any information that is necessary in presenting it to the President for his action. I should doubt very much if we could expedite matters at all by a Tariff Adjustment Board. But, as I say, I haven't any mature policy in that respect, but so far as I have given it ^{any} ~~my~~ thought, I can see a great many objections to it.

I have already spoken about Mr. Warren's report and Judge Payne's report, - the fact that I couldn't give you any of the details of that, as it is in the State Department.

An inquiry about the Cuban situation. That is as it was when I received the representatives of the press last week. General Crowder is here and I don't know of anything more fitting that we could do in recognition of the disinterested work of an efficient public servant than to say a word about his accomplishments in Cuba, during the time that he's represented our Government there. He's gained the confidence and the support of the Cuban people. He was of great assistance to them in reorganizing the Government, always acting in the capacity of a friend, and never acting in the capacity of one that was trying to force something on the Cuban people that wasn't for their benefit. I think there is in Cuba, as I indicated the other day, a very great mass of public sentiment that appreciates the work that he did, and the people of our own country ought to appreciate it and, I think voices a universal desire for him, when he has had the rest that he is entitled to, to return and continue his good work.

An inquiry about the shipping policy. No change in the personnel there is contemplated at the present time, so far as I know, and no suggestion has come to me. I don't know whether anyone's time is expiring, so that it is going to be necessary to fill a vacancy. If there is any case of that kind my first thought would be to retain the person that is now holding the position.

An inquiry about the legality of creating subsidy corporations for the operation of Government owned fleet. That is a question that had occurred to me and no final decision could be made upon it as a policy without taking, probably, the opinion of the Attorney General, though I think that the counsel of the Shipping Board is thoroughly convinced they have the right within the provisions of law to inaugurate that plan. The Shipping Board has not been advised to put in force its new operating plan, but it's under consideration. It is probable that some committee may be appointed outside of just personnel of the Shipping Board. Of course, it would be represented by its Chairman, and I may want to consult with the Treasurer and the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Committee that has it in charge in the House and the Chairman of the Committee in the Senate and, perhaps, one or two others, relative to the feasibility of the proposed plan.

There was one matter I had in mind not covered by a question. That is the reappointment of Mrs. John Jacob Rogers, the wife of the Congressman from Massachusetts, whom many of you know has spent all of her time in Washington for years, I think, working among the soldiers in the hospitals. Whenever I have made a visit to Walter Reed Hospital, there I find Mrs. Rogers dressed as a nurse helping to take care of the boys out there. It was her regular occupation. That so impressed the President that he made her a special appointment as his representative to go about from hospital to hospital all over the U. S., conferring with the men there, finding out if there was anything that the Government could do for their relief, and trying to extend the personal touch of the U. S. Government towards those who are suffering from disabilities incurred in the country's service. It has been a great pleasure to me to reappoint her and ask her to continue the work that she so efficiently begun.

No final action has yet been taken concerning the calling of a Governors' conference relative to the enforcement of the prohibitory laws. It has been my expectation that there would be such a conference. Immediately on my return to Washington Mr. Haynes called on me and said that he had been here all

summer (this is more or less confidential); that he had a considerable degree of fever and wanted to go away and rest up. He had no serious illness that I could learn of, but felt that he needed rest, so I haven't had the opportunity to confer with him and find out just what questions he has that we could submit to a gathering of Governors, or just in what way we could propose to them that they could assist. When he returns, I shall take that up with him and see what can be done.

The question that is presented here, "Is it your intention that the Government shall operate directly the shipping fleet?" I think the answer to that is, "No, that isn't contemplated." There has been a proposal for a little change in operation, but it can't hardly be said to be a direct operation.

An inquiry about the attitude towards the release of so-called political prisoners. I should be very sorry to see the U.S. holding anyone in confinement on account of any opinion that that person might hold. It is a fundamental tenet of our institutions that people have a right to believe what they want to believe and hold such opinions as they want to hold without having to answer to any one for their private opinion. On the other hand, when persons holding opinions, whatever they may be, undertake to go out and ~~of~~ influence others to commit acts that are contrary to the law of the land, when they then, of course, they come within the purview of the law of inciting riot or advising the commitment of crime, or conspiracy, well recognized criminal actions not at all related to the holding of ideas. When that has been the case, and especially in time of war when there has been any overt act against the administration of the Government, then people who engage in that activity become fit subjects for punishment. I recognize that we have allowed their punishment for some time and I shall do everything I can to extend a reasonable clemency on the part of the Government.

I think I have covered the situation as it exists. I think I had here an inquiry about the coal situation which I must have overlooked. There are no developments on that in Washington. The conference is going on in Atlantic City hopefully, I think. At any rate, I shall entertain that opinion until it is clearly demonstrated that some other opinion ought to be held. But I realize that there is a real desire on the part of the miners and operators to get to-

gether and continue the mining of coal, and with that desire in their minds, I feel pretty confident that there is some common ground for a meeting place that will relieve the situation.

(Here a question was put by a newspaper representative that I couldn't ~~hear~~ ^{hear}. It was about the direct operation of the shipping fleet by the Government).

I do not understand that the plan proposes what you would call a form of direct operation - but not technically direct operation. It would be indirect. That plan has already been tried, as you know, and it hasn't been entirely satisfactory. They are looking around for something that holds out some hope that we may be relieved from the enormous expenditures that we are now making.

August 24, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Correspondents.

One of the first questions that I see here is relative to the time when we may resume diplomatic relations with Mexico. It is impossible to state any specific date. I should estimate that the best that we could do would be the middle or latter part of September. There are certain exchanges to be made which will necessarily take some time.

Secretary Hughes came in to report that he was about to leave town to address some body in Minneapolis, I think that is the American Bar Association. You no doubt have the advance copies of his address, and later he is to speak in Montreal, on which advance copies went out, I think, today.

X The report that Chairman Hammond made to me yesterday of the coal situation was a resume of what has taken place in the efforts of the Commission up to the present time, all of which you have.

X As you know, Governor Pinchot and I have had a conference. Now there is one word that will indicate the situation and that word is "cooperation" between the Governor of Pennsylvania and the U. S. authorities. The Coal Commission will furnish him any information that he may desire and he will cooperate with us in undertaking further to negotiate, mediate and try to reach a settlement. He has a jurisdiction that is more intimate and complete over the property and the persons that are engaged in the mining of anthracite coal than that which is held by the U. S. authorities. Whatever details there are to be given out as to what he is going to do will have to be given out by him. At the present time, I think about all that he could say, or all that I could say, is that he is going to cooperate.

There are several inquiries along this line, to all of which I think I have indicated an answer.

X And an inquiry about the distribution machinery after September 22nd. Well the distribution machinery of the U.S. Government, of course, consists almost entirely of such action as can be taken by the Interstate Commerce Commission. That, of course, is a continuing body and, while technically the commission of the Fuel Administrator, Mr. Wadleigh, will

expire by limitation at the expiration of the law on ~~of~~ the 22nd of September, if there were any work that was necessary for him to do, he would continue it as the agent of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The function of the Government, under these circumstances, would be to see that coal is transported to the various states. It wouldn't be at all the function of the U. S. Government to undertake to distribute it after it reaches the state. That would be for the State administrations themselves to arrange through their own Fuel Administration, if they have one, or through such fuel administration that it might be necessary for them to set up. Of course, it wouldn't be fair for the U. S. Government to undertake to turn this problem over to the Governor of the State. Such an action would hardly be correct for the U. S. Government to take. It would be embarrassing to Governor Pinchot and I should say very ungracious on the part of any authorities here. But again we come back to the same word and that is "cooperation". Governor Pinchot has signified his desire to be helpful in every possible way. I didn't want to call him in unless he was willing to come in. He didn't want to undertake to handle the situation unless he could do it in the spirit of helpfulness and cooperation. We are proceeding in entire harmony and without ~~the~~ the desire to be mutually helpful. That doesn't mean that he has assumed anything, or that the United States Government has abandoned anything.

X An inquiry about naval expenditures objected to by the Japanese Press. I wouldn't pay too much attention to an objection by a foreign newspaper. I haven't seen this and am just throwing out that hint as a general suggestion. If an objection should come to our State Department from the responsible authorities of Japan, of course, any such objection would be taken up, the matter discussed with their appropriate representatives, and an amicable conclusion would be reached. They have their papers over there that want to print things that, perhaps, may seem helpful to the interests of Japan, the same as we have papers here that, of course, print things that they consider will be helpful to the people of America. Sometimes they are on sound foundation and sometimes not. I haven't known of any objection on the part of Japanese papers or on the part of the Japanese Government. But, of course, the details of anything of that kind, you can get at the State Department. I am merely speaking on a few general observances.

An inquiry about whether Mr. Bush is to be Chairman of the Shipping Board. Well, of course, he isn't. Mr. Brush was an old time friend of mine that I knew in Boston when he was one of the officers, and I think later, the President of the Boston Elevated Railway. He dropped in yesterday morning to pay his respects and we chatted of old times and ^I~~he~~ inquired how ^{he}~~I~~ was getting along in his new project and, naturally, getting his opinion about some of my problems, particularly shipping, but it would be as impossible, I suppose, to get him to be Chairman of our Shipping Board as it would be as impossible to get one of our College Professors to be the head of one of our primary schools. Now I don't want any improper inference from that. I am sure that the Chairman of the Shipping Board and myself both realize that his problems are big enough, but Mr. Brush is a man engaged in a very large enterprise up in New York. I think he is drawing a salary that is commensurate with that. I meant that purely as a business reason of his own, that he wouldn't want to abandon his work up there for the work that he could do as chairman of our Shipping Board, in order to take up with some of our problems down here.

An inquiry also about the Philippine situation and the protest of the Philippino Cabinet Officers, who resigned as the result of controversy with General Wood. There is only one position that the President could take in relation to that, and it is the position of supporting General Wood, as he is the authorized representative of the U. S. That doesn't mean that in doing that I should want to take an unsympathetic view or act in an unsympathetic way against any of the representatives of the Philippino people, or desire to do anything but what would be helpful to them, but Governor Wood is there as the accredited representative of the U. S. and, of course, must have that support which is his due. As that support necessarily should take the form of undertaking to help him adjust his differences, of course, that should be afforded to him, but, of course, it must take the form of supporting him in things in which he is right and helping him in any other difficulties.

X A nother inquiry about the aircraft limitation conference proposed by the American Legion. It hasn't been possible to give that matter any consideration. You know the general situation in Europe, the overwhelming difficulties under which they are laboring. I doubt if, at the present time,

it would be possible to say to the great European nations, you better drop some of your difficulties that you are trying to solve at home and join in a conference to see what can be done about the limitation of air craft. That is merely a practical difficulty that may be solved at any time. This matter, I think, was taken up at the last conference. It wasn't possible at that time to secure any agreement about it and it seems to me that there are practical difficulties, owing to the imminent press of questions there, that would make it even more difficult at the present time. Our own Government realizes this and, I think, is ~~satisfied~~ setting a fine example in refraining from engaging in a competitive building of aircraft. And if, at some future time, that can be taken up and some agreement reached, it will be of the utmost satisfaction to me. I think that covers substantially everything that there has been any inquiry on.

X

I am still of the opinion that it is going to be possible to reach a solution of the coal problem, so that there wont be any diminution in the production of coal or any cessation of it. That feeling, perhaps, may not be warranted by any specific evidence that I have, but it is warranted by the general feeling and general atmosphere that pervades our country. It is an atmosphere of peace and harmony and a desire to adjust difficulties by agreement, rather than to resort to any form of force and coercion for the purpose of getting one party or another to take some position that they do not want to take. And with that, I have every hope and every confidence that such a solution will be reached. It was especially gratifying to have the cooperation of Governor Pinchot. As I said before, he has actions that he can take that the U. S. Government cannot take. He is there on the ground in intimate touch and intimate knowledge of all of those details and I know will be exceedingly helpful in reaching a peaceful solution.

August 28, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Correspondents.

I have an inquiry as to when Mr. Harvey expects to return to London. I think he has engaged passage for the 8th day of September. He is returning to New York, or his place in New Jersey, either this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Reports from Mexico City that the U. S. has already recognized the Obregon Government. I do not understand that there has as yet been a formal recognition, but that the matter is waiting the exchange of the usual formal notes. Just what the detail of that is you get at the State Department.

An inquiry about the coal situation. That resolves itself, in a way, into the simple elements of the action by the National Government and the action by the State Government. I think there are one or two decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court that the mining of coal and the bringing of it out of the ground to the top is what you might call a purely state function. It is intra-state and not interstate. It is commerce within the state and not commerce between the states. What we have been trying to do is to bring to bear every possible pressure that we could on the situation without undertaking to make a determination of what ought to be done by the different parties; use such authority as the United States has, and supplement that by such authority as the State of Pennsylvania has, which, of course, is more intimate, as it has complete jurisdiction over the property and over the people. The United States jurisdiction is more of an indirect nature. I think up to the present time that good progress is being made. I heartily approve of the action that the Governor is taking up there. I think he is entitled to public commendation for the cooperation that he is bringing to bear together with the United States authorities, and I see no reason to change my expressed hope that it would be possible to reach an adjustment.

An inquiry about the appropriations for the Navy. Nothing definite has been decided on in that. The Budget Bureau is working on the appropriations for all the Departments. Generally speaking, it is the duty, of course, of the President to bring to bear such authority as he can in support of the execution of the Budget. If the budget plan and policy isn't supported heartily and effectively by the President, there isn't any hope of its being an effective instrument for the cutting down of national expenses and the administration of

the business of the nation in accordance with business principles. That doesn't mean that in every instance the President is going to say the Budget Commissioner is right and every Department is wrong. It means that we ought to look with greatest sympathy on the suggestions and recommendations of the Budget Commissioner, which, when they go to Congress, are, as I understand it, the recommendations of the President; and secure every possible cooperation between the Budget Commissioner and the different departments, adjusting their differences as well as that can possibly be done, and all that is being done at the present time with the recommendations of any Department is to look toward an adjustment between that department and what the Budget Commissioner may, with the information that he has at hand, think he ought to recommend.

An inquiry as to whether I have submitted the plan of the Shipping Board to the Attorney General. That hasn't been done. I am asking the Shipping Board to work out more in detail just what their proposals are, so that we may see what the plan is that is to be in effect, what the present plan is costing, and what we should expect to save by any variation of the present plan. When those details are on hand, of course, if there is any question of the legality of it, we will take it up with the Department of Justice.

An inquiry about the flexible provisions of the tariff law. A study is being made by the Tariff Commission into conditions, and all that I can say about that at the present time is that I should want to exercise very great caution in making any changes in the different schedules. If it appears that there is a schedule that is greatly out of proportion, too high or too low, on the recommendation of the Tariff Board that that is so, I should be inclined to take some action, but it is much more important to the country that they should feel that we are in a position of stability; to take and figure it today on what they can do tomorrow, rather than that they should be upset by the suggestion that there are going to be a lot of changes and say: "We can't make any commitments or engage in our usual activities because what we plan today may be upset by the Government tomorrow. .

An inquiry about the attitude of the Administration toward Mexico. Of course, it has been indicated that it is one of friendly cooperation, and, so far

as I know, no change in attitude excepting that which naturally comes, perhaps more from a desire for friendly cooperation and because of the return of the Commissioners and of their bringing back of what apparently is going to be a satisfactory plan of cooperation and removing any question that may have ran in the minds of the administration or of the public as to the ability to reach a reasonable agreement.

There is no change that I know of in the Cuban situation.

X An inquiry about whether it would be helpful for the press to discuss the policy of the U. S. for the purpose of the abolition of war. I think that candid discussion of any question is always helpful. That is the great service that you perform, of reasonable and candid discussion. X You all have in mind that Mr. Bok has pending a proposal to give an award of \$100,000 to the person who can successfully propose some plan of this kind. It happened that I was near his place in Maine early in July. ~~ixwasxatt~~ He came to call on me at the hotel. I was attending a conference of Governors and I had an opportunity to go over to his house and spent a few minutes one afternoon with him. He went over somewhat of his plan and the main desire of it, the main element of it at least, was a public discussion of these questions, in order that the public might better be informed as to what our foreign relations really meant, their dependence on it, the effect that friendly or unfriendly relations have on their personal economic condition. He thought that if that could be thoroughly understood by the people of the United States, it would be of great public benefit, and with that in mind, I think that the discussion in the public press along lines of that kind will also be productive of a great deal of public benefit.

X An inquiry whether Secretary Hughes' visit to Montreal has any special significance. It has none, other than that which would occur to each one of you, or a desire on the part of the U. S., in accordance with the action of President Harding in stopping at Vancouver and accepting the hospitality of that beautiful and enterprising city, making a speech there that was received with a great deal of enthusiasm, of giving evidence from time to time of our friendly feeling toward the people of Canada. X You will see the speech that he is to deliver, I think it is already before you, and whatever significance that may lie in his visit there other than that, you will see from a reading of what it has to say.

An inquiry about a reduction in taxation. Nothing can be said about that at the present time. I don't want you to feel that I am adopting a policy of concealing anything from you or doing anything other than to be perfectly frank about every question I can discuss with you. Of course, I shall have to deliver a message to Congress later. It would be rather inconsiderate of them if, before going up there, I should take occasion from time to time to make a public declaration of what the nature of my message will be. They are entitled, of course, to the first public expression of what I want to lay before them and suggest what their action ought to be on account of the state of the Union. So I am not going to say much at any time about what I am going to advise Congress to do. Of course, it is never proper, or hardly ever proper, for an executive to run out and say that I am going to force this bill through or I am going to veto that bill. Let us wait and see what develops. Very likely if it is a wise bill the Congress will act favorably without force or coercion from anybody, and if it is an unwise bill, my experience has been, both in the state and in the nation, that the legislative body will refuse to pass it. It isn't necessary to resort to severe suggestions from the Executive.

I haven't any present plan for resuming cabinet meetings. Some of the Secretaries are still away. Secretary Hughes wont return until the 5th or 6th, or perhaps 7th. I can't give the exact date. It is about a week after the first of September. And I don't know of any contemplated Cabinet meetings until after Labor Day.

I don't know of any petition from the Western Tariff Association. Perhaps one has come to the Commission, or here. If it has, I haven't seen it.

On the Agricultural credit situation. I have had a conference with Mr. Myer which was exceedingly reassuring. As you know the Government undertook to furnish, through the War Finance Corporation, a large amount of credit running into three or four hundred million dollars, of course without expense to the Government. Now the reassuring thing about that is, it was extended, of course, through the loan banks, the reassuring thing is that its obligations are being liquidated. They are being paid up and very material reduction has already been made. There is far much less call for credit in that direction than there was a short time ago. I also had a conference with, I think, the entire Farm Loan Board, and they told me that they had about \$25,000,000 of money on hand that was ready to be extended in loans by both their own and through the various agencies by which they work, there is some call for it, but

not the call that there was a short time ago.

An inquiry about a building program. That, in a way, is for Congress to act on. Not anything in the way of a radical program, I think, would be contemplated at the present time. There are some public buildings here in the city that the Government needs the use of right away. Such as may be necessary in the case of any exigency, Congress will take up and, no doubt, dispose of favorably.

Inquiry about an invitation to the Johnson Morgan Memorial exercises at Durham, N. C. Like all other invitations this was a peculiarly attractive one, but I had to give a negative answer. I want to be here to take up the details of this office, to work them out with the different Departments, in order that I may prepare myself as quickly as possible to carry them on to the best of my ability. Now I wouldn't be able to do that if I accepted invitations taking me away from Washington. It seems to me that what the country most needs now is stability and confidence and reassurance, and in a knowledge that things are going on smoothly and as well as can be hoped, and that they can build on the present foundation with an assurance that there isn't going to be any violent change in it or recession from it. For that reason I don't want to stir up a lot of political speculation. That can wait. I don't want to limit you, in serving your constituents acceptably and interestingly, but there are certain limits that are always to be observed. There are many fine men in the service of the U.S. Remember, if you can, that they are entitled to credit. They are entitled to my confidence and require support. Don't suggest, if you can avoid it, without you knowing it an absolute fact, that I am going to change or displace them with somebody else. That may come some time or other, but you owe a little to the men that are trying to cooperate with us in carrying on the Government, to see that their work has proper public appreciation, and the assurance that it is properly appreciated by me.

August 31, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I have an inquiry about whether instructions were given to Representative Porter who is going back to Geneva to continue to represent the United States Government in presenting its policy and securing its adoption, if possible, for the better control of the habit forming narcotic drug evil. Representative Porter came in this morning, not for the purpose of securing any instructions, but for the purpose of saying he was about to go over there to finish his work. As I understand it, the way he proceeded was to present his case to the tribunal before which he appeared over there, not to undertake to sit in with them in a judicial capacity of determining what decision should be made, but, as he expressed it, in the common law way of appearing there as an advocate of what the American Government wanted, and he was able to secure a decision very substantially along the lines that he advocated. He is going back now to continue that policy. This decision, as I understand it, has to be approved by some other Committee or something of that kind, and he is going back there to be on the ground to take care of American interests and see that the decision already made gets the approval of the present Committee.

An inquiry as to whether any formal note of felicitation will be sent to the Mexican Government. Of course, that is a detail that would be attended to by the State Department. Personally, I don't have in mind that that is the usual course, but whatever may be the usual course in a matter of that kind will be followed. I should be pleased, if I find that something of that kind is ordinarily done, and be very glad of the opportunity to do it. But those are things in which custom has to be followed; otherwise it arouses inquiry and wonderment all over the world as to why something out of the ordinary is being done. It is a matter entirely of precedent, I think.

An inquiry about the Shipping Board plan. Nothing final has been decided about that. The Board is working out further details and estimates. I am trying to find out what it costs to operate under the present plan, just what changes are contemplated, and what the estimates in the way of money might be, and as to whether the plan proposed would adequately meet the two fundamental requirements; one of providing shipping for American commerce, and the other of providing an adequate mercantile marine fleet in order that it may be

a part of our national defence. There is a legal problem involved, the question being whether the plan proposed is warranted under the terms of existing law. To be thoroughly advised about that, I have addressed a communication to the Attorney General's office. While the Shipping Board had already taken it up informally and had an informal assurance that their plan was within the terms of the present law, I thought that if I was to pass on it, that I ought to have an official communication advising me about that. I have already said that no formal decision has been made and I am expecting to call into consultation the Interstate Commerce Commission, some member of it, the Secretary of Commerce, and some others that might be helpful to me.

+ An inquiry about the recognition of Russia. There is no change in the American policy, which, as I understand it, is that of awaiting evidence of the existence of a government there that, in accordance with ^{our} ~~their~~ standards, would warrant recognition, one that has such a form and has adopted such policies that we should be warranted in saying to the American people - this is a government that meets these standards and these requirements and you will be justified in making commitments accordingly, and expecting, that, when those commitments are made, the usual support from your own government.

An inquiry as to whether any Ambassador to Mexico has been ~~selected~~ selected. None has been selected and, of course, would not be without consultation with the State Department.

Another question, relative to Mexico, that the Treasury and State Departments now have before them a petition from El Paso requesting that the international bridges of Juarez be closed earlier in the afternoon. That is a matter concerning which I have no information at hand. It didn't come to my attention. Very likely it is ^{not} a matter of such importance that the different departments would think that it was necessary to take my judgment.

Whether any approval has been given to the sale of the Norfolk Army Base to the City of Norfolk, Virginia. That is a matter, too, that hasn't been brought to my attention, so far as I can recall. I do not think the Secretary

of War has ever mentioned it to me, and I don't recall any papers having gone over my desk in relation to it. Now it may be that in a matter of detail of that kind, off and on something may have gone over my desk that I don't remember. If you find that is the case, I hope you will be as lenient with me as you can.

An inquiry about the Alaskan policies. I haven't given any particular thought and study to that yet. I think I saw suggestions made by the Secretary of Agriculture that he did not understand that any changes of policy were contemplated in relation to our relations with Alaska, and I didn't have a chance to read the entire address that President Harding made concerning that question at Seattle. I think I would be justified in saying that I know no reason why I shouldn't put into effect any policy that he outlined in that address. He and his associates went to Alaska for the particular purpose of studying the problems there. He took with him his cabinet officers who have jurisdiction over that territory. The Secretary of War, I think, has also been to Alaska during the present season, and their visits there made a determination on the part of the American Government to do everything that they could to encourage enterprise there, encourage the investment of capital, encourage the going in there of an enlarged population, and building up the resources of that great territory.

An inquiry about a successor to Director Scobey. He has not formally resigned. He came in a day or two ago and told me that he had an agreement or arrangement with President Harding under which he had expected to retire. He has business interests in his home state, which I think is Texas, San Antonio, though formerly he was a resident of Ohio. He is very anxious to give his attention to that. He was here particularly as a personal friend of the President and didn't feel that he could continue longer, even had President Harding survived, and, of course, under those circumstances, while I was very desirous of retaining his services, I didn't feel that I could rightfully ask him to make a sacrifice which President Harding had felt he couldn't ask him to make; so that he told me then he should want to retire in the immediate future, perhaps within a month or six weeks.

* I have some inquiries here about the coal situation and nothing has developed in that, so far as I can discover, beyond what you already know. You know what my policy has been in relation to it. I asked Governor Pinchot to bring his aid to the solution of a very difficult and intricate problem. I have given him every cooperation that I know how, and propose to continue to give him every possible support. I think those two words sum up the situation, my cooperation and my support, and I have still the same reason to hope that I have in the past, that he is going to be able to effect a settlement.

* An inquiry as to what will be done if he doesn't make a settlement. You know of the details and plans already in existence for providing fuel for the country. Those plans will be put into effect and executed to the very best ability of the Government; and every power that the United States Government has to furnish fuel to the people of the United States, to supply the public, will be brought into play and use.

I do not know that there is anything further that I can say in discussion of that question, or any general subject at the present time.

September 4, 1923.

Remarks by the President to newspaper men.

* There doesn't seem to be a very long list of questions this morning. I judge that the reason for that is the interest that we are all feeling in the great calamity which has overtaken several of the cities of Japan, and that we are giving our time and attention almost exclusively to that.

An inquiry about Governor Hyde, who said he discussed prohibition enforcement, and whether any recommendations were made either by you or by him. No specific recommendations were made. ~~with~~ He told me something of the conditions in his State, and his desire to have the cooperation of the Federal Government, and of his desire to give the cooperation of his State Government.

A suggestion that Commissioner Haynes has returned. I have just learned of that this morning, and I am planning to see him this afternoon, go over the question of enforcement, learning what I can of the conditions from him and undertaking to find out what can be done in the way of proper enforcement of the law.

An inquiry as to when cabinet meetings will be resumed. They will be resumed next Friday. As I think I explained one or two meetings ago, I found that when I came into office, that several of the cabinet members had commitments, some of them to go away. Some of them even in Europe. Secretary Denby wanted to return to Michigan to finish his vacation. Secretary Weeks to New Hampshire. Secretary Hughes, as you know, had scarcely been out of the city this summer. He had some engagements to fill before the American Bar Association at Minneapolis and the Canadian Bar Association at Montreal. He is now filling those engagements, as you know. The Cabinet will be all back here this week and the regular meetings will be resumed the first Friday of September.

Whether the Federal Fuel Distributer has been notified to go ahead with plans for distribution of soft coal. No additional instructions have been given him. His instructions were general. He undertook to proceed with the plan, well, nearly a month ago, calling a conference of Governors and representatives of Governors, laying out a plan for distribution of fuel. The United States, of course, attaches to that through the Interstate Commerce Commission. It has been suggested that Mr. Wadleigh has a term of office that expires on the 22nd. He is attached indirectly either through the Commerce Department, ~~Depa~~ Secretary

of Commerce, or to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and whatever it may be necessary for him to do after the 22nd of September, he will do either through one or the other of those Departments.

+ And I think I have answered the question that is made about the power of the Federal Government. It is to treat the distribution of coal as a matter of interstate commerce. As I have said before, I am very grateful to Governor Pinchot for undertaking to cooperate and lend the power of Pennsylvania to the power of the United States. I want to support him in every way and give him every possible cooperation. And that is being done, and we are still maintaining the hope that he may be able to reach some kind of an adjustment. In the meantime, I do not want to say anything that might in the slightest degree embarrass him. So it is difficult to say anything further than that I am doing everything I can to support him.

Since I came into office about a month ago we have signed a treaty of convention with Turkey. An order has been issued putting into effect the provision of the Treaty of Disarmament, the scrapping of those war vessels of the United States that are no longer to be kept in commission under the terms of the Treaty. We have been working on the coal situation, and I think I am justified in saying that every possible precaution has been taken there and every effort has been made, both by the Government here and by enlisting the help of the Governor of Pennsylvania, to solve that question. And in addition to that we have at last reached an understanding with Mexico. Those are three or four things that have been accomplished during this month that are of considerable importance.

I have a suggestion here that, on account of the very great calamity that has overtaken Japan, the United States might consider turning over to them the Philippine Islands. That, of course, is somewhat a novel suggestion. I don't know how serious the suggestion is, but I do know that the United States Government and the people of the United States ought to give every possible assistance and every possible relief to the people of Japan.+ And I think you can perform a public service, demonstrate the friendship that Americans feel for Japan, by stressing the need of an immediate response to the appeal that is going to be made through the Red Cross for funds to carry on the work of relief in the stricken area. It is apparently one of the greatest calamities that nature ever inflicted on mankind anywhere in the world. Greater loss of life, and apparently, greater destruction of property than any other experience that mankind has had anywhere in history.

So that you can't make any too strong the determination of our Government to put all its resources that we reasonably and properly can into the relief. I have called on the Navy Department, I have called on the War Department, called on the Shipping Board. Of course, I have been in conference with the Red Cross, and I have issued my proclamation. The Red Cross will make its appeal today for immediate subscription of \$5,000,000. Ships will go there, food and supplies through the action of the War Department will be sent there. We shall do everything we can do in the way of relief. I don't know about the Philippines. They haven't proven a source of income to our Government. I don't know whether they would prove to be a source of help to the Japanese Government. I am interested in bringing that to the attention of you because it shows an inclination to take up the work and shows that America is glad to^{do}/everything possible for the help of the Japanese people.

September 7, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

+ Mr. Clark of the International News Service has reciprocated today and brought me some news to the effect that the miners have accepted the Pinchot proposal and the hard coal strike is ended. I wish you would commend the Governor of Pennsylvania as strongly as you can for the important public service that he has rendered, a service not only to his own State, but to all those that burn coal everywhere, and an especial service to me and to my office. A very difficult operation that he undertook, as I already suggested to you. While I presume neither party is satisfied with the result, yet the important thing to remember is that we are apparently to be relieved of a coal strike. I assume that the information is authentic and reliable.

An inquiry as to whether I am to discuss taxes with Representative Madden. Representative Madden is going to take dinner with me some time. I haven't any plan to discuss any particular thing with him. He is an important element in the House, holding a position of influence up there, a man of character and ability, and I feel certain that he would be able to give me information that would be very helpful and beneficial to me. I don't know whether he is going to say anything about taxes. I haven't any plan about that. I doubt if he has. I had an idea that I would discuss the general financial condition of the nation with him. See what he thought ought to be done during the coming session in the way of appropriations and collateral matters of that kind.

An inquiry as to the expected appropriations for the Shipping Board. Do not know yet just what they are asking for or just what may be granted to them. It had been presented to me in a general way that they had expected to reduce their expenditures during the coming year, or rather for the year for which appropriations are to be made in the next Congress, and I don't know when I shall get an opinion from the Attorney General. I shall know in the very near future as to the legality of the proposed organization of corporations for the conduct of the shipping business. I have had, I think, a note from the Attorney General that he was working on this himself, had it sent up to him.

I do not know yet when there will be a conference of Governors. I have assumed, generally speaking, that there would be one, although it hasn't been definitely determined. I found in talking with the Prohibition authorities that President Harding had not determined definitely on that and whether it would be best to proceed by a conference or by an interchange of communications and suggestions, in that way. That hasn't been definitely determined. We are working out a program of what will best fit in with what we think the situation requires.

An inquiry about whether any recommendation will be made to Congress on the Ford offer. That matter is already before the Congress, and, as I understand it, was sent there by the Secretary of War. I don't know that it would require any suggestion from the Executive, and I haven't in mind at the present time making any suggestion about it. I may have a desire to do that in the future.

And an inquiry about the Gorgas Plant. I think you all understand about that. That is a steam plant with outrunning lines that is located on some land that doesn't belong to the United States Government. The Attorney General has said that the contract under which the United States located its steam plant on this land was one that could be terminated on notice by the Alabama Power Company, or whatever that power company is down there. That Company has notified the United States to vacate and has coupled that notification with an offer to pay, what I understand is a fair price, for the property that the United States has on the land. So the question comes in undertaking to deal fairly with Mr. Ford, of what he desires the United States to do. He has been called into consultation for that purpose and we are awaiting some reply from him as to what action he desires ~~us~~ to have us take, in order that we may know what effect it would have on the offer he has made.

+ An inquiry about the necessary relief funds for Japan. Of course, there isn't at the present time enough real definite and precise information to warrant any one in making a definite estimate. That matter was considered in the Cabinet meeting this morning. According to our best information, and I wouldn't be too precise about that, because I don't want to discourage any gifts that may otherwise be made, Japan will need all the assistance that it can have. According to our best estimates, they will probably require something like \$10,000,000 a month for a couple of months or so. Now, that is to come from us and from all over the world and from the Japanese people, who, of course, are not without resources themselves. What may be required in order to restore the property damage, of course, is another

question. Whether our country would want to make any contributions for that purpose or not, I really never have considered. What we did have especially in mind was the relief of people at the present time, feed them, clothe and keep them warm, and care for them until they could adequately care for themselves.

Several inquiries about the Cuban situation. I haven't had any information brought to me about the Cuban situation since I have talked with the representatives of the press about it. An inquiry in that connection about Dr. Colso Cuillar, if that is the way to pronounce it. I don't know anything about it. I didn't know that he was in the City and didn't know that he had any conference with the Federal Reserve Board.

Another inquiry concerning a man named Clarence Marine. That is a name that was never brought to my attention before, and I don't know anything about his activities. So the report that some step is under consideration by me is not warranted at the present time. I don't want to make any qualification about that. It is simply that I haven't heard anything about it, and my saying "at the present time" means that I haven't any idea now of taking any action and don't know that any is required or desirable.

+ An inquiry about a general reorganization of executive departments. That plan is in process of being carried out. Now whether it can be carried out or not is something on which your judgment, I suppose, is just as good as mine. I know in a general way that there are difficulties. I don't know what the specific difficulties are, or what the details of them are, but I think those can be worked out. I know there is always a working back and forth, and if I may refer to personal experience, we had to consolidate the 100 or 200 departments in Massachusetts into 19 the first year I was Governor, and, of course, we had more or less difficulty about it. But when it came right to the case in hand, the legislature took hold and passed the bill. Now I imagine that something of that kind is very likely to happen here. There will be a great deal of criticism of one kind or another and some Departments will think they ought to have something else than what they are having, either more or less, but when the time comes, there will be a substantial comity and desire to pass a bill that will be intended to better the public service.

I haven't received any report from any one sent to Havana and that answers the other question as to whether any report of that kind involves any Cuban or American officials. I didn't know that there was any special report in contemplation and rather think that that is a rumor that hasn't any real foundation.

+ I have already spoken about the relief measures that the Cabinet had up for discussion. About the only thing that we determined was that we had to undertake to coordinate all relief measures under the direction of the Red Cross. We realize, of course, the great efficiency of the Japanese Red Cross as an association, and they will be used, as I understand, for the relief work in Japan. We have sent up some doctors and so on with instructions to report to the Japanese authorities and put themselves under Japanese control and Japanese orders, and should the Japanese say that they would like to have them come to shore and have something for them to do, of course, that will be done. When they arrive there, should it turn out that they are not needed by them, they can return. But I think you can emphasize this, that the American Government is going to put its resources at the disposal of the Japanese power, comprehending and realizing that they are perfectly competent to give the adequate directions for carrying out everything of that kind.

I think that covers everything this morning.

September 11, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Have an inquiry about the proposed conference of Governors. No final decision has been reached on that. The Governors are to have their own annual conference, I think in Denver, about the middle of October. Now whether they will be called here before that or whether just previous to their gathering there, or whether, possibly, they will come here from that gathering is something that I am considering. I am quite certain that if there be any conference of Governors that it ought to be on the general scope of law enforcement and cooperation with the Federal authorities. We have questions of immigration, questions of the use, rather of the Suppression, of the use of narcotics, and allied questions of that kind that it would be very helpful to have the cooperation of the states assisting the United States Government in enforcing the laws.

Whether England or France has made any further request for aid in settlement of the reparations problem. Neither one of the Governments of France or England, so far as I know, have made any suggestion to this Government relative to that question.

Whether a recommendation will be made to Congress that a public body be established to receive and publish figures on the coal industry, as recommended by the Coal Commission. I haven't considered that in detail, but generally speaking, I should expect to commend the report of the Coal Commission to Congress. It was a body especially established for the information of Congress and to assemble facts and figures that might aid them in the determination of legislation relative to the coal industry.

And some other inquiries relative to the figures that have been given out as to the result of increased cost of production of coal on account of the increase in wages. I haven't considered those details myself and I can't give you any opinion that would be of very much value. I had already spoken to the Coal Commission and shall speak to them further to take such action as they think it is possible to take to secure a distribution of fuel for the people of the United States at as reasonable a price as possibly can be secured.

An inquiry about the appointment of an Ambassador to Mexico. No further thought has been given to that. It will be some time before the occasion would be ripe for an appointment there, and when that time arrives, I shall take the question up, considering it with the State Department, and announce the decision.

Question about the administration's shipping policy. I have asked, as you know, the opinion of the Attorney General as to whether the plan which is proposed by the Shipping Board is within the contemplation of the law. I haven't had any opinion given to me yet. If the opinion is ~~feasible~~ favorable, then, as you know, it is my expectation to appoint a committee to consider the policy and the plan and the working out of it in detail. Of course, it all hinges on what the opinion of the Attorney General may be.

An inquiry about the Cuban situation. I haven't had any official information about the Cuban situation for a week or more. I know in a general way that it is being considered, but I am not in possession of the details.

As to whether the situation in Europe is more hopeful. I haven't any official reports on that. From what I have seen in the published reports, I think there is indication that the situation is more hopeful there, and that is the opinion that I get from unofficial sources, people that have been over there and come in and talked with me, some of them in unofficial life and some of them in official life.

Whether the appeal to help Japan has been satisfactory in its response. I has been very satisfactory. The immediate question of course is the relief of those that are suffering. As soon as that is done, then our country naturally will take up the question of assisting in the rehabilitation, the re-building, and putting that part of Japanese territory back into its productive capacity, and for that, of course, there will be a very large amount of money needed. But that is essentially a business operation, more than a charitable operation, but the response to our appeal for charity has been very liberal and I should judge it would run somewhere between \$7,000,000 and \$10,000,000. Whether that will be all that is necessary, we can't tell now, but I am fairly certain that whatever may be necessary in the way of charity the American people will promptly furnish.

I have no information whatever about Professor Irving Fischer's recent statement. A good many of these questions are duplicates so that I don't have to answer all of them.

An inquiry about the Missouri political situation. The only thing that I have observed out there is a general desire on the part of those who have called on me to cooperate harmoniously in doing what they can to assist me in the administration of my office.

Whether I want to elaborate on a letter that I sent to Chicago where a club that bore my name has been formed. I don't care to elaborate on that. I think I stated everything that is necessary in that letter.

The Minister of Panama called this morning to discuss generally the policy of Government business operations within the Zone. Our country has, under the Treaty, all the powers of a sovereign within the Panama Zone. We don't always care to exercise every right that we have there, but we are always careful to state that we claim those rights and shall use them if they are necessary, coupled also with the statement that we do not want to do anything there for the purpose of securing a slight income to the United States Treasury that would be thought to be detrimental to the people of Panama or contrary to the wishes of the Government of that country. That was the message that I gave to the Minister. He expressed very great satisfaction in having that message and said he would transmit it to his Government, and that it cleared up every possible question that he had in mind.

Whether there will be a message from me on the occasion of the dedication of the Zero Milestone at San Diego California marking the terminus of the Lee Highway. This milestone was to have been dedicated by President Harding on August 6th. I expect to send a short message of that kind. There has been some suggestion that I might send it over the radio. I doubt if that would be feasible or practical, but I should desire to send a short written message anyway.

X I sent Governor Pinchot a telegram of congratulation. I think it is the policy of this office not to give out telegrams of that kind. No doubt, he will give it out up there if he wishes to.

An inquiry as to whether I contemplate attending the meeting of the American Bankers' Association at Atlantic City shortly. I wish very much that I might, but I don't see how I can do that.

Another inquiry about the Federal Fuel Distributor, Wadleigh - Mr. F. R. Wadleigh, whose term expires on September 22nd. So far as I know there is no immediate occasion for activity on his part, ^{if} it be merely the distribution of

coal. If there was a shortage of coal, so that the Government needed to supervise the distribution of it in order to see that it went evenly over the country, why then we should need to use his good offices. As I have already explained, his work is either under the Secretary of Commerce or the Interstate Commerce Commission. If anything occurs so that we need to continue his services, they will be continued, probably through him as an agent, by one or the other of those departments. I think the life of the United States Coal Commission expires in accordance with the law under which they were established, within a short time. I do not know of any executive power that could continue them officially in existence. No doubt, if anything should arise that would make it necessary, I could consult with them unofficially with just as good results as I could if they were in official existence.

And an inquiry about the letter of Governor Pinchot and of Mr. Lewis. I think perhaps I have already covered that. I said it was a matter that I had taken up with the Coal Commission some time ago. I think they are thoroughly alive to it and everything will be done that can be done to see that fuel is distributed at a reasonable price.

I think that covers everything.

Ques. Was there a cabinet meeting today?

+ Yes, but there was practically no business transacted at the Cabinet Meeting. It only lasted about 15 minutes, after which the world will soon know we had our picture taken.

September 14, 1923.

Remarks made by the President to the Newspaper men.

An inquiry about the call of General Pershing and Bishop Freeman. They came in and I had a very pleasant chat with them. There is to be a general gathering at the Washington Cathedral, I think they call it, on the 30th of Sept. and they came in to invite me to come out there and attend the gathering. I doubt very much if I can go, as you know what my policy is about speaking before Congress convenes. And that was the reason for their presence here.

An inquiry about whether the shipping question will be reopened in Congress. Of course, I haven't any plans at present about that. We are working for the adoption of some plan in relation to shipping. I am expecting a report from the Attorney General in the very near future. When that comes in then we shall have to see what step we can take next.

Another inquiry about the status of Prohibition Commissioner Haynes. His status hasn't changed at all, and, of course, he has my entire and hearty support. †I think that is especially the duty that I owe to those that are associated with me in the public service, to give them my support and make it as effective as possible. Now, to get off from Commissioner Haynes, we have to carry on the Government through human instruments. Everything is carried on that way, and many times we make a great many mistakes. But that doesn't relieve me of the duty of trying to support those who are working with me and assisting them, giving them my confidence, and that is what I am going to do always. I think I suggested to you / one time that that would be my policy and hope that you will keep that suggestion always in mind.

Another question as to what the Federal Government is doing to prevent profiteering in hard coal. Of course, that again is very largely a local question. It would be very difficult for the Federal Government, for instance, to reach up into New York or out into Ohio, and undertake to see how the local people there should conduct their business. That can be done better by the local authorities than it could be by the Federal authorities. Yet, we have a partial remedy, which I am attempting to apply, and that is through the Federal Trade Commission. They have authority to make an investigation and report, depending, of course, very largely upon public opinion for the carrying out of their suggestions. It has been reported and, I think, is shown by some of the publications already made by the Coal Commission, that oftentimes coal passes

through very many hands from the mine to the consumer. There is a suggestion that that is not altogether necessary and perhaps, somewhat, can be eliminated as an unnecessary - I won't say, trade practice. So that the Federal Trade Commission can do something in that direction. I have suggested that they take that matter up and the United States Coal Commission, I think, are working in the same direction.

An inquiry about the business of Mr. Thom and Mr. Holden. They came in to pay their respects. Mr. Thom I had met once or twice in Washington and Mr. Holden once or twice. The only information they brought me was to state their willingness to furnish me with any facts, data and information that I might wish at any time relative to railroad problems.

An inquiry about the discharge of twenty eight Bureau of Printing and Engraving employees. I think I remember that, and the statement here is that a report was made on it and the report hasn't been made public. So far as I know there is no further action contemplated in relation to that. It has never been brought to my attention before. I do not know of anything that any one expects to do about it.

An inquiry also as to what is going to be done, as a result of the opinion of the Attorney General that there is no executive authority to use the armed forces of the United States to enforce prohibition without authorization of Congress. I haven't at the present time, any idea that I am going to ask Congress to use the armed forces of the U.S. for that purpose. I should doubt very much if it would be wise. I can conceive a time when it might possibly be desirable to use some boats of the Navy, or something of that kind, if it is shown that there is need for it to prevent smuggling, but I should do that with a great deal of hesitation. I do not think that the carrying out of police regulations ought to be put as a burden on the Army and Navy of the United States. That ought to be done by the regular police forces of the National Government and the regular police forces of the State Governments. It is very very seldom that any State Government calls on its National Guard for any kind of police action, and it ought to be very seldom that the National Government should call on the Army or Navy for any manner of police action.

Whether the Tariff Commission is expected to initiate investigations or only act upon different complaints. I should think they would do both. They have a broad and general view of the situation. I expect they are going to advise me from time to time as to what action they think desirable, and in that way, they would initiate and I should suppose they would act, of course, whenever any complaints were made through an investigation, determination of the facts, to ascertain petty changes in the tariff that should be made.

I think that covers in a general way the suggestions made for the day. Very glad you could come in.

September 18, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I am not quite certain whether you have saved a half an hour this morning or lost half an hour. Generally the meeting of the Cabinet lasts until about one o'clock. Not always. We never know. Sometimes it takes two hours and sometimes not more than 20 minutes. I presume you know how a Cabinet meeting is held. The President sits at the head of the table and asks each member along down whether he has anything to present to the President or the Cabinet for consideration. Oftentimes you go clear down through the list and each one says "Not anything this morning." Of course that generally means rather a short Cabinet meeting. I am making this suggestion because the usual time of the news conference has been 1:00 o'clock instead of 12.00 o'clock. I don't know whether you want to continue that after daylight savings goes out or not. You take your choice about it and I will cooperate with you the best I can and come out as soon as I have finished my Cabinet meeting. If you want to have it go back to 1:00 o'clock so that we would be certain not to waste any time in waiting for me to come out, why set it at that our. You choose your own time about it.

Mr. President, I think the 12:00 o'clock hour always meant the Cabinet meeting began at 10:00 o'clock instead of 11:00 o'clock.

There hasn't been a 10:00 o'clock meeting since I have been in Washington. Well if you will have some representative of your press associations come in and consult with me, or with some of my Secretaries, you can fix that to suit yourselves and I will leave it that way.

An inquiry about the petition that came from California relative to executive clemency to political prisoners. I have that matter on my desk, having sent over to the Attorney General's office to get the files. No decision has been made yet about that.

I can't give you any outline now about the program for the Governor's Conference, As indicated the other day, I shall want to take up with them the various things they might be able to help out on, and we are working on some kind of a program.

An inquiry about the situation in Oklahoma. There have been no reports about that to the Federal Government that have come to my knowledge. I do not think there has been any. Nor is the Department of Justice, so far as I know, observing any developments there. My only information comes through the press reports, which seem to indicate that, at the present time, it is a local matter that is being handled by the Governor of Oklahoma.

An inquiry as to when the delegation of bankers of the 9th Federal Reserve District will come in. The date set for that is the 27th day of September.

Also an inquiry about the rehabilitation in Japan, as differentiated from immediate relief. There hasn't been any suggestion to me from any Japanese authority. It occurred to me, of course, as it did to everyone else, that our first thought was for the immediate relief of suffering there, and when that was disposed of, or contemporaneously with the disposition of it, it would be proper to take up the matter of refinancing, if necessary, the rebuilding of that part of Japan which was ruined by the earth quake.

+ Whether I shall receive David Lloyd George, the former British premier. I certainly hope to receive him. I shouldn't think it would be possible for him to come to Washington without coming to see me.

Whether any figures have been presented as to a shortage of hard coal, and whether there is any possible justification for an increase in price. No figures have been made up. I do not suppose that a cessation of production from the first of September until, well, today is the 18th, for twenty days would, distributed over the seasons' output, really make any shortage in production. There is as I understand it always a slack time in the production of coal, both anthracite and bituminous, many days when the men in the mines are not employed. Now this loss will simply mean that there will be a greater opportunity for continuous employment, so that there wouldn't be any shortage on account of the cessation ~~of~~ from the first of September up to the present time. And there is another thing that is encouraging in that respect. And that is regarding the ability of the railroads at the present time to furnish cars. I recall last year when I was in the West, there was a great deal of discussion there as to whether the railroads were going to be able to furnish cars to move the fruit crops. Purchase of new equipment, and the expenditure on the part of the railroads of something like one billion and onehalf dollars has been made. The railroads this year, I think, have been ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly equipped in all directions for the purpose of providing

cars, and I haven't seen any report any where of a shortage of cars on the railroads. That is a very encouraging feature of the present situation, which will be reflected of course, in their ability to move freight.

* The Federal Trade Commission has had brought to its attention the matter of prices of coal, and I have had a letter from them saying that they would look at the reports of the Fuel Commission and the facts that they set forth, investigate the method of the distribution of coal for the purpose of ascertaining whether they can make suggestions that will reduce any possible waste that now exists in that operation.

* An inquiry as to how I look on the suggested trip of to the north pole. I do not know that I can say much about that without a conference with the White House press association. I spoke to them for advice about that. I do suppose, though, seriously, that that is a great scientific undertaking, not only in relation to exploration, but in relation to the navigation of the air. And should it be successful, it would be one of the most remarkable of accomplishments.

The Cabinet took up and discussed this morning, particularly, the agricultural situation, and it developed there that the cotton situation is ~~per~~ fairly satisfactory. There is trouble in the South, of course, in certain sections, from the Boll Weevil, but, apparently, the general result of the cotton crop section for the present year will be to give them a larger money return than they had in pre-war times. The corn situation is also one that is fairly satisfactory. The price of corn is remarkably high and there isn't any real difficulty in that direction. The same is substantially true in relation to the animal industry, hogs and cattle. The encouraging thing about the raising of hogs is the very large number of them that there are on the farms. Of course, if the farmer has two hogs to sell instead of one, why he gets an additional income, even though the price isn't very much larger. The difficulty is particularly in the wheat belt and in that belt where there is oftentimes an insufficient rainfall. It makes the production of wheat cost more, and the production, per acre, of course, is not so large. There is a large production of wheat all over the world. Apparently, Europe will import about 200,000,000 bushels less of wheat this year than it has in preceding years.

We also discussed the effect that is produced by the prevailing rate of good liberal wages in the industries on the agricultural situation, and it was rather the opinion of those, who were best informed, that they had resulted in a very ~~far~~ much larger increase in the consumption of meat products. That is where there is a hopeful situation for the hog industry and the cattle industry, but it does not have a corresponding good effect on the wheat industry, because as the standard of living begins to go up and they eat more meat, apparently they eat less wheat. So that they are getting the benefit in one direction, but not the benefit in another. We don't know yet just what is going to be proposed in the way of a remedy. The Secretary of Agriculture is making a particular study of the wheat situation and expects to be able to report on that to me by Thursday or Friday of this week. When that report comes in, it will undoubtedly set out the facts that will enable us to make some determination of what kind of a remedy can be proposed. There is great anxiety and great desire to do everything that we can for the relief of any of the farmers who are in distress, along sound economic lines, relieving, a temporary situation perhaps, by trying to formulate a plan that will bring agriculture back on to a sound economic basis, so that we can have a balance of production. It may be that some of those that are raising wheat would do well to engage in the raising of some other kind of agricultural products. It may be that we ought to look about and see what it is that we are importing in the way of food products, and suggest that the wheat raisers, if they can, try to provide us here in America with some of those things that are being brought in. Sugar occurs to me right away as one of the things that we import to quite an extent, and probably shall for some years to come. It may be that those who are now raising wheat can profitably raise sugar beet or flax, and that we may be able to provide some remedy along that line. We also have in mind the possibility of some regional conferences. Some locality wants one thing done and another locality another thing, so that by regional conferences with the Secretary of Agriculture and perhaps by a representative of the Dept. of Commerce, for it is a commercial activity as well as an agricultural activity, we ~~can~~ must consider, that in that way we can furnish some needed relief.

I think that covers the situation fully.

September 21, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspapermen

+ I am reminded that when I came here I did a good deal of wondering whether I would be able to be helpful to the members of the press in these conferences that we have, and especially as to whether I wouldn't find it more or less of a bore on my part and, perhaps, not particularly pleasant. I haven't found it that way at all. In fact, I have come to the conclusion that I rather look forward with pleasure to having you come in twice a week, in order that I may talk to you, give you a little of the idea I may have of what the Government is trying to do, and satisfy you, insofar as I can, on the questions that you ask.

+ I am reminded too that my boys have returned back to school. They are just such boys as some of you have, I have no doubt. I hope that they can remain there at school without much of anything in the way of publicity. When they are here anything that they can do to be helpful, or that we can do, we are glad to do, but I sent them up to Mercersburg, which is a very excellent school. They have always been in the public schools at Northampton and would have been there now, had we remained in Massachusetts, but there is no one in Northampton now, but my housekeeper. I wanted them to be under more supervision than that, so I sent them up there in order that they might be out of Washington and have that opinion, which I think boys are entitled to have, of privacy in their school affairs. Dr. Irving has been very helpful to them up there, and I presume that if you make any application to him, or any of your associates, to get any story about the boys up there, he will have to tell you that we very much prefer that they be not subjected to publicity while they are there.

Now I have several inquiries here - more than I do sometimes.

The veteran inquiry about the Governors' Conference. I have practically determined that I shall adopt the time when the Governors are meeting in their annual conference, which is in the middle of October. I have adopted that as a result of some communications that I have had from Governors, indicating that ~~they~~ that would meet their convenience, and that it would be of very much greater assistance to them, than should we call it at any other time.

Q. Where do they meet?

A. They meet in Indianapolis. I think it is the 16th or 15th of Oct.

Q. The meeting will be after that?

A. I am not sure yet whether it will be right after or right before. I am under the impression now that it will be more convenient if we have it immediately following.

Q. Do we understand that they will come here or you go there?

A. Oh, no. I shall not go there. The conference will be here.

I have several inquiries about an extra session of Congress. Nothing new has developed on that. I have already expressed to you quite a good many times that I couldn't see any reason at the time I was speaking, nor do I now, for calling an extra session. There are many questions to come before Congress but I think, so far as they have been presented to me, they will be able to wait. Now as I said before, I don't want to foreclose a session, and should it be disclosed to me that on account of some condition Congress might render a great public service by coming into session earlier than about eight weeks from now, I will take that instance up and decide it when it comes. At present, I don't see any reason for an extra session.

An inquiry about the Oklahoma situation. So far as I know, there have been no representations made to Washington in relation to that situation, and an inquiry as to whether there is any Federal observation being made on it - not any that I know of. It wouldn't be necessary to do it from Washington, of course, because the Executive is represented there by the Marshal and the United States District Attorney, as he is in every other jurisdiction, and should there be any violation of the laws of the U. S., why, of course, that would be the tribunal before which said violations should be brought.

Regarding the shipping board policy. I have no new policy about that. It really isn't the business of the executive, as I understand it, under the law to try to formulate a policy for the Shipping Board. I am glad at all times to confer with different departments, give them the benefit of any judgment that I may have or any information that may come to me, and assist them in every possible way. The Shipping Board has certain directions under the law for carrying on the shipping business of the U. S. to - generally speaking to try and get ~~the~~ it into private hands as soon as possible and to liquidate it. The plan that they had appealed to me, especially because they represented it to me, and it was my judgment that it was, perhaps, a first

step and the best step that we could take towards private ownership and private operation. It has appeared that it isn't possible to put it into effect under the present statute. I haven't conferred with the Board yet. I got that opinion from the Attorney General yesterday, I think - today has been Cabinet day. I am going to confer with Chairman Farley or any other members of the Board very soon, and see if I can help in any way. I don't know whether they will desire legislation about it. Of course, one of the main elements of their plan was that it could be put into operation without the mediation of Congressional action, that it could be put into operation immediately. That was the essential of it. Whether they think they want to pursue some other plan, if it is necessary to secure legislation, I do not know. Of course the Board had the plan that was explained in the Shipping Bill last year and which was debated in the Senate, but never came to a final vote. I suppose that represents the idea that the Shipping Board has of the kind of legislation they would like to have, rather than forming another, but whether they think it advisable to do anything about that legislation in the coming session is something I couldn't give you any definite opinion about now.

+ An inquiry also about Mr. Amster and his conference with me. That leads me to say a general word about matters of this kind. Of course, the people that come here to see the President come because they have something that they want to lay before him. Something they want to tell him. Not because they expect to get information from me. That being so, I give them the opportunity, insofar as I can, to tell me what it is that they have in mind. Very much as you come in and get information from me, ~~not~~ not by all talking to me, but by permitting me to talk to you, and it is the reverse of that operation that goes on here when any one comes to see me. When they go out they are, of course, at liberty to make such representations as they want to. They are not supposed to quote the conferences with me, but sometimes they undertake to do that and sometimes they don't. Now, I shall have to adopt the rule, of course, of not being responsible for what people may say when they go out. They are good about it, I know, and mean to represent everything just exactly as they understood it, but if I should undertake to follow up all those things and correct them all, I don't suppose I would have an opportunity to do very much else. So I am not going to do that.

This inquiry is in relation to ~~Mr.~~ railroad consolidations. I haven't been into the particulars of that. Senator Cummings has it under consideration.

He is a veteran in the study of railroad problems, was one of the authors of the present law, and I should want to confer with him and with others, of course; with the Interstate Commerce Commission, also, before I could have any mature opinion about railroad matters.

There wasn't anything that came up today at the Cabinet Meeting that is of any particular interest. We discussed a lot of small details as to when we might be able to meet and take up some questions, but there were no decisions made, and while I had expected to take up the agricultural problem especially at this meeting of the Cabinet, I was not able to do so because Secretary Wallace hasn't completed his survey of the wheat situation.

Another inquiry about the Merchant Marine problem. I have already spoken about that, and I can't give you any more information as to what the next step will be.

I have already spoken about the Oklahoma situation. As I said, no representation, as far as I know, has been made in Washington at all about that, and it would be very unlikely that any representation would come from anyone except the Governor.

Further inquiry as to what may be done about profiteering in coal. The Federal Trade Commission, as I have already said, has all the facts that were gathered by the Fuel Commission. They are studying those, and undertaking to see if they can make any representations that would be helpful. On the 24th, which is next Monday, the Interstate Commerce Commission meets, I think, at Pittsburgh, in order to consider rates, especially of coal. I think that has virtually covered the things that you had in mind.

I am reminded that the Conference of Governors is at West Baden instead of Indianapolis. I assume that Mr. Welliver is right. He almost always is.

September 25, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

* Mr. President, it seems to be the opinion that 12.30 would suit us better, rather than 12.00 o'clock until, perhaps, sometime later.

* I really didn't hear anything from them before this meeting, so it was set at 12.00 o'clock. I suppose I could, I will take up with the Cabinet at the next meeting the matter of their coming in at 10.00 o'clock on Wednesdays (should be Tuesdays) and seeing what I can arrange in that direction.

An inquiry as to whether there has been any development in the Oklahoma situation. I don't know of anything at all down there. Nothing has been brought to my attention.

And an inquiry about the sale of the Gorgas Plant to the Alabama Power Company. That Gorgas Plant hasn't really any connection whatever with the Muscle Shoals proposition. It is located, I think, some 75 miles away from there. It is an ordinary steam plant for the generation of electricity. It has running out from there it some lines of transmission. The thing that Mr. Ford is interested in/is the water power. This steam plant is a mere incident of that, about as much related to the whole proposition as the stem of an apple might be to the apple that has come off the tree. His proposal is for the matter of 100 years. Of course, the steam plant, in relation to a proposal of 100 years, even if the thing was on steam, would be just a temporary arrangement. Now, what we proposed to Mr. Ford was that whatever we secured in the way of money from this sale of the steam plant would be, of course, credited on his offer of \$5,000,000. This would reduce the amount that he would be required to put up, if he continues his offer on the same terms, from \$5,000,000 down to just a little bit over \$100,500,000. We had no option as to whether we could continue the occupation of the land. We were obliged to vacate when notice was given. We got that opinion from the Attorney General. We could have vacated and scrapped whatever property we had and in that case we could not have sold it, probably, for \$1,000,000. We were able to get practically \$3,500,000 from the Alabama Power Company, so that we are that amount to the good and as affecting the general proposition that Mr. Ford is interested in, which is the water power, it really has no effect on it at all. It might have been a convenience to him to have used this plant for a

short time, while he was developing his power, but I suppose, for a very much less sum, probably less than \$1,000,000, if he wanted to, he could build something that would afford him every facility that he might wish. That matter is, as you know, in the hands of the Congress. There never was any final determination of it by the Secretary of War, or by the President, and it is up there for their action.

An inquiry about the European situation. The only thing I can say about that is that it appears to be more hopeful. I judge, by the reports that are coming in here, both through the public press and through the representations of our representatives abroad, that there is a real hope of making some kind of a settlement ~~by~~ between France and Germany. The German Government appears to have reached the conclusion that its resistance is not successful, and the French Government seems to be more nearly in a state of mind where some settlement can be made.

Another inquiry about what the Cabinet did in relation to the farm situation. Secretary Wallace has made a careful study, especially of the wheat conditions, and the Cabinet took up and discussed several suggestions for assistance in that direction. One of them was a lowering of freight rates, especially on exports of wheat and exports of flour.

Mr. President, has this report been made public?

I don't suppose it will be made public in its entirety, but I think you can get from Secretary Wallace an outline of some of the things he found. A proposal of that kind is already before the Interstate Commerce Commission to see what they can do. If rates are lowered for the transportation of wheat or flour, those roads in the United States that are not securing any more than is necessary for them to have to live on, will, of course, expect an increase of rates in some other direction. If all the roads of the U.S. were exactly alike, that, perhaps, might be easy to suggest. The main difficulty about that is that some of the roads make their living almost entirely from the transportation of agricultural products. They don't transport much of anything else and it would be very difficult to find anything that would compensate them for their loss of revenue, if there is a lowering of freight on agricultural products. But that is before the Interstate Commerce Commission and will be worked out, if possible.

Another suggestion of the possible change of the tariff on wheat. It is evident that the present tariff is working to the advantage of the American farmer on wheat. I think the spread between the price in America and the price in Canada is, or a few days ago was, something like 28¢. That varies from one time to another. I don't know whether the suggestion of increasing the tariff would be a remedy. Of course we have a surplus of wheat here that we want to export and, where wheat is to be exported, the first thought would be to increase the tariff on it which wouldn't be of very much assistance. But that has been suggested to me by men who know something about how those things work. It is something that ought to be investigated and studied, and in their opinion it might be helpful. And for that reason that will be done. I don't want to put it out as a proposal on my part, or as something that certainly could be helpful, but, at least, it is worth considering.

I have already spoken about the Alabama Power Plant. As I have said, I don't understand that that would materially interfere with Mr. Ford's proposal.

Mr. President, can you impose ^{an} ~~the~~ export duty on anything?

I think there is a Constitutional prohibition against export duties. That is my recollection, that the Constitution says that no export duties shall be imposed. I wouldn't want to be too certain about that offhand, but that is my recollection.

Another inquiry about regional conferences. Nothing has been definitely done about that. I suppose it is known that a committee from the Northwest is to visit me on Thursday, I believe, at 10.30, made up of some bankers and business men and so on. They will be accompanied by some representatives from that region. I shall expect to have present at that conference, Secretary Wallace and Secretary Hoover, and probably Mr. Myer of the War Finance Corporation. Mr. Myer is very familiar with conditions out there. I think he has travelled ~~it~~ more in the West, perhaps, with the sole purpose of alleviating conditions in the agricultural regions, than anyone else connected with the administration.

Another inquiry about the agricultural situation, which I have already answered.

An inquiry about the shipping outlook. Of course, nothing can be done there except to go on using the present plan of operations and try to formulate any other plans that may be helpful. I was very much pleased to get a report from Commissioner Farley, the Chairman of the Farm Board, that we have been able to make some arrangements that very materially reduce the expense to the national treasury, on account of some sales or relocations, or something of that kind.

An inquiry about the recommendations of the Coal Commission. I haven't examined those in great detail. So far as I have looked into them, I have found them helpful and, I think, wise. What it will be necessary to do to put them into effect, I haven't considered in detail yet. I understand that they contemplate, in some cases, legislation by the Congress, and it is my expectation that I should recommend the adoption of the policy that they have outlined.

Another inquiry about the Governors' Conference. The details of that are in process of being worked out, and I should expect that, as already said, the conference here would immediately follow the annual conference that is to be held at some place in Indiana.

Another inquiry about the attitude of our Government towards European problems. There is no change in the attitude we have had all along.

And an inquiry, too, about the recognition of the Mexican Government. I think all the particulars have been given out about that that can be given out until the proposed treaty is submitted to the Senate. I understand that it is the custom to treat a treaty of that kind as in the confidence of the Senate and not to give it out for publication, but to submit it to the Senate, and the Senate rules require, as you know, that it should be considered in executive session. But I have no doubt that an order will be at once adopted that the provision of secrecy be removed.

I think that substantially covers the inquiries, and I will take the matter up of trying to get you in at 12.00 or 12.30,

October 2, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspapermen.

We had a very short Cabinet meeting this morning. Secretary Wallace told us about the International Conference of Dairy Producers he is holding, or something of that kind, but nothing of any particular importance. The Secretary of Labor gave us the important item of news that the Lehigh Valley R.R. have made a settlement with their men in the shopcrafts, that have been on strike. It affects 5300 men. That is the old strike that began last year. It is very gratifying to know that those things are being closed up.

Have several inquiries here. One about Muscle Shoals. I have been over that with the representatives of the press once or twice and there hasn't been any change, since I last described it, in its status. Nor have there been any developments in connection with Mr. Ford's offer. We did everything we could to protect the interests of Mr. Ford, to exercise the good faith of the Government towards him and leave the matter in such a way that he would be at liberty to proceed with his negotiations. The matter, as you know, is before Congress for their action. There isn't any authority to make any sale of the Muscle Shoals property unless by special act of Congress. This matter is there before them, and Mr. Ford would be at liberty to go before the Committee up there, or take it up in any other way he might desire.

An inquiry about Governor Hart of Washington. He came in the office yesterday at a time when I was very busily engaged and wasn't able to see him, as I understand it, merely to pay an official call. I met him last year, I believe, when I was in the West visiting in his State. It is my recollection that he was with me a considerable time when I was in Seattle and Tacoma, so I told Mr. Clark I would be very much pleased if he would lunch with me today. I don't understand that he has any business with me other than that of a social nature.

An inquiry about policy in state elections in New York and Kentucky. I do not contemplate any action in relation to those. Different representatives from those states have called on my from time to time. I don't recall that the matter of pending recollections there has been the subject of consultation in any way except, perhaps, in a most offhand way of the general inquiry which you would expect when someone came to see me or I was in the presence of someone who inquired

about how the election was going. It was of such a desultory character that I don't recall what decision was arrived at.

An inquiry also about the proposal of Representative John Jacob Rogers for an embargo on anthracite coal exports. I have never considered that. I imagine it would be a matter of considerable delicacy and would require quite careful consideration, both as to the advantages that we should expect to secure from it and as to the reaction that might result from our doing anything of that kind.

An inquiry about a reported proposal of Mr. Meyer, the Director of the War Finance Corporation, to recommend the formation of a corporation to handle export wheat, and that the President has approved this plan. It is contemplated that Mr. Meyer and, perhaps, Mr. Mondell, and someone who is particularly familiar with the West should go out there and study it on the grounds. Mr. Meyer has been in the West a good deal in relation to the relief of agriculture in the past two years, has placed a great deal of the money of the United States out there through the banks in order to relieve the agricultural situation. He is very familiar with it and is known as a business man, sound and experienced. I should place a good deal of reliance on his recommendations.

Mr. President, would - any proposition to organize a corporation of that sort would require legislation by Congress, would it not?

I don't think so. That would be a voluntary corporation or organization which might be set up in any of the states, either a legal corporation or a voluntary organization of the farmers themselves.

But it would not employ Government capital, Mr. President?

Well, it might employ money that was furnished by the Government in the same way that money is now being furnished by the Government, which is through the banks.

An inquiry as to whether there have been any conferences in the shipping problem. Not to my knowledge - not that have been brought to my attention. Mr. Farley is considering what can be done.

As to whether there has been any suggestion from the National Education Association that a Department of Education with a Secretary be set up in the capital. Nothing has been received of which I know. I don't think anything of that kind has come in. I think that is provided for in a general way in the proposed reorganization which, I think, is at the present time before the Congress.

It may require recognition on the part of the Executive, but that is in the general reorganization plan of the establishment of a Welfare Department with a Secretary over it, but I think the Department of Education comes in under that.

+ An inquiry here as to whether there have been any communications from the so-called shipping board cabinet. I don't know why that is so called. That was never established. Of course it is natural, when we are considering a matter of that kind, to group together all those that would come in contact with it. Shipping, of course, in its natural aspect is an attempt to serve commerce. Very naturally you would consider it in that relation and confer with the Secretary of Commerce about it. Our Shipping Board at the present time is spending considerable Government money and very naturally one might like to take it up and consider it with the Treasury - the Secretary of the Treasury, who, in the present instance, happens to be in addition to the Secretary of the Treasury one of the great business minds of the nation; and also if it is ^eproposed to have legislation, why you naturally like to find out what the House Committee and the Senate Committee think about it; to work out something in that direction, I though I perhaps might like to sit down with representatives of that kind to see what could be done. But when the Attorney General said that the proposed plan wouldn't come within the contemplation of the law, I didn't have anything to submit to advisers at the present time, and so I didn't call any advisers in.

An inquiry as to whether I favor any transfer of the Federal Prohibition Unit from the Treasury Department to the Department of Justice. I have never made any decision about that, and never considered it seriously. What I mean is that I have never given it any particular consideration. Never thought of it very much.

An inquiry about the visit of Howard Elliott, Chairman of the Northern Pacific. I knew Mr. Elliott when he was in Massachusetts and when he came in to take charge of the N.H. Railroad. I don't know whether he had anything to do with there the B. & M. other than that ~~it~~ was a large stock owner in the B. & M. by the New Haven. As a result of my experience with him there, I have a high estimation of him. He came in this morning more to pay his respects than anything else and I took occasion to inquire of him as to the business situation in the Northwest. He tells me that they have plenty of cars up there to move products. There is, though, a possible shortage of cars west of the Rocky Mountains, which he said was an indication of a general prosperity in agriculture west of the Rockies. He

recognizes we have a difficulty in the wheat region and inquired of him about the possibility of helping it by some reduction in the cost of the freight rate of export grain. He thought that that might be helpful, though I don't know that he expressed a mature judgment about it, nor do I think he expressed any judgment as to whether that would be fair to railroads.

+ One of the representatives of the Farm Bureau Federation, Mr. Silver, was in this morning. Brought me a box of very fine apples. I would advise all of you to ask him to visit you, if you can secure the kind of reaction that I secured. He came in especially to invite me to go out sometime to an orchard that is conducted on the edge of West Virginia on a cooperative plan. I should be very much interested to go out there, if I could, but I don't know whether I can or not. He mentioned today the matter of Muscle Shoals, as I have already related to you.

I had, a day or two ago, some of the executive committee of the National Grange. Some of them are located - one of them in Massachusetts, one from New York, one from Illinois, and I don't know where the other did come from. We went over the various farm problems. They are not in favor of an extra session of Congress and not in favor of any attempt on the part of the Government to fix prices. I understand that the position of the American Farm Bureau Federation is similar, though I have not had an opportunity to confer with their Executive Committee. I am going to do it in a day or two. They have been invited to come in and give me the benefit of their advice.

+ An inquiry as to whether I plan to confer with the Secretary of the House Ways and Means Committee on matters of tax revision. Of course, I shall confer with the Secretary of the Treasury and undoubtedly with some representatives of the House, Ways and Means Committee on the question of whether there should be any tax revision at the present time. I haven't any idea as to what advice they will offer. I know there is considerable both in the Treasury Department and, no doubt, by the direct influences in the Ways and Means department of the House. Whether they will determine that there should be any changes or not, I wouldn't be able to report at the present time, because I don't know.

An inquiry as to whether I can confirm or deny published reports that Judge Walter Evans of Kentucky has resigned. I haven't had any information that he has resigned, and this is the first report that has come to me of that nature.

Another inquiry about Oklahoma. I haven't any further information about the situation out there. I did have a telegram from the Governor, which I gave out the next morning. He had some report, I think, that some federal judge was undertaking to permit the use of some federal property out there, and the next morning's report indicated that the judge said he hadn't undertaken to do anything of that kind. That was all in the papers, that interchange of telegrams.

And whether there would be any interference out there without an appeal from either the Governor or the Legislature to me. The only reason for any interference that I know of would be for the purpose of keeping order, and appeals of that kind come almost always through the Governor. I am not certain whether the legislature has any constitutional authority to make representations to the President or not. Where there is a direct interference with the actions of the Federal Government, as the movement of mail, the holding of federal courts, or some federal action of that kind, then it wouldn't be necessary for the Governor or anybody else to ask for federal interference on the part of the authorities in Washington. It would be naturally and inevitably their business to see that federal actions go on. But anything that I should do with the domestic affairs of any State, of course, would not be interfered in by the national Government, if it was a matter of keeping order there, that would come through some responsible representative of the State.

October 5, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

+ I have an inquiry here on the subject of education relative to the statement that I made of approval of national education day, and whether I think more manual and industrial and outdoor training should be in order for all. I don't think you can make any hard and fast rule about that. It depends upon the locality and on the individual. I recall that when I was in college, one of the Professors was discussing that problem before us and speaking of the need generally of athletics in education at the present time. But he said that he knew a man that had been President of the Massachusetts State College, I think his name was Goodnough, walked from Templeton to Andover, a distance of sixty miles, and carried his trunk on his back. He said that when he got there he didn't have any feeling for a course in football. X I delivered a short address on what I thought was the needs of education at Wheaton College Commencement, which is the only college, I believe, that is within the confines of the old Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. If you are very much interested in my views on education, you can get that address and read it.

+ An inquiry about the cancellation of debts, stating that the new President of the American Bankers Association says that he is going to start an immediate campaign for cancellation, and wanting me to state my views on the question. I gave you the views that I held at one of our very early conferences, which was opposed to the cancellation of debts. That doesn't mean that it isn't open to negotiation as to terms and conditions and so on. We made very liberal terms with Great Britain in the matter of interest, and all that which, if figured up, I presume would show, as a matter of arithmetical determination, that we would be more than cancelling the original debt, considering the reduction that we made in interest. Something of that kind, perhaps, would be considered. Some of the countries are not paying us any interest at the present time. But the matter, of course, is in the hands of the Commission that was appointed, as the result of an act of Congress, with power to negotiate, and the terms are laid down in that Act, and those are the terms on which the American Government stands until they are modified.

Any indications, Mr. President, that any other powers are ready to negotiate now?

Not that I know of. I am not in personal touch with that, because it

is in the hands of the Commission. I do not think they are doing anything about it at the present time. Not wanting to press anyone, not wanting to appear as an insistent debtor, or anything of that kind, but leaving the matter open for further negotiation.

An inquiry about the visit of Chairman Marvin of the Tariff Commission. I spoke to him about considering the question of the present tariff on wheat, and he and the Commission will look into it, as I have already stated to your conference. I don't think there is very much of any relief to be found in that direction, but it is an element worthy of consideration and should it appear that it might be beneficially used, it could be used, but I have a great deal of doubt whether anything could be accomplished by action of that kind, or whether, under the law, we should find that the facts were such that any action could be taken.

Also an inquiry about the visit of Congressman Crampton of Michigan, and whether there was any statement of his intention to introduce a bill in the next session of Congress calling for a certain contribution by the Federal Government to District needs annually. Mr. Cramton saw me only a minute. Nothing was said about his proposal to introduce a bill, and this is the first information that I had about it. I assume that that means a contribution to the expenditures of the District, and not a contribution for the purpose of erecting buildings in the District.

Mr. President, did Representative Cramton bring up the question of larger appropriations for prohibition enforcement.

No, he brought up no ^equestion at all. He came in between the appointments that others had, and merely as a matter of paying his respects to me. We didn't have time to talk any and discuss anything.

An inquiry also about the apparent failure of the hearings in Pittsburgh on anthracite rates. I don't know what the result of those hearings has been. If this suggestion is correct, that they didn't develop anything of public interest, I suppose that means that the question infers that it didn't show that any change in rates could be secured, or if secured would be helpful. I haven't any information about that.

No one appeared, but three railroads, Mr. President. No one appeared for the public.

Well, of course, the Interstate Commerce Commission represent the

public, and it is their business to look out for the public interests whether anyone appears or not, and I haven't the slightest doubt that they will do so. I don't know who presented to them the petition for a change in rates, and it is rather strange that the petitioners didn't appear. But not knowing anything about that I can't make any comment about it.

An inquiry also about the recommendations made by the Coal Commission and whether I propose to urge those recommendations on Congress as a basis for legislation. I can't very well anticipate just what I may say to the Congress in any message that I may lay before it, other than that in the most general way the Coal Commission has made a long and exhaustive study, assembling a great many facts that bear on the coal condition. I think it would be strange if, out of that, I wasn't able to find a great many things that I could recommend to Congress for their action.

An inquiry about replacing Arthur Powell Davis for David W. Davis, as head of the Reclamation service. About that, I have scarcely any information. It was brought to me early after I came here, and brought to my attention that Arthur Powell Davis had resigned, and that his place was filled by David W. Davis. I think that was done before I came into office. It is my recollection that I was reading something about that before I came to Washington.

It was done while President Harding was going West from Washington, Mr. President. Sometime in June.

Well, that was in June then probably that it was done, and as I was away I didn't ever have it brought specifically to my attention, and I don't now recall anything about the matter of an Executive Order made August 17th. Very likely I made one. Of course, it is on record whether I did or not, but many of those things go over my desk and I should have to look up the papers to refresh my recollection about it. ~~Waxden's make~~ I don't mean that many executive orders of that kind go over my desk, but a great many papers from the different departments. I think I have issued almost no executive orders relative to the Civil Service. I have had the Civil Service Commission in once or twice to ask them about proposed Executive Orders, and it may be that I had them in on this. I can't recall now, what it was that they were in on, but it seems as though they were. But I wouldn't want to be certain about that. You can get the information, undoubtedly, from the Department of the Interior.

An inquiry about the visit of Senator Harreld and Representative

Chandler of Oklahoma. I didn't see them and I didn't know they had been in. So I suppose that their visit was probably not one of very great importance.

An inquiry about the visit of the Italian Ambassador. That too, has no connection with any specific question. He has been out of the country and returned two or three days ago, and in accordance with custom came intoday to pay his respects. I had met him very pleasantly last spring and last winter. As you know he has been in America a great deal, engaged in business at some time or another in the Western part of our country, so that we regard him with interest, not only on account of his position which he holds, but also because of the position he held with American industry. He told me about the bettering conditions in Italy, the returning evidences of prosperity, among the industries there, people going back to work and a decrease of the discontent that was manifest over there as a part of the discontent and as a result of the great conflict.

Also an inquiry about the conclusions that have been reached on the transportation problem. No specific conclusions have been reached on that. Several railroad presidents have been in to see me. I don't think any of them came in to consult me about transportation problems. They uniformly had some other errand. I have taken advantage of their presence here to ask them about the situation generally, but without reaching any settled conclusions.

A statement that the last Congress passed a joint resolution asking the Executive to invite the maritime nations of the world to a conference on the polution of coastal waters, and that early this week at Atlantic City a conference adopted a resolution urging action in line with the Congressional request. That will be taken up with the State Dept. If there is a resolution of this kind, it had escaped my attention, and I have no doubt that this information is correct. The matter of polution of coastal waters had been brought to my attention and is one that I had been very much interestedⁱⁿ/to see if we could not provide a remedy. This polution is a serious menace both to the convenience of those that want to use the water for bathing and so on, and it is also a fire hazard. Very likely it is a menace to public health, and I know that our country would like to join with other countries in doing anything that can be done to remedy it. I am very much interested in this suggestion about a conference, and I will take that up with the Secretary of State right away.

Mr. President, do you have the Great Lakes in mind in connection with that report?

Very likely that is it, though it says to invite the maritime nations of the world. I haven't had any complaint from the Great Lakes. The complaint has come from the region east of New Jersey and south of New York - especially those places that are used for seaside resorts.

Mr. President, that is a problem though that the Public Health Service is investigating from time to time.

I know it is.

An inquiry about the exchange of Ambassadors between this country and Mexico, and whether an Ambassador will be appointed before the treaties are ratified. I do not think that Ambassadors would be appointed in the ordinary course before the treaties are ratified. I think I am safe in saying that our country would very much prefer to have Mexico ratify the treaty before we appoint an Ambassador, especially as I understand that their ratifying power, which is the Senate, the same as ours, is in session, and that they can pass on it at the present time.

And an inquiry as to when the treaty will be presented to the Congress. Of course, there won't be any opportunity to present it on our side to Congress before the Congress meets in December, which is the usual time. When that time comes I shall expect that about the first day it would be submitted to the Senate for its action.

Whether any consideration has been given to the proposal of the War Finance Corporation to accept from cooperative wheat marketing associations, without recourse, the paper of foreign buyers, in connection with the financing of grain exports. Well, I don't think any consideration has been given to this question in just this form. The question, or consideration, has been given to acceptances of paper given for export of grain, but, of course, it would have to be accompanied by adequate security. Now, whether it could be accepted without recourse, which means that we could only expect to collect from the maker of the paper and not from the endorser, would be something that the War Finance Corporation would have to determine in each instance, in accordance with what was necessary to protect the money of the United States. If there were adequate security, the matter of whether it was with recourse or without recourse wouldn't

be a matter of very great concern. If it were without security, I would doubt whether the War Finance Corporation would want to accept it any way. But it would be much better to confer with Mr. Meyer about it. I know that he wants to adopt a very broad policy and assist in exportation wherever that can be done.

Whether there are any developments in the agricultural situation. I suppose it is already known that Mr. Meyer is to go up to the Northwest, taking with him Mr. Mondell, who is acquainted with the region there; also a representative from the Agricultural Department, to see what can be done up there of a helpful nature. The other angle of it is the export matter, which we have already considered.

I think that covers substantially the questions of the day.

October 9, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ An inquiry about Senator Copeland of New York, suggesting that in a series of speeches he is urging the calling of an international economic conference, and inquiring whether I have given any consideration to this subject. I haven't given any particular consideration to it. It is a matter that has been up for discussion in Washington now and then for two years. But, up to the present time, there hasn't seemed to be a condition existing abroad that made action of that kind practicable; and, of course, it is fundamental that while you might like to do something in this direction, or that direction, or the other, there isn't any use of starting in on it unless there is at the outset a good reason to expect that it might be successful, and that is the condition in this respect. The matter that they are discussing in Europe, and about which they are moving armies, is an economic question in a way, and with the present condition of mind over there, it hasn't seemed that it could be decided at a conference. They have had various conferences in Europe, and had up this matter, especially, for discussion and consideration, and they haven't been able to reach any conclusion.

Also an inquiry about business conditions and any information as to further prospects. I don't feel much competence as a prophet about any future conditions. I gather from information as to what conditions are at the present time, and on that anyone can base some judgment as to what they are likely to be for some time in the future. The reports that come to me indicate that business conditions in the country are good. There is a little difficulty in the oil region in Oklahoma, due to the great production of oil that has come in on the west coast. There is, of course, as we have discussed here frequently, trouble in some parts of the wheat region. Many agricultural products are in good condition; corn is especially high, range cattle, which means cattle that are not fattened for the market, are not high. Fattened cattle finds a good market. The price of hogs is fair. There are evidences that in the textile industries orders are fairly good, and there seems to be plenty to give employment in the steel and iron industries. Some of the mine industries are not so

good.

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The silver mining is not in good shape on account of the lower price of silver, and especially the higher cost of mining. I think the copper industry is not so good. But on the whole the business of the country is in very fair condition, and so far as we can see, there is an expectation that it will continue good for a time.

An inquiry about a report said to have been made by the State Department on the study of the Tariff Commission's survey of foreign discriminations against ~~the~~ American merchandise. I don't recall any report of that kind that has come to me. Perhaps that may be some report that is being made by the Commission to the State Department, which hasn't been taken up with me up to the present time. I don't know of any general foreign discriminations against American merchandise. There may be something of a trifling nature somewhere, or some proposal made by some foreign country that some discriminations were in contemplation, and for that reason probably the Tariff Commission was asked to make a survey and see if anything of that kind was threatening.

I have already spoken of the business outlook.

+ A further inquiry about the endorsement given by Lloyd George to the Hughes proposal for a Commission to investigate ^{and fix} the amount of German reparations and whether this Government will actively press this plan. That is a suggestion first made by Secretary Hughes, according to my recollection, about last December in an address made at New Haven, and I don't know of any present expectation on the part of our Government to take it up by any interchange of notes or views with the foreign Governments, so that the inquiry as to whether this Government will more actively press the plan - I should say the answer to that would be "no". The suggestion has been made, and it is for any foreign Government that is interested in it to take it up of their own consideration.

An inquiry whether I have received any communication from General Wood suggesting relief from Federal taxation for Americans doing business in the Philippines, as is allowed by the British and other Governments. Whether this relief, if favored, is to be retroactive. I don't recall any communication from the General making any suggestion along that line. I think this matter was up for consideration in the last Congress; if I am not mistaken I heard it debated in the Senate, and I don't know what position I should take on it. After carefully considering it, it is my recollection that it didn't seem to be feasible, for

some reason or another, but I haven't enough information about it to give you any idea that is really worth while.

An inquiry about the reported resignation of Ambassador Child, and as to the meaning of some conclusion about that. I really don't know how any conclusion could arise about it. He wrote to me that under a plan he had with President Harding, he wanted to retire and I wrote back to him that, of course, I would be pleased to have him stay and would like to have him visit this country if he wanted to and then return with the understanding that he would retire at his leisure. Perhaps, if there has been any conclusion it has arisen from the fact that the Ambassador is trying very carefully to comply with my wishes and stay as long as I might indicate to him that it was really desirable for him to stay, and my effort to indicate to him that I would like to have him stay, but didn't want to have him stay at a sacrifice.

Is there any understanding that he will return, after this present leave of absence, and then determine whether he might wish to retire, Mr. President?

That is the way that lies in my mind. He will make a visit and then return and retire at his leisure. That is what I tried to indicate to him. He indicated to me that he wanted to help the Government like a patriotic citizen, and I tried to indicate to him that I would like to have him stay, but that I wouldn't want to put any disproportionate burden on him, keeping him there serving the Government when, really, it was unfair to him. So that he is coming over on a visit and, as I understand, is to return and then retire at his pleasure.

An inquiry about the economies planned by the Shipping Board in the operation of the Government owned fleet. I think the Shipping Board have under contemplation disposing of some of their lines, which they think would reduce expenditures, and "will the Attorney General's opinion result in changes in the present contract with the managing agencies?" I haven't any definite information about that. Nothing of that kind was expected. If there have been some contracts between the managing agencies and the Board that under this opinion of the Attorney General appear not to be warranted by the law, then the Board will work out some other plan. I don't think that is a matter of any particular consequence.

I have also an inquiry as to whether there have been any reports from Mr. Meyer and Mr. Mondell. I have a telegram here that came this morning from Chicago, relative to a meeting that was held there, which was attended by R. W. Bingham, Chairman, National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations, and one of the organizers of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Association; Mr. Sapiro, an organizer of Cooperative Marketing Associations from California to Maine; Carl Williams, President, Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association and the Vice President of the American Wheat Growers' Exchange, an organization which includes within its members practically all of the cotton crop marketing associations of the country; George E. Jewett, the General Manager of the Northwest Wheat Growers' Association, which includes in its membership the Wheat Cooperative Marketing Associations operating in nine states; as well as by agricultural and other representative men, who are taking an active interest in cooperative marketing. The meeting elected former Governor Frank O. Lowden as its head to start in stimulating the organization of the producers of wheat in the several wheat growing states, and goes on to say that they were very much encouraged.

Will the text be given out, Mr. President?

I would be glad to give it out if you would like to have it.

An inquiry about the Lloyd George statement, which I have already commented on.

I think that covers -

Mr. President, what are the indications of a report from the Federal Trade Commission on coal?

I don't know. I haven't taken that up with them lately. I know they have it under consideration.

Mr. President, anything about the Cabinet meeting this morning?

No.

October 12, 1923.

Remarks of the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have two or three inquiries about the Governor's Conference. That is a Conference, of course, as I indicated in my invitation to the Governors, which can be discussed in a word or so. I have invited the Governors to lunch with me on the 20th, told them that after that I wanted to lay before them certain matters in relation to immigration, and the enforcement of the laws relative to the sale of narcotics and alcoholic beverages. It is a conference, I may so designate it, entirely for the purpose of seeing what can be done to secure a better enforcement of the law. I mean by that that it is to proceed on the executive side. This isn't the calling of a legislative conference, or a conference for any other purpose than to secure cooperation in enforcement. I don't know the number that have responded favorably. I think my advices from the Governor's Conference that is to be held in Indiana were to the effect that some thirty odd would plan to be present there. I should think it would be doubtful if there would be any more here than would go there. It may be that some of the men in the eastern part of the country can drop in here on Saturday who couldn't spend almost the entire week in Indiana; so that while I may lose some that go to the conference in Indiana, I perhaps may gain some that couldn't attend there.

Mr. President, will the Governors' Conference be an executive session?

Yes, it is an executive session. It is an invitation to take lunch with me and after the lunch I have certain matters that I want to lay before them.

Mr. President, can you give us some idea of the program, or some of the discussions?

I haven't anything to give out about that yet. I expect to speak to the Conference, and representatives of the Treasury Department. I don't know whether Mr. Mellon will speak or not, but he will be there and someone will represent his Department. And the Secretary of Labor's Department, they representing the immigration. Also the narcotic laws and the prohibition laws represented by the Treasury Department.

Mr. President, is it possible that some of those speeches will be given out? Will they be given out in advance?

I think some of them may be given out in advance, and it is possible that I may have some statement made at the conference. I do not know about that.

An inquiry about my conference yesterday with Secretary Hughes. I don't think that had the significance that its length perhaps may have given to it. The Secretary came in, I think about 3.00 o'clock. I sent for him in order that I might confer with him about general matters that come under the jurisdiction of his Department, of our foreign relations. It wasn't any particular or specific thing. Our conversation was entirely general, and I thought that his words, which I read somewhere in the morning paper, disclosed it very well as having no particular significance. I was a bit over three-quarters of an hour or so going over these things in his Department, in order that I might keep myself as well posted as I could about the details of our foreign relations.

+ An inquiry as to a business conference which it is rumored will be shortly called. I haven't any plan about that, and this is the first suggestion of it that has come to me. Business, in general, is so good now that I don't know of any particular reason for calling a business conference at this time. Business is never so good that we don't want to improve it, but I don't know of any particular reason for calling a business conference, and I haven't anything of that kind in mind just now.

+ An inquiry about the London discussions of tariff preferences within the British Empire being carried on at the Imperial Conference. That hasn't happened to come under my observation. I should judge that that was a matter entirely of the domestic affairs of the British Empire, which we should have to recognize they have a right to discuss and a right to regulate, just the same as we regulate our own domestic affairs. We make our tariff whatever we think it ought to be, and we wouldn't want to have interference from without in anything of that kind. Very likely you will recall that during the making of our last tariff, and I think on other occasions when the Congress was engaged in the making of a tariff, that criticism was made on the floor that different foreign representatives here were attempting to interfere with it. I don't say that the charge was correct or incorrect. I am simply stating the fact that it was made, as indicating that a nation dislikes very much to have any outside interference with that which is purely its domestic affairs. I should imagine that that would be the case here. I don't know that we have any treaty that would affect that in any way, and unless we have, I should think it purely a domestic matter which they have complete jurisdiction over, and in which it would be inappropriate for us to meddle. Of course, I don't mean by that that it isn't proper for a foreign government to

apply at any time to our State Department if there were justification for such procedure, or that it wouldn't be perfectly proper for our State Department to apply any time to any state departments of foreign governments; and that would undoubtedly be done, if it was thought that anything was about to happen that might interfere with the commercial and business interests of the United States. I think I can assure every one that they will be - that our business and commercial interests will be looked after to the very best of our ability.

An inquiry as to whether Doctor Cuno made any suggestions for German steamship lines to acquire some of the surplus Shipping Board tonnage. I knew that Doctor Cuno was interested in shipping, and I talked with him about that for the few moments that he was here. I think I suggested to him that there was a great deal of surplus shipping in the United States, not with a view that I expected that he was desirous of acquiring any of it, but that was an observation I made and I don't recall that he made any particular response to it.

Did he make any representations regarding the twenty year contract with the Harriman lines?

No, now that you speak of that. I remember he said his special errand over here was to make some kind of a contract, or have some discussion or ~~een-~~
~~trans~~ transaction of business with the Harriman lines, but the nature of it wasn't disclosed, and I didn't inquire about it.

Whether there is any comment to be made on the statement of ex-Premier Lloyd George favoring an unwritten understanding between Great Britain and the United States for world peace. No. I don't think it would be good policy for me to comment on the speeches that Lloyd George is making. Of course Lloyd George was formerly the Premier of Great Britain. He is now a powerful figure in the public life of that country. He is not, however, now, the Premier and doesn't speak, of course, for the British Government. I give you that suggestion, in order that you may write, when you do, with that in mind. I don't know whether he is considered to be in opposition to the government. I suppose that is the position he occupies, as one of opposition to the present government, and that his speeches over here should be considered from that angle; not in any way as the official representation of what the present government might want, but in the nature of speeches of one who is visiting here, and wants to lay his ideas before the American people, and also speaking from the platform which, no doubt, reaches back and is listened to at home.

Another inquiry which came up before at one time, and which is a matter that has never been brought to my attention. I don't know just what there is of importance, or what its significance may be. That is as to the closing at an earlier hour of the international bridge between El Paso and Juarez. That has never been brought to my attention at all. Very likely, if it has come to the attention of the State Department they haven't considered it a matter of sufficient importance to be taken up with me.

Whether any report has been received from the Federal Trade Commission relative to prices of coal. It hasn't been made yet. I called that matter to the attention of the Federal Trade Board. I sent to them some representatives of the Coal Commission and they also have secured the reports and the evidence of that office, which was before the Coal Commission, so that they have that under consideration.

† There was one other matter that I nearly forgot to mention. At the Cabinet meeting it developed that the Japanese Government had suffered the loss of its printing presses, which would be the equivalent ^{there} of having our Bureau of Printing and Engraving wiped out of existence, so that ^{they} ~~we~~ have appealed to us for assistance, and our government has been exceedingly glad of the opportunity to render them some assistance through our own plant to cover an emergency. We have some of the small hand presses that were formerly used in the bureau, before they adopted the present power presses, and if it should be necessary, our Government would be pleased to supply those to the Japanese Government to tide them over the necessities of the time.

Is there any money shortage resulting from this temporary suspension of the plant, Mr. President?

I haven't heard of any. It is a question of printing their currency, and they needed to have some help about it.

Whether any time has been fixed for the Cabinet to consider plans for the reorganization of the executive departments, and whether the Brown plan approved last year by the Cabinet will undergo any changes. I haven't any changes in mind about that. The Cabinet will take it up for consideration very shortly. As you know several cabinet members have been out of town. Secretary Denby is up in New York, I think it is New York, undergoing an operation, a slight injury to his heel; and Mr. Wallace is in the West, Mr. Daugherty was in Ohio, Mr. Davis is on the Pacific Coast; and as soon as we can get the Cabinet all together we will take up the question then, go over it carefully, and see if it is desir-

able to make any changes in the suggested plan.

Any date been fixed for a Cabinet discussion of that plan? Mr. President.

No particular date, but as soon as we can get the entire Cabinet together it will be considered. I doubt if it will be necessary to give a great deal of attention to it. No changes are contemplated that I know of, but, on the other hand, no express decisions have been made.

† It is announced in New York that the terms of a new loan to Italy will be made public next week. Has the administration taken any stand in the floating of a loan of that kind? No. The administration has no policy about that, other than a desire to assist wherever it can, and I mean by that to give its countenance to the lending of money by our private banks in America and the American people to Governments and people abroad wherever it can be done. I am not certain whether any inquiry about this has been made in the State Department. None has come to my attention. But I have every reason to suppose that the State Department should look with approbation on any plan of private individuals to help refinance the Italian needs.

† I have another inquiry, I don't know whether I covered that, about the proposal of Lloyd George for an entente between the United States and Great Britain to maintain the peace of the world. That, as I have explained, is an unofficial proposal made by a prominent man, but not made by the Government of Great Britain in any way. Should it be made by the Government of Great Britain, why we would take it up and consider it then. Coming, as it does, in this way, I think we will have to regard it as a speech and I don't care to make any particular comment about it.

An inquiry about the citizenship conference tomorrow. All that I know positively about that is that I am to receive the members of that conference some time. They are to come to the White House where I am to have the privilege of receiving them and shaking hands with them.

Mr. President, will you make a speech?

I don't expect to.

Sent any message to them?

I haven't sent any message. I don't know whether any officers of the Government will speak there or not. I think that covers substantially the things that I wanted to discuss today.

October 16, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

This morning I discussed with the Cabinet very briefly the matter of erection of more public buildings in the District, for the purpose of better housing some of the Departments. Many of them are in a congested condition, so that they need more room. Many of them are scattered about, some having very many different locations, so many that it would be almost startling to give the number. The registrar of deeds was in my office the other day telling me that he had very insufficient room in his quarters to carry on the work of his Department, so that there is too much of a congestion of his work, and he is not able to hire and locate sufficient employees there to keep the registration of deeds as near up to date as he would like to have it. So that it is suggested that, with a view to carrying out that plan for public buildings that has already been adopted, for which some plans have been drawn and approved, that we should try to secure from the incoming Congress a continuing appropriation of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 a year, which would mean the beginning of four or five buildings and a gradual carrying out of that plan, so that the different Departments might be well located.

Mr. President, was the archives building mentioned in that discussion?

No, it wasn't. There wasn't any particular building mentioned. I suppose that is one of the pressing needs. Just a general plan that has been adopted by the Committee or Commission that has in charge the suggestion of location of buildings for the purpose of carrying out that public building plan that has been considered, and, I think, adopted.

An inquiry about two vacancies on the Federal bench in California, and whether it is my intention to fill these vacancies at an early date. It is my understanding that under a ruling from the Attorney General, any vacancy that is in existence which was in existence during the session of Congress cannot be filled during vacation. There couldn't be a recess appointment made. I think one of these vacancies is due to a death that has occurred since the adjournment of Congress, and, in that case, it would be possible to make the appointment before the convening of Congress. But if an appointment is to be made in a State, I should desire to confer with the Senators of that State about it. Neither of the two Senators are here at the present time, and I haven't had the opportunity to confer with them, and it is better, of course, to make these appointments without making a recess appointment - to wait until Congress comes. If a recess appointment is made, and any question should arise about it, it

becomes a rather embarrassing matter, and unless there is a good deal of pressure on account of conditions to fill an appointment by recess appointment, it is better to do it the other way.

An inquiry as to whether there is any report from the wheat situation in the northwest. Yes, we have had some other telegrams, the last one being from Glendive, Mont. October 13th, and being in relation to the wheat farmers in North Dakota. That telegram, I do not think I need to read it, says we assured the meeting of the readiness of the federal agencies, including the War Finance Corporation, with its financial support, to assist in the accelerating of the program for the relief of the wheat growers, etc. This tells of a general conference of business men and farmers, and the encouraging features that they found as a result of the conference.

An inquiry about a scheme for consolidating railroads into a number of regional groups. That, I think, is provided for in the present law, and it is my recollection that the I.C.C. has formulated a tentative program for that purpose. I do not think it has ever been fully adopted by them, nor has it begun to be put into operation, and no decision, as far as I know, has been made about it up to the present time. I haven't any decision to announce about it. That might possibly be a matter that I could take up in my message.

A statement that the Shipping Board has recommended the extension of coastwise laws to the Philippines. That I have never happened to discuss with the Shipping Board. I do not know just what their recommendations are about it, and I have never made any decision in relation to it.

Also an inquiry about declaring a national holiday on the 2nd of Nov., in honor of the memorial services to be held there for President Harding at Marion, and whether I am likely to attend the services. ~~It~~ There was under consideration, at one time, a plan to have a very extensive observance of his birthday on the second of November at Marion, and I had under consideration a plan of going there myself. I understand that the people of Marion gave up trying to have anything like an extensive observance of his birthday, and I am not certain whether they are to have some local observance or not. I judge, from this suggestion, that that is the case, but it is to be local in its character and will not be participated in, so far as I know, by any representatives of the Federal Government who are now in Washington. I don't know about the office holders from Ohio. I have no doubt some of them may go. But my information is very meagre about the present plan and, in fact, I didn't

now they were planning for anything more than a local observance, if that.

In regard to a conference with Senator Smoot. Nothing was said by him or me, so far as I recall, about the debt funding commission, nor have I discussed that matter with Ambassador Herrick. The Ambassador is staying at the White House, and he and I are going over the problems that he has in relation to his mission.

An inquiry as to whether the Prohibition Commissioner will be made directly responsible to the President, instead of to the Secretary of the Treasury and Commissioner of Internal Revenue. I have never considered that question, apart from the suggestion that is in the report of the consolidation committee. It is in that Brown report, the proposal to transfer the Prohibition enforcement from the Treasury Department to the Department of Justice. No suggestion has ever been made to me that it should be directly under the President. It is, at the present time, under the Collector of Internal Revenue, or the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, as he is called, and the Prohibition enforcer is an assistant, I think to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

An inquiry about the suggestion made by Governor Silzer of N. J. that the Governors' Conference take up the coal price question. I should be very glad to confer with Governor Silzer about that, either personally or in conjunction with the different Departments, and give him any possible assistance that I can. This conference that is to be held on Saturday begins at 2.00 o'clock. There isn't a very long period of time and it wouldn't be possible to take up there a consideration of prices of coal. I don't know if it would be quite fair to some Governors of southern states to come to a conference of that kind to listen to a consideration of those questions that affect, especially affect, northern and eastern states, and also Governors from western states. This is more of a district or local question, than it is a question affecting the whole nation. I would be glad to do anything I can to assist in fair price of coal for the people of New Jersey, or any other part of the nation.

+ An inquiry about Alexander Smith and Samuel Rea. Mr. Smith, I am informed, is a man who has had a long experience as a shipper, and he came in to give me some suggestions about our shipping problems. He has made some suggestions. I didn't have a chance to talk with him at length, because I was just going into the Cabinet meeting, but what he has in mind is a 10% reduction of duties on imports when carried in American vessels. Whether something of that kind could be worked

out, I do not know. I think it would come directly in conflict with many treaties that we have at the present time and suggestions of that nature came to me recently and I took the matter up with the State Department. It was not new to me, because I had heard it discussed in the Cabinet a couple of years ago, and the conclusion reached by the State Department is that it would not be practicable to undertake a change of that nature. While we have a right to give notice ending treaties in their entirety, there isn't any provision in treaties that we can dispense with a part of them, if they prove not to our benefit, and retain those parts we find beneficial. Very likely if we were to tell foreign governments we are going to make a change in these treaties, and give a preferential tariff duty to goods that come to America in American ships, they would impose on us some obligations that, no doubt, would compensate them for injuries that they thought they had received. That is the difficulty we confront. Of course, we have in addition to that the general feeling that having made a treaty which we thought fair and just, that we ought to abide by it and live up to it, and not take any position that could be held in any way dishonorable to the good faith of the American people and the American Government.

An inquiry about a study being made by the Treasury Dept. relative to tax revision. I haven't any definite information about that. It is my understanding that they pursue, constantly, studies in the Treasury, as the results of tax laws develop, to see what, if anything, ought to be done in the way of changing the laws, and very likely something of that kind is going on now that could be ascertained by making inquiries there.

An inquiry also about the Federal Trade Commission letter that came to me on the coal situation. Such a letter came, and I have had prepared some mimeographed reports of its contents and so on, which will be given out to the members of the press at the close of the conference. It tells of complaints that have been made and the work that is being done in the way of investigation.

Mr. President, you didn't tell us anything about Mr. Rea's visit.

Oh, that is so, and I thank you for calling my attention to that. I have spoken about Mr. Smith. Mr. Rea came in, as a number of railroad executives have, not on any special mission, other than to come in and pay his respects to the office. I made a couple of suggestions to him. One was that I thought it would be helpful to the general good feeling that ought to exist between the transportation interests and the public, if we could have the same rate on coal that is exported and coal that is used for domestic purposes. It is a source of complaint, I don't know how much

justified it is, by the people living along the northern border of the nation, in New York and New England, that coal goes through their for export to ~~Canada~~ Canada bearing a less freight rate than coal that is used for domestic consumption. I presume there is a sound economic railroad reason for a rate of that kind. But I think it is very much overbalanced, by a reason of policy, of having the people of the United States feel that they are treated just as well by the transportation interests as the people that live across the line in Canada. I also suggested that it would be helpful to the wheat situation if some reduction in the transportation rates of export wheat could be provided for. Now, both of those questions he will have investigated and if he finds that it can be of any help in making changes in that direction, I judge that he would be glad to make them.

There is no additional information about the Governors' Conference. I shall take up with them, of course, the general question of law enforcement, and those other questions that I have already laid before your Conference at prior meetings.

Mr. President, in the event newspapermen wouldn't be admitted to the Conference, will your speech be made public?

I think so.

Mr. President, do you plan to take up the changes in coal and wheat rates with other railroad executives?

Not directly. Should any one come in, I should be glad to speak about it, but I am sure that action by Mr. Rea or any of those larger transportation systems would mean action by all the others.

Mr. President, are we to understand that you would have a lower rate on wheat for export, than a domestic rate, and on coal you would have the same rate apply?

Yes.

I have already spoken of the request of Governor Silzer.

An inquiry about the visit of President Pearson of the New Haven R.R. and Mr. Rea. I have already spoken about Mr. Rea. That is evidently the reason that I happened to pass over that other suggestion, because I had Mr. Rea's name marked here. Mr. Pearson came in in relation to some general matters of the New Haven Road, as he was in town undertaking to see what could be done with the authorities.

I think also some business with the Director General of Railroads and the Interstate Commerce Commission relative to a settlement of the accounts between the New Haven Railroad and the Government. Considerable sums have been advanced by the Government for the relief of the New Haven, and there is an unadjusted balance between the New Haven and the Government, as the result of Government operations. So that the New Haven owes the Government quite a large sum of money, and the Government owes the New Haven some money; and it was in relation to that that he was in town. Not expecting that he was to do anything about it, but just taking up the matter and telling me of some of his difficulties.

I think that covers substantially

October 19, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ Here is a very interesting suggestion that a box has been set aside at the Princeton-Navy Football Game, on Saturday, October 27th, for me and my party, and an inquiry as to whether I expect to go. I am sorry that I can't go. I should like very much to see that game. Not only because I enjoy the sport, but because I like to encourage activities of that kind on the part of the Navy and on the part of the Army. I think it is especially good training for the Naval Academy and for the West Point Academy to have sports of that kind in connection with the general training that takes place at those institutions.

+ Another inquiry as to whether the Navy's interests are adequately protected in the lease of the Teapot Dome. I haven't any detailed information about that. My judgment about it would be based on the confidence that I had in President Harding and Secretary Fall. I think there is some suggestion pending in Congress for an investigation. I don't know whether it will be carried out or not, but that should reveal, if it is carried out - well, it is going on now, I believe. Yes. That, of course, will reveal the facts; so that, so far as I know, there is no action that could be taken by the President relative to it.

An inquiry as to whether the plan of the Shipping Board subcommittee for its operation had my approval prior to its adoption. I am not certain just when that plan was put into effect. I have had several conferences with Chairman Farley and whether, as a result of those conferences, he considered that I gave my approval to the specific plan, I don't know. I didn't understand that I was approving any specific plan. I don't want it to be understood by that, that I am criticizing the Shipping Board in any way. I assume it is the very best that could be done at the present time. It is difficult to adopt a temporary plan of operation, and after careful study, when Mr. Farley returns from abroad, which will be in a little less than a month, perhaps something of a permanent nature will be laid before me. That was the substance of the last conference that I had with him.

+ An inquiry also about recommendations that I might make to Congress. I can't tell what recommendations I may make to Congress, and as I have indicated before, I should very much prefer to make those to Congress direct, rather than to make them the subject of various conferences here between the White House press and

myself.

An inquiry about the visit of Mr. Wakeman this morning. He was only here a very short time, I think less than five minutes. I understand that he is interested in the gathering of tariff information. That was the substance of what he was telling me - that he and some organization - what organization does he represent?

American Commerce.

Well, I am not certain.

American Protective Tariff Association, Mr. President.

Well, I judge that he was connected with some organization that was interested in a reasonable tariff, and the substance of his comments was that they were gathering tariff information.

† An inquiry also about tax revision legislation by Congress. That again is a matter on which I have arrived at no settled opinion. Of course, I shall go over that with the Treasury Department. I shall go over it with the representatives of the Senate who have charge of that in the Senate, and the representatives of that in the House, who have charge of it in the House, to see whether, as a result of what information there is in the Treasury, and the opinion as to what policy Congress ought to adopt, as a result of a conference with the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate and the Corresponding Committee of the House, it would be well to adopt and recommend. I suppose it goes without saying that everybody is in favor of tax revision, if conditions are such that warrant it.

An inquiry about dispatches from Mexico City relative to a border conference between the President and General Obregon within the next sixty days. That has been suggested to me, I think by Senator Cameron, that it might be productive of a great deal of good, if General Obregon could meet me on the border, having in mind, I think, something of that kind that was done by President Taft during his administration. I haven't any plan about it, and at present it doesn't seem to me that it would be feasible, however much I would like personally to do it, and however much I agree with the general suggestion.

An inquiry also - several - about the Conference of the Governors.

Mr. President, while we are on the Mexican subject, may I ask you if it would be more feasible after the exchange of Ambassadors?

Well, it might. It is something, of course, that I should like very much to do, but doubt very much whether I could get the time that it would require.

Thank you, sir.

There isn't anything in the situation that I know of that would make any difference whether it were done now or whether it were done after Ambassadors are appointed. That is the question. It might be that at that time I should have a better opportunity.

Several inquiries about the Governors' Conference that I will answer together. It is my plan to say a few words of welcome and describe the purpose of the meeting of Executives to see what can be done for a better enforcement of the laws. You have the three subjects - immigration, the narcotic laws, and the prohibitory laws. They will be followed by the Attorney General, I don't know just in what order, who will give something of a resume of what has been done by his Department, and Judge Henning of the Department of Labor will represent the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Labor being, at present, on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Mellon will be there, Mr. Blair and Mr. Haynes. I understand that Mr. Haynes will speak, telling what is being done by the Treasury Department and by himself in the way of enforcement, making, all of us, such suggestions as seem pertinent to us as to what can be done, and especially about the duty that comes to us under the law to try to enforce its provisions.

Mr. President, will your remarks be prepared in advance?

Yes, they are practically ready to be given out now.

What time do you think they will be given? In time for the afternoon papers?

I don't know. What time do your papers go to press?

Well, we can get it for the 5.30 up to this time of the day.

Well, I should judge, though, if part of them were to go in the afternoon papers and part in the morning papers, it would be better, of course, to get them all into one edition, or all into the other.

Mr. President, will there be a record kept of the proceedings of the conference - the discussion?

No, this is informal. The gathering will listen to the remarks I have indicated above, and after that, I expect the Governors will have appointed somebody to represent them and present the views of the state executives. Very likely several will speak for that purpose.

I have also here an inquiry about the Conference between Senator Moses of New Hampshire and myself. I was especially desirous to go over with him, not in any great detail, but still at some length, the developments that arose as a result of the journey of the Committee on Reforestation. It seemed to me that that was a matter of a good deal of importance, and I was desirous of knowing what progress the Committee were making, and what response they found in their western trip. He tells me that he finds a great deal of public and official interest in this very important question. It is realized, not only that we are cutting down and using up ~~a~~ very large forest resources each year, but also in the matter of fire. ⁺It has been reported to me, and I am afraid it is true, that more timber is burned up each year than is cut down and used. A very serious situation. One that would be appreciated especially by men connected with newspaper work on account of the continually increasing price that there is in print paper. ⁺The difficulty of securing pulp wood. Of course, this material also goes into the building end of it. It goes into almost all of the manufacturing industries, so that it is a matter of supreme importance that we provide ourselves with sufficient reforestation to insure the growth and development of enough wood for the use of all the industries in the future.

I think that covers substantially the requests of the day.

October 23, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

+ I have here an inquiry about the disintegration of Germany, and as to what views our Government might have about it and whether it will make more remote the likelihood of collecting our foreign debts. The only Government attitude that we have toward Germany is that expressed in our treaty of peace, and our other treaties that we have recently made. I should presume, if there was a general breaking up in Europe, that it would make more difficult the collection, or rather the payment, of our debts. No one could tell exactly about that. Of course, it is the policy of our country to permit other countries to have such a government as they want, and to administer their internal affairs in any way that they may desire. I don't know of any treaty obligation that we have to interfere in Germany, or of any policy that we have outside of a treaty, to interfere there in any way at the present time. I don't ~~know~~ mean by that, that we don't desire to be helpful, but I don't know of anything we could do at the present time to be helpful.

+ I have another most interesting inquiry. It has quite a long preamble, but there is one very significant thing in it, "The United States has never interfered in the internal affairs of other nations, except by precept and example;" and inquires whether it is the hope of the United States that people will eventually be at peace everywhere under democratic forms of government. I have partly answered that question in what I have already said - that we demand^{ed} ^{at one time} the right to have such a form of government as we want for our people, and we have to concede that same right to others. I don't know of any case where the United States has interfered directly with any other government, because they had a form of government too democratic, or not democratic enough, in accordance with our views. I think the inquiry is very well answered when it sets out the sentence that I have just read, which says that we have never interfered in the internal affairs of other nations, except by precept and example. That, of course, is the notable exception, and I might go on with a discussion of this inquiry, ^{the monarchy threat,} so on and so forth, and you all will see the implication and the application of it, that our country expects to maintain its present form of government. We wouldn't want any country to interfere with our form of government, and we don't want to take any action that would interfere with the rights of other countries. While the United States Government has no opinion, I have no doubt that

thoughtful people in our country have hope that governments, similar to our own, will ultimately, and could ultimately, be established. No doubt, they have been gratified to see republics springing up, and there has been an absence of gratification when anything like a reaction occurred, tending to bring people back under any form of government that wasn't an expression of their own will and their own wish. Anything like a dictatorship, or any manner of government of that kind, of course, is not a condition that is gratifying to the American people.

An inquiry about the release of political prisoners. No further decision has been made about that.

The Cabinet took up, this morning, very briefly, the matter of the budget. I am very gratified at the progress that is being made, and took occasion to express that gratification to the Cabinet for their cooperation with the Budget Commissioner, and the desire, present in all Departments, to bring their wants within the means of the Government and the taxpayers, at the present time, suggesting to them that if I could help adjust any differences or difficulties, in any way, I would be very glad to cooperate with them to that end.

An inquiry about the public building program for Washington, and whether the Secretary of the Treasury has conferred with the Supervising Architect of the Treasury relative to this. Nothing of that kind has been done, so far as I have any knowledge. I think I stated at the last Conference that there are plans already in existence, as I understand it, awaiting an appropriation of money, in order that it may be carried out.

A statement that J. B. Griffin, member of the Sacramento Board of Education, quotes me as endorsing the principles involved in the American Revolution and the War of 1812, contained in Muzzey's American History. "I assume that this statement is accurate" and it goes on to say that "It has been charged that the history contains pro-British propaganda", and gives me the privilege of making such comment as I may deem proper. I haven't any recollection about that. I don't now recall this history. It may be that I have issued some statement about it, but I think it is very improbable, and my offhand opinion ~~opinion~~ would be that, either Mr. Griffin is mistaken, or the report that he has made the statement here alleged, is mistaken.

An inquiry about the conference I had with Major Knox of Manchester, New Hampshire, the editor of the Manchester Union. He came in to talk to me about cooperative marketing, as he had seen it when he was in Denmark some time ago. He went over there to make a special investigation and study of it at that time. I only had a moment to see him, but one significant thing was developed, and that was that the cooperative marketing they have in Denmark ~~was~~ is a development of a plan that was taken over there from the United States.

Also an inquiry about recommendations for the safeguarding of the issue of permits for liquor. That hasn't come directly to my attention. I think there are some statements in the morning papers from the Secretary of the Treasury, or his Department, that indicate that the plan is already in operation.

An inquiry as to whether any replies have been received from railroad executives relative to suggestions looking to rate reductions. No. I hadn't expected any replies. That matter is before the Interstate Commerce Commission. They are, as we would say in the law courts, trying a case about it. One of the executives was here the other day, and I expressed the hope that they would find there is an opportunity to make some reductions in that direction. Whether they can, or not, of course, I am not in a position to say, and I wouldn't want to make any statement that would appear to be trying to influence the Interstate Commerce Commission about it. I mentioned it, because my suggestion, I thought, was received in a very friendly way, and indicated a hope that there might be some relief in that direction.

+ Here is a type of inquiry that sometimes comes to me. Usually there isn't anything I can say about an inquiry of this kind. It reiterates that there is a rumor circulated that the Secretary of State intends to resign within the next few days. I haven't any information about such a rumor. I am very certain that it is without any foundation whatever. I suppose there are rumors afloat at all times and in all places about various resignations that are to come in the Cabinet, and below that in the diplomatic service and consular service. Most of those rumors are without foundation. Or there are rumors about appointments to be made. Of course, many different men have to be considered for appointments, when that question is before the Departments and before me. Usually I don't pay very much attention to rumors of that kind and the present one, I am very certain, is without the slightest foundation.

An inquiry about a conference with Mr. Bonyge and - I can't recall the name now, but it was the German member of the Mixed Claims Commission. Mr. Bonyge brought in the German member of that Commission to present him to me. It was just before I was going into the Cabinet meeting, so I didn't have any chance to have anything in the way of a conference with them. Mr. Bonyge stated that they had about 12,000 claims before them, and that important decisions were to be made within a short time on some of the disputed questions, some of the test cases, which they might be called. When those decisions are made it will clear up the situation to such an extent that they expect to go forward and finish their work within a year.

That covers the questions of the morning.

Mr. President:

please indicate the passage you
wish me to quote to Mr. Munsey.

Geisser.

October 26, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

An inquiry about the Cabinet session. We took up this morning the matter of reorganization of the Departments. It is a plan of this kind (holding up the plan) that I presume the press has seen, which was prepared some time ago, telling what the activities of each Department are at the present time, and what it is proposed to remove from each Department and what it is ^oproposed to give to each Department. We went over that in some detail, but didn't finish it, as it is a matter of considerable time. I wanted to go over it in detail with the Cabinet, because we have never done that. I think President Harding went over it that way with them, but it wasn't when I was present, and I never had been over it carefully with them.

Was Mr. Brown at the meeting, Mr. President?

No, he was not.

Is he coming to any future meeting?

I intend to have him come in before the Cabinet some time. This is known as the Brown plan. It is the plan that was ~~prepared by~~ presented to the members of the Committee that represented Congress. Mr. Brown is the member that specially represented the President. I have been over it more or less with Mr. Brown, and expect to have him come in and take it up with the Cabinet, before we finally determine all the details. But we did go over it hastily, taking up those things about which there didn't need to be any discussion, and we will take it up at a later time, discussing the remaining part of it at that time.

Haven't you said, Mr. President, that you generally give your approval to this plan?

Yes.

Have you said whether that contemplated the amalgamation of the War and Navy Department, and that you approve of it?

I am not entirely convinced about that, but, so far as I have made up my mind, I should hesitate to approve that. I think that is so large a project, that if it is ever put into operation, it would better go through as a separate proposition, rather than to link it up with the general proposal of reorganization. There was a time, when the Government was first formed, that both the War Department and Navy Department were under a Secretary of War, there not being much Navy at that

time, and later there was a Secretary of War and Secretary of ^{the} Navy, and this has been the case, I think, for about 125 years, the change coming I believe in 1796 or 1798. That has been the established method of procedure for so long, that there is probably a rather deep-seated conviction in the minds of the people, and in those that have to do with the two Departments. While there is a great deal of logical reason to say that the matter of public defense should be under ~~one~~ Department, yet our Government is not always exactly logical in its procedure. It grows up and has a historical, as well as a logical background. It is institutional and oftentimes we get better results by observing that and working accordingly.

Was the matter of an assistant to the President taken up?

That is not included. I have several very valuable assistants that I keep here in the office all of the time, and they are efficient.

Will

~~Did~~ you say whether the matter of the proposition of the British in regard to the settlement of reparations was taken up?

No. I think it was spoken of informally by Secretary Hughes - relating substantially what was in the morning papers. There was no discussion of it. He simply told us of the various developments that have arisen.

May I ask, Mr. President, how many Executive Departments, there would be under the plan, as it now stands?

I think there are 10 members of the Cabinet, aren't there? Well, the plan as it stands contemplates the consolidation of the War and Navy Departments, and then the addition of a Department of Education and Welfare, so it would leave it the same. If the War and Navy were not to be consolidated, then it would be providing for an addition. Of course, my mind is not made up, and the mind of the Cabinet is not made up about the consolidation, but I should think it would be very improbable that we should want to ask Congress to consider that as a part of this particular plan.

An inquiry about appointments of an Ambassador at London and at Rome. There isn't anything that is finished in that. So that I can't make any statement about it at the present time.

Did you know that the afternoon papers announce that Mr. Kellogg has evidently been selected?

His name has been under $\$$ consideration, but there has been no final determination, so that the matter is not in a condition where any final announcement can be made.

An inquiry about the Colorado River Pact ratification, and the Diamond Creek project. I haven't much of any direct knowledge about that. It came to my attention during the past year that Secretary Hoover was in the Colorado region undertaking to work out and secure the ratification of an agreement between the several states, which would provide for the development of the Colorado River and also for the protection of the Imperial Valley against flood and inundations. I think all of the states ratified that except Arizona. I have had conflicting reports about it, some telling me that the people of Arizona are willing to ratify it, but that the present Government of Arizona has not been willing to do it. There has been a general expression, I think, that has come to me, that Arizona will probably ratify, and in that case we can proceed with this development.

An inquiry about a conference with W. A. Harriman. That was, for the most part, personal. I mean by having happened to meet him. He came in as many men do, who are in Washington, to pay their respects. The only matter that we touched upon, and that very briefly, was the matter of shipping, I inquiring of him how the lines that he is interested in are getting on, and he inquiring of me about the U. S. shipping, each of us hoping that the other would be successful, and asking information of each other, I not being able to give him much information about how to succeed, nor was he able to give me very much information.

Mr. President, how about the report that he desires to purchase some ships for his line?

He didn't indicate anything of that kind to me.

+ As to whether I intend to call men in various industries for conference. No, not generally speaking. It would be hardly necessary for me to make any general effort in that direction, for the reason that men of that kind come to Washington frequently and come into my office, and in that way I am able to get a very general idea of what they are thinking of, and what they think the needs of the country are, and what can be done. I almost always inquire what is it that the Government can do that would make your enterprise any more successful, and oftentimes in that way I get what I think are very valuable suggestions. Sometimes there are things that they want the Government to refrain from doing.

Mr. President, can you tell us anything more about Mr. Kellogg?

I can't tell you whether or not Mr. Kellogg has been selected.

An inquiry also about George E. Marsee^{Cy}, President, Armour Grain Company.

The Secretary of Agriculture was conferring yesterday with some of the grain men - I don't recall their names. I think there were three or four of them. And he brought them up here. We didn't have any particular discussion about grain matters. I understood, though, that they were conferring with the Secretary of Agriculture, or, perhaps, I should say, he with them, as to whether it would be possible for the Government, from such knowledge as they might have, technical or otherwise, to assist in the marketing of grain abroad. Now, I have several times indicated, and am very glad to reiterate at any time, that I should favor the Government assisting, in any financial way that it can, on a business basis, of marketing grain abroad. The suggestion has been made that there may be a necessity to purchase some grain to be marketed in Germany. It is possible that something of that kind can be done. I don't want to commit myself or the Government to any unsound business enterprise of that kind, but, on the other hand, I don't want to be understood by that as saying that I do not favor a charitable effort of that kind, should developments make that necessary. You will recall that Congress made a direct appropriation of \$20,000,000, the year before last, or last year, to buy corn to send to Russia. It may be that it will develop that it is desirable to buy some wheat, as a matter of charity, to send to Germany during the coming winter. We all hope that nothing of that kind will occur, and that they will be able to take care of themselves. But, should the occasion arise, we would, of course, undertake the proposition, I am sure. Should that happen, I would be glad to see the Government cooperate.

An inquiry as to whether this proposal could be carried out by the War Finance Corporation under its powers at the present time. I think it has powers at the present time to engage in financing a legitimate and sound business enterprise for the export of grain. Of course, it hasn't any powers to engage in anything like charity, and I shouldn't want to have it engaged in any unsound business enterprise.

An inquiry as to the probable reaction to the course of events precipitated by the President's recent statement to the press, with respect to America's willingness to assist Europe in her difficulties. I don't know as my judgment about that would be worth any more than that of yourselves. So far as I have observed, there has been a favorable reaction.

The British referred in their note to the suggestion of the President, Mr. President.

I think that, perhaps, is evidence that my statement, that the reaction was favorable, is correct.

+ An inquiry as to what will be the next step toward the disentangling of Europe's affairs. That depends, of course, upon what results from the action now being taken. If the proposal is accepted, I should say the next step would be the securing of the representatives of the different Governments, and their meeting in conference. Whether the American experts will be nominated by the Administration, or whether the choice will rest with the Reparations Commission as its own initiative, depends, of course, upon what answer may be made by the various Governments that are concerned.

+ Whether France will accept a scaling down of reparations. Of course, that is a matter that has not been considered. That will be for France to determine herself. As I understand the proposal, it is to secure information in an advisory capacity. The reparations commission would use this conference in order to secure the opinion of experts, and then to advise their governments as to what could be done.

+ Another inquiry about some charges that have been made. I won't give the name of the person. About all I could say about that would be this. That it isn't for the President to go out into the public, or before the public through the press, and assume that, because someone has been charged with a crime, the crime has therefore been committed, or that the person is guilty. To take that course would mean, perhaps, that he might be deprived of a fair and impartial trial. Nor is it for the President to presume that when charges are made that the person is innocent. He ought to pursue the ordinary and business-like course, which seems to me that the position of an executive warrants - of seeing that those charges are investigated by the proper authorities. If it were in Massachusetts, the matter would be brought to the attention of the District Attorney of the jurisdiction in which the crime was committed, in order that he might lay those charges before a Grand Jury, or in order that he might make his complaint. The process here, and in all other jurisdictions, is similar, and I think you may take it for granted it will be the case here. I don't mean by that, from desultory reading newspapers on my part, that that course will be pursued. Of course, I can't run out and inform the public about that always, because oftentimes that would be to defeat the very end of the investigation. If public notice were given that wrong doings were to be investigated, the power of securing the proper evidence might be lost. Grand

Juries are especially provided, in order that investigations may be carried on secretly, not to disclose the evidence, and, therefore, render void and useless the efforts made, and, on the other hand, are spread on the public records, if the implications that were made against a person, on investigation by Grand Jury, do not seem to be warranted.

An inquiry about some pneumatic tubes. I haven't any direction information about that, other than a general knowledge that they are being investigated. They are under consideration. There have been requests for the installation of pneumatic tube service in several cities. I think some have already been resumed in the City of New York and others. It is under consideration, and I don't think that, at the present time, any final determination has been reached.

An inquiry also about a revision of the Statutes. I think there was a bill before the House last year and that came up to the Senate, that ~~was~~ is along the line of revising the Statutes. It takes up a great deal of time to make a revision like that, and necessitates a great deal of consideration and assistance of experts. I understand that the Senate didn't have the opportunity to give the bill consideration, and, therefore, it didn't reach final enactment. †From what I know, I should think it was very desirable that those Statutes that haven't been revised, I think it has been a matter of quite a good many years, some forty, ought to be revised and brought up-to-date for the use of the administration of justice, the convenience of the Government, and of the people, in order that they may easily see and comprehend what the laws are, what the requirements are, and what can be done to secure their execution.

October 30, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men

An inquiry about the pneumatic tubes in Boston and Philadelphia.

My understanding about that is, that this service was put in some years ago, and was discontinued sometime between 1913 and 1921 in Boston, Philadelphia and New York. The tubes in New York have been reopened in part, or in whole, but those in Boston and Philadelphia haven't been reopened. The Postmaster General has made recommendations looking to the reopening of part of the tubes in Boston, and I think all of the tubes in Philadelphia, and it is a question of whether an appropriation ought to be made for that purpose. That question is now before the Director of the Budget. It is under consideration and no final determination has yet been made upon it.

I have another inquiry of the same nature. About all I can say is that the matter is not before me. Should the Postmaster General and the Director of the Budget not be able to agree as to what should be done, very likely they would take it up with me to see what my opinion would be.

+ An inquiry about my understanding of the function of the conference of expert financiers - whether the report of the conference will be made to the Reparations Commission, or will the report of their findings be made to the respective Governments concerned. I have here several inquiries about reparations. I wouldn't be able to answer that question in advance, or give any suggestion or opinion about it that would be worth while. As I understand the situation, it is this. A proposal has been made for experts to undertake to assess what they think Germany can pay. That plan has been accepted, apparently, in principle, by the interested Governments. I understand that Poncaire has indicated that it was acceptable to him, in a communication. Now the question comes of working out the details. That is under consideration by the interested parties, and no decision about that has been made, as to the scope, or just how the thing could be done, either as to how the appointments are to be made, or what is to be considered in detail, after the appointments have been made. Nor has it been determined where the Commission would meet, or anything of that kind. But there is, apparently, a hopeful avenue before us, that plans have been accepted in principle, and that the details are being sympathetically worked out.

An inquiry as to whether it would be necessary to amend the Volstead Act to permit British ships to carry liquor under seal to American ports, provided the British Government granted the extension of the three mile limit to twelve miles. I am not certain about that. It is my impression that it might be arranged by means of a treaty, and if there is to be a treaty, I think, then, there wouldn't be any necessity for an amendment of the law.

† An inquiry here about the conditions laid down by Poncaire that there be no reduction in the German debt. That, I think, would be answered by a careful reading of the note of the Secretary of State. There wasn't any suggestion in that, of course, of any reduction of anybody's debt. It is a simple and plain suggestion that a committee of experts be appointed to try to assess the amount that Germany is able to pay. The rights of France are fixed by her treaty. There can't be any reduction except by the consent of France.

An inquiry as to any action relative to the Alaskan fisheries, as the result of delegate Sutherland's visit yesterday. Mr. Sutherland came in with the District Attorney, I think, of Alaska, to talk with me about their fisheries project. I told him that it wasn't before me at the present time - that the action he wanted taken was in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce - and I asked him and the District Attorney - it might be the Attorney General of the District - to take the matter up with the Secretary of Commerce. There was some question raised as to whether the action that had been taken in making reservations there for fisheries were authorized by the law. I told him, if he had any brief on it, to file it with the Department of Commerce, and they would consider it there with their Solicitor. Also that if it came up to me that I should be very glad to take the opinion of the Attorney General on it.

† An inquiry about the dedication exercises of the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria. It is my ~~expect~~ expectation to go to those exercises. They are held in memory of the First President of the United States, and that is one of the reasons that I want to attend. I don't happen to be a member of the Masonic bodies, so that I do not expect to take any part in the exercises. I shall attend, as I might attend church, and let those who are charged, by reason of their affiliation with the Masonic bodies, with the duty

of conducting the exercises, conduct them. But I wanted to show my interest in the occasion, and my reverence for the first President, by attending.

Another inquiry about the chrysanthemum show at the Department of Agriculture greenhouses. That, I understand, is a very fine exhibition of chrysanthemums. I very much hope that I may be able to get down there.

An inquiry as to whether the Cabinet this morning took up the question of reorganization of the Government Departments. Yes, and the Cabinet practically finished its preliminary discussion of it. I think they understand now what questions there are that we ought to consult about with the Chairman of the Joint Committee, and perhaps with some members of the Committee relative to the proposed plan. It might have been more logical had the Chairman of the Committee on Reorganization come in and explained his plan, but this was a plan that the Cabinet had seen before and talked over some, though not in all its details, so I thought perhaps if we went over it together, step by step in detail, and if there was some step we wanted to raise some question about, we could call in the Chairman of the Committee and have him explain it.

Mr. President will it be ready to submit at the coming session of Congress.

I think it will, undoubtedly.

Is there a Department of Public Works provided for in the plan?

I can't tell you now. I haven't the plan here before me. They are in on the other table. There is a major purpose, as they call it, that runs throughout the plan, of trying to bring together all related subjects. That was the reason of the thought of putting together all the defenses of the nation, and it is contemplated, in this plan, that all public works be brought under one jurisdiction.

An inquiry about the Ambassador to Great Britain. I am not certain whether the State Department has yet received any answer to the inquiry that is always made in those cases. When that answer is received, why then it will be in order to make an official announcement.

An inquiry about Senator Borah's visit this morning. I only had a chance to see him a moment. He has been very much interested in those persons who are now in confinement on account of convictions that were made under the Espionage Act and the other similar statutes; and I wanted to talk

with him a moment, but he came in so late I didn't have a chance. I was just going into Cabinet meeting.

An inquiry as to whether I have any statement or any comment on the statement of Senator McCormack. No, I haven't any comment about that.

+ Another inquiry as to whether the reservations of France, to the American plan, are of such a nature as to discourage hope of beneficent results. I don't think so. I don't think so at all. In fact, that is a matter of the working out of details, and, so far as I know, there hasn't been any official communication to us of any reservations.

Whether this seems to indicate a ~~revision~~ rejection in advance, of any recommendations that might look to a reduction of reparations due France. I think I have already explained that there isn't, technically, any suggestion made of that kind, or that there is to be any reduction of reparations that are due.

+ Will consent to a mere inquiry into German resources and fixing the amount due, or the amount that Germany can pay, constitute an important forward step? I have already indicated that I should answer that question in the affirmative.

I see I have exhausted the inquiries this morning.

November 2, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

I have here an inquiry about Mr. Mondell and Mr. Myer^e. They have returned from a somewhat extensive trip through the West, which they reported to me informally. They are making out a carefully prepared written report, which will be released, I think, for publication, by Monday. That will be so much better than anything I could give you offhand, that I think you better wait and get that. They were encouraged by their trip, and think it will be fruitful of results.

Another inquiry about the terms laid down by Poncaire. I haven't seen the official notes on that. In fact, I am not certain that any official notes have been received. There have been some press reports of speeches that have been made by Poncaire, but all the notes that have been received indicated a hopeful acceptance of our proposal. Now, the proposal is set out carefully in our note. As I went through these questions today, I found that many of them would be answered by a careful perusal of the note much better than I could answer them. We made the suggestion for an inquiry into the capacity of Germany to pay reparations. That is broad and inclusive and not limited in any way. To those to whom we made the suggestion, it is open to acceptance or rejection, or if they see fit to present any limitations that they might think were proper, that would bring it back, of course, to the question of whether, under those circumstances, we should want to participate. The negotiations have not progressed far enough about that, so that we can be certain. The only thing we need to keep in mind about it, is that, if the investigation can be made on the terms that we suggested, we think it would be hopeful of results. Now, if it is to be limited very definitely and conclusively, that, in our opinion, would diminish the hope of securing any very beneficial results. It might limit it so far that it would seem to be useless to proceed. It might make it desirable to proceed, but to proceed only with the clear understanding that, probably, it would be futile.

No steps have been taken towards the appointment of an American member, and anyone that is designated, doesn't go, insofar as I have in mind any plan now, representing the American Government. That, too, is carefully stated in the note. He goes as an American, to assist - not at all to represent our Government.

Nor do I know whether our Government would take any steps towards making an appointment. It is suggested that Americans could undoubtedly be secured who would participate in such an investigation. Now, they might be chosen by the Reparations Commission, or chosen in any other fashion. But it was carefully stated that they are not to represent the American Government.

I have already mentioned the wheat situation. I know that former Governor Lowden met Mr. Mondell, and Mr. Meyer, at Chicago. I know that he has a Committee and he has indicated his desire to be as helpful as possible in the wheat situation, or any other agricultural matter. He is active in his work of encouraging agriculture. It is my impression that he is President of the Association. He was here at the International Agricultural Conference and spoke, I think, at Syracuse, at the continuation of the Conference up there. He has a Committee and is helping in every way possible.

An inquiry about the pneumatic mail tube service at Philadelphia and Boston. There are no new developments there. I don't know whether the Budget Commissioner has made a final decision or not. It is my impression he hasn't and inquiries are being made on the ground to see what appears to be desirable.

I have here a quotation from a decision of the Supreme Court that is relative to ships bringing intoxicating liquor into port, and the inquiry is relative to a prospective treaty with Great Britain. Now, no definite information has been received about that. It is expected that Ambassador Harvey is to bring some proposal, or some answer to our proposal, when he returns. It has been so stated in the press. Just what the nature of the proposal might be, we don't know. There has been talk about a twelve mile limit, and talk about an hour's journey. Which one of those, or a combination of them, will be suggested, is not certain. The question here is raised as to whether this treaty would be in conflict with the Constitution or the present Volstead law. Well, that, of course, depends entirely upon the terms of the treaty. I think I stated the general principle at a prior conference, which is that the Constitution and the treaties made thereunder shall be the supreme law of the land. That works out practically in this way, as I understand it; Congress, of course, has the right to make laws, which, when made in accordance with that Constitution, are the supreme law of the land. Our Congress has passed the prohibitory law, and that, at the present time, is supreme. But it has also the power, on the part of the treaty making power, to make a treaty. Now, if the treaty is made subsequent to the passage of the law, the treaty should, insofar as there was any conflict between the two,

supersede the law. Then it would be open to the Congress, as I understand it, at any later or subsequent time, to reenact a law, or to make one that was different from the terms of the treaty, and then the newly made Congressional law would be the law of the land. That is, you have a sort of concurrent power between the treaty-making authorities and the law-making authorities, and the one that has acted last is the one that is binding.

Mr. President, some of the editorial writers seem to think that the proposed treaty would contravene the Constitution - not the Volstead law, but the Constitution itself. Do you believe it within the power of the Government to make a treaty that would contravene the Constitution itself?

Of course not. The only power the Government has to make a treaty comes from the Constitution, and there wouldn't be any question about it, for any treaty that might be made made, that was contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, would be absolutely void. Like the treaty made for the purpose of reviving the slave trade - anything of that kind, I take it, would be void. I presume that what this treaty would contemplate, would be the abolition of the penalty, the same as is now in effect in Panama. Congress reserved the privilege to ships to transport liquor through the Panama Canal, and I suppose the treaty making power to have the same authority to have liquor transported inside the present limits of our territorial waters without any penalty. That wouldn't change the Constitution in any way.

I have another question about the reparations question, which, perhaps, I have already covered. Are the financial experts empowered to inquire into Germany's present capacity, but without authority to recommend any change in the amount of \$ 132,000,000,000 gold marks? Of course, it goes without saying, from a reading of the note, that it isn't proposed to make any change in the treaties that Germany and France, and the other powers have made with each other, nor is it proposed that the findings of this Commission are to be binding on any one. It is simply an inquiry into the capacity of Germany to pay; not a proposal to make any recommendation whether the reparations shall be diminished or increased. It couldn't be done without the concurrence of the French Government.

+ An inquiry about conditions in Germany, as revealed by reports, and whether any outline can be given of any plan for American relief. Reports are constantly coming in, of unofficial character, which present the lack of food in Germany, lack of ability to secure such food as there may be, and indicating very strongly that

it is going to be necessary, within a short time, for some one to help in the way of rations. ~~Whether~~ Where the help should come from, I am not in a position to say at the present time. It is possible that, if France is occupying a part of the territory, that they would take care of that territory, and charitably minded individuals or Governments would try to assist in rationing those that were in need in other parts of what was formerly the German Empire.

An inquiry about the proposed reduction of grain rates and the equalization of coal rates, in relation to the voluntary reductions that the railroads were considering. I suggested, at one time, and it was merely a suggestion, that some of the railroad executives should consider whether they, on investigation, could adopt any voluntary plan of this kind. I didn't expect any reply to come to me, because I didn't make any inquiry. I have understood indirectly that it hasn't been found to be feasible. The matter is before the Interstate Commerce Commission. My only thought was that if a remedy could be found by voluntary action, it would be more expeditious than to do that which might result from a long hearing. Nor am I trying to indicate that a change ought to be made. That is a matter for the Interstate Commerce Commission to determine.

Another question as to a tax problem for the next Congress. I haven't formulated any tax problem at the present time. That is about all I can say about any inquiry about a plan that I am likely to lay before the Congress.

+ Here is another inquiry about the proposed reparations inquiry. Whether the American experts will represent the United States Government. They would not represent the Government, as I have already indicated.

Another inquiry about the "new" methods of payment". The French Foreign Office says the committee of experts may consider "new methods of payment." Under that heading, would you determine that Germany's future capacity to pay should be assessed? I don't know that I could answer that either "yes" or "no". I think, again, it will be best answered by a careful reading of the note. The proposal, as I understood it, was inclusive and broad, and took in Germany's capacity to pay. I don't mean the capacity to pay this minute, or tomorrow, or the next day; the capacity to pay until reparations were paid that it could pay. The limit of its ability, I think is the phrase that has generally been used about reparations.

Also an inquiry as to whether the Senate reservation to the Four-Power Treaty makes that treaty meaningless. I don't think it does. If it had, I am sure that neither the Senate, nor President Harding, or the Secretary of State, would have bothered themselves to pass it, or, if it had been passed, to promulgate it and submit it to foreign governments for their approval, which was done. Another inquiry about the sale of American wheat in Germany. Nothing has been done about that.

A statement that the Goodyear people at Akron have bought out the Zeppelin interests, and the exclusive right to become sole makers of Zeppelins, and the suggestion that there be comment on the importance of this deal to the country, from the standpoint of commercial aviation in America, and as to benefits both in peace and war. Are there any treaty obstacles to be overcome? I don't know of any treaty obstacles. None occur to me. I wouldn't want to give that as a professional opinion without examining some of the authorities, but I should imagine that it is perfectly lawful, and permitted under our treaties, for private interests to buy an enterprise of that kind. I think you can readily see, as well as I can, about the importance that it would be to the commercial aviation in America. Our Navy is especially interested in that. You will recall it was only a few days ago that ~~our~~ their airship sailed by here, and our Government is undertaking to advance that interest, both through the Navy and through the Post Office Department.

Another inquiry as to whether Secretary Mellon may be designated to represent the nation in the economic conference abroad. I wouldn't want to indicate for a certainty, but I should judge it would be difficult for him to leave his post as an official here, for our Government is not to be represented. It would be very difficult to divorce the Secretaryship of the Treasury, which Mr. Mellon holds, from his personality, so that we could carry out that plan.

An inquiry about the resumption of diplomatic relations with Turkey. My understanding is that a treaty has been negotiated, and which has not been ratified, either by Turkey or the United States, and that further negotiations are in progress relative to a plan for settlement of American claims. One of the things that we are trying to get is proper protection for American citizens that have claims there, and about the only influence that we have to exert is the question of whether we are going to recognize Turkey.

Also an inquiry about the Monroe Doctrine. Whether it would be repugnant to the country if monarchies were created in the western hemisphere. I don't know as I could discuss that in a way as to shed any new light. The general prescription on all of these questions is to read the original document, whether it be a note or the Monroe Doctrine. Of course, it is well known that there was a statement by President Monroe that he didn't want any European or foreign establishments set up that might be inimical to American institutions. That is capable of a great many different interpretations, on which you are at liberty to use your ingenuity. Whether I am favorable to a grouping of all social service activities under the proposed Department of Welfare, and whether I believe that the periodic disturbances in the Veterans Bureau would react unfavorably, in a political sense, on a Department. Of course, a disturbance, in any Department, reacts unfavorably on the whole Department, but I think that one of the prime reasons for suggesting that the Veterans Bureau be put into some Department was in order that it might have a responsible Cabinet head. ~~It is~~ The Veterans Bureau, which expends, at present, almost one-sixth of our money expended by the United States Government, is a Department under the President, without a responsible Cabinet head. It is very difficult for the President to function as a Cabinet head. It is practically impossible, and I suppose, that is, as I say, one of the main reasons why it is suggested that the Veterans Bureau would be very much better off under a Cabinet head, and, if that were done, I shouldn't think that there would be periodic disturbances in its administration. It is a new Bureau, brought together from different Departments, experimental and difficult of operation.

There was one matter that I was going to bring to the attention of the Conference. I will read you from my statement of October 26th, which I thought might have been misunderstood. This is a question that someone asked. "Have you said that whether ~~you~~ contemplated the amalgamation of the War and Navy Department, and that you approve of it?" My answer was: "I am not entirely convinced about that, but, so far as I have made up my mind, I should hesitate to approve that. I think that is so large a project, that if it is ever put into operation, it would better go through as a separate proposition, rather than to link it up with the general proposal of reorganization." I thought that perhaps I had been misunderstood. I am not at all sure that it would be wise to consolidate those Departments, and thought I had made that plain. I am advising you that it wouldn't be wise to make that consolidation,

because of the opposition that I know it would meet.

Mr. President, in connection with the Veterans Bureau matter, can you tell us about Mr. Reed's visit?

No. He didn't have anything to say about the Veterans Bureau. He came in on another matter entirely.

Can you tell us about the Cabinet meeting?

Not anything more than I have indicated in the suggestions I have made about the reparations.

November 6, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a reminder that on the 15th of November occurs the 118th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, after the Louisiana Purchase, to the mouth of the Columbia River, and the suggestion of inquiry as to my view of the importance of that expedition, the general development of that section, and whether it is still a field open to exploration. I suppose that question almost answers itself. Of course, I am conscious that all of you know of the great importance of that expedition, and of the enormous results that occurred to the United States as a result of the expedition. It played a great part in making the Northwest region territory of the United States. At one time it came under discussion in an important national campaign. It is already developed to a very remarkable degree, but there is still an opportunity for a very great development. In that, the Government of the United States is playing a great part, both by encouragement and by the appropriation of large sums of money.

Mr. President, while we are on the subject, will you permit us to ask whether anything in the nature of the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine is in your mind?

I haven't, at the present time, any plan for a formal recognition of that. No doubt it will be a matter upon which I may have occasion to comment when the time arrives.

Another inquiry about conferences with different railroad groups, and as to whether there ought to be any changes in the Transportation Act of 1920. I haven't made any final decision about that. I am to have a conference this afternoon, I think, with Senator Cummins. He had a very important part in the drafting and passage of the Act of 1920, and from his experience, both before he came to Congress and his experience here on the Committee, of which he now holds the Chairmanship, I presume he is one of the best informed men about transportation that there is in the Senate. I expect to be able to get from him a great deal of helpful information and valuable suggestions.

An inquiry about a recommendation of the Tariff Commission investigating the cost of citrus fruits. It is my understanding that that inquiry is going on by the Tariff Commission.

And an inquiry as to whether I am going to confer with the Shipping Board to find out what recommendations they want for legislation. I haven't any present plan for conferring with the full Board. I have had a conference with the Chairman just before he went away, and he told me he was going to take occasion, if the opportunity presented itself to him, while he was abroad, to formulate some plans that he wanted to submit to me on his return.

Whether the position of the United States is changed in regard to entering into European embroilments. I don't know of any change in that respect. Our position has been carefully and definitely stated a great many times, both in speech and in writing, and it has been stated, also, by our actions. I think you know of the events that led up to the present situation - the suggestion that was made here as a result of some inquiry that we still had a desire to be helpful in Europe whenever the opportunity offered itself, and the note that came from the British Government, and the reply that was made to that note, which is known as the Hughes note. Now, I think almost every possible inquiry that you can devise will be answered by a reading of the note. I think you will find the answer to the inquiry there. It states the position of our Government definitely and fully, and that it is the desire to be helpful. We haven't any other motive. We have no direct interest to serve, no expectation of reaping any reward. We are undertaking to discharge our obligations - of lending our counsel, if we can, in order to settle a long standing difficulty. Now, there isn't any occasion for being disturbed or discouraged, because we aren't able to step in and settle, in twenty-four hours, a difficulty that has engaged the attention of Europe for hundreds of years. We have got to be patient about it, and try to do the best we can. We observed that the French have taken possession of the Ruhr, and as a result of that there was that passive resistance on the part of the Germans. That finally came to an end, and it seemed to us that that might furnish an opportune moment for a suggestion that we lend our counsel, and that we would be helpful, if our help was wanted. We aren't trying to do anything more than discharge what we think is our duty. We hope that we can be helpful. But that depends on the state of mind that exists over there. If it is one that wants to be helped, then I think we would be warranted in looking at it very hopefully. If it turns out that the state of mind is not one that wants help, why, then there is nothing that we can do. But of course, our people here, we hope people generally throughout civilization, will understand that we tried to do our part. That answers, I think, quite a good many questions.

I had a visit, this morning, from Ambassador Jusserand, who explained to me the position of the French people and the French Government, as has been reported in the press. I undertook to explain to him what I understood our position was.

An inquiry about Senator Cummins. I think I have already answered that.

An inquiry about the Veterans Bureau investigation. Now, it is difficult, of course, for me to comment on the details of an investigation that is being made by a committee of Congress. Perhaps it would be almost enough to say that the Congress had provided for this investigation, authorized it, and directed it to be made by that Committee. It is not to be made by me. The Committee will make their investigation, and after they have heard all the evidence, they will make a report. When that report comes in, I suppose it may call for some action. Sometimes reports do. From the evidence that appears to be coming out, I suppose this report will call for action. But when it is finally made, then such action as the Committee determines, and such facts as they develop, will be taken under consideration, and appropriate action will be taken.

+ Whether the Government is making any arrangements to extend relief to Germany before Congress convenes. No, I don't know of any authority that there is in the Government to do anything of that kind. Of course, in the case of the great calamity that has occurred in Japan, why, we had to anticipate somewhat what every one knew would be the desire of the Congress, and give assistance through the War Department and Navy Department, and the Shipping Board, and so on. But I don't think there is any such emergency existing in Germany - though I understand that conditions over there are very serious, and it is my present belief that they will need relief before the next crop comes in. They will very likely need relief during the winter. You might make it stronger than that, but it is generally understood they will need relief during the winter.

Chairman Brown will come before the Cabinet next Friday, I expect. I understand that this is election day in some of the municipalities in Ohio, so that he is there today in the discharge of the duty of good citizenship, and casting his vote. The matter was not discussed to any extent. It was referred to in today's Cabinet meeting and the statement made, similar to that which I have made here. After that, of course, I shall take up the matter with the Committee. Senator Smoot is Chairman of the Committee, and there are some other members.

An inquiry about a discussion with Representative Curry of California about the proposed establishment of a naval base, either at Alameda or Mare Island Navy Yard. I understood that there was now a naval base at the Mare Island Navy Yard. Am I right about that? Yes I think he suggested to me that there had been a proposal to establish one also at Alameda. I told him that the proposal had not come to my attention, and, so far as I knew there was a good naval base at Mare Island. I thought that, for the present, it would be sufficient. But I haven't any information on which I am warranted on passing a final conclusion about that.[†] We want to be reasonably and adequately protected with naval bases on the Pacific Coast, of course. But this is not a time when we want to go into extravagance about it. We are trying to encourage, throughout the world, the reliance upon reason, as well as the reliance upon force. We have just had a conference on the limitation of naval armaments, very broadly, with a view to removing the necessity for the great burden of expense that competitive armaments entail upon people. So that, if we can avoid the necessity of building another navy yard or naval base, of course, that is what we want to do.

I think that exhausts the questions this morning.

November 9, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

One of the news services wants to know if I have received any communication from the French Embassy today. I haven't received any communication from them. So that answers the first one, "whether it will be possible to divulge the nature of the communication."

"The French Ambassador is seeing Secretary Hughes this afternoon. Are you aware yet as to the nature of their communication?" No. I think he is to see him at 4:00 o'clock.

An inquiry as to whether I have any comment on the Marine Congress recommendations that the Shipping Board be abolished, and the fleet turned over to the Department of Commerce. I don't know the reasons that might have been given for that at the present time. We seem to need all the talent that we can get for the operation of the fleet. Should it become finally and fully organized, and running smoothly, it might then be possible to turn it over to ~~the~~ some one of the Departments, and not operate it as a separate and independent bureau. I don't see, just at the present time, that we could get any benefit from turning it over to the Department of Commerce, though it is, of course, an arm of that Department, and that was one of the reasons why I thought of calling in the Secretary of Commerce, as well as the Secretary of the Treasury, to advise me about the plan that the Shipping Board had.

+ I have here a hypothetical question about the debts that are due to us from abroad. There is no change in the situation, and really no comment that I can make about it. Congress, as you know, has passed the law and established a Commission, and laid down the terms on which it is authorized to settle. There is no development along that line at the present time, of which I am aware.

+ A statement that Lieutenant Heffernon of the Navy suggests that if a stadium is to be built in Washington it should be a double deck affair, capable of seating 30,000 people, and wanting to know if I would express an opinion on that. I don't know that I can express any opinion that would be very valuable.⁺ I am not exactly an expert on athletic affairs. It occurs to me offhand, that the ball field has a very large stadium that can be used on almost any possible occasion. It would be a very fine thing, of course, to encourage athletics, and some time it might be well to consider the building of a stadium in the National Capital. I don't know of any project of that kind that is under contemplation at present.

An inquiry also about the immigration law. I have no doubt that the incoming Congress will extend the law, which expires on June 30th next. Just what provisions will be adopted, of course, I can't tell. It is perfectly apparent I think, however, that we shall have very careful restriction of immigration.

An inquiry about a visit of Adolph Lewisohn. He and another gentleman came in this morning to pay their respects. I had known of his name for a long time, as a very prominent man. I don't recall that I ever happened to meet him. He was a great friend, I know, of former Governor McCall of Mass., which formed a sort of middle ground of meeting between Mr. Lewisohn and myself. I was Lieutenant Governor for three years when Mr. McCall was Governor. Governor McCall has just passed away within a week, so we were speaking especially of him.. Then a short time ago, some one came to get me to address a letter to Mr. Lewisohn, in relation to the encouragement of thrift, which he was connected with in some way with an organization that wanted to promote the encouragement of thrift, and I wrote him the letter. He came in also to express his thanks for the help he thought I had been.

T A statement that there is emanating from Paris today a report to the effect that Premier Poincare will insist upon reparations from Germany to the full capacity of Germany to pay, and wanting to know if I have any sort of statement to make relative to the American position. No, our position is stated fully in the note. If it means our position relative to the restrictions, and more especially that restriction which provides that the experts be limited to an inquiry into the present capacity - actual I think is the word that is used by the French in that connection - I think that I am safe in saying that if ^{it} ~~there~~ is to be limited to merely present capacity of Germany to pay, that that would be such a limitation as would make an inquiry useless and futile. There wouldn't be any use for calling together the experts of four or five nations of the earth. That would be something almost that could be done by any ordinary auditor. A limitation of that kind would seem to make the inquiry useless, and I don't see any reason why we could expect to be of any help by participating in it.

There is a report that the French propose the inquiry to take in the capacity of Germany to pay for six years - up to 1930. Have you heard of that, Mr. President?

Yes, I had heard of such a report, and up to 1930 would include what I have had to say. It would be such a short time that I don't see any reason to expect that in that short time Germany could reestablish its industrial organization and its production to such an extent that payments could be made which would amount to very much. They could hardly begin, in so short a time, to meet the reparations.

An inquiry about Mr. Brown's coming to the Cabinet. He came to discuss the plan of reorganization and to answer such questions as the members of the Cabinet might want to make of him. I think perhaps I can best answer one or two of the questions that have been asked in relation to the reorganization by reading a sentence or two from a letter sent by President Harding on the 13th of February last, to Mr. Brown, the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Reorganization. Mr. Brown represents the President, and there is in addition to that a Congressional Committee of three Senators and three Representatives, Mr. Smoot being the Chairman. "I hand you herewith a chart which exhibits in detail the present organization of the Government Departments. The changes are suggested after numerous conferences and consultations with various heads of the Government Departments. The changes, with few exceptions, notably that of coordinating all the agencies of defence, have been sanctioned by the Cabinet. That is the changes, with few exceptions, notably the plan to coordinate the War and Navy Departments. In a few instances, which I believe are of minor importance, the plan has not been followed to the letter, in order to avoid questions which might jeopardize reorganization as a whole." That was a statement submitted by President Harding and there has been no change in the position.

An inquiry whether Mr. Geissler, Minister to Guatemala submitted his resignation to the President. There was no submission of his resignation which differed in any respect from the submission of several resignations that came to me when I first became President. I regarded it as a formal matter, and at once instructed Mr. Geissler that I very much desired him to continue in the service, and expressed my gratification to him at the good conduct of his office. This perhaps ought not to be published, but I think he had an idea that if he had a letter of that kind from me it might indicate to the people among whom he

represents this country, that he not only was there with the approval of President Harding, but he was also there with my full approval.

An inquiry as to when the final Budget estimates will come and their approximate total. I suppose that it will reach me within a very few days. Perhaps within a week. I am not exactly sure about that, and the indications are that we can bring the total within the figures which were given by President Harding at the last conference of the business heads of the various Departments, which was held in June, I think, just before he was starting on his trip. At that time he strongly hoped that ~~if~~ there could be a reduction of \$126,000,000 in the Budget of this year, in order to bring the ordinary expenditures of the Government within \$1,700,000,000, exclusive of the Post Office and exclusive of the amount that is required to take care of the debt,--the interest on the debt and the annual amount that is set aside for the cancellation of and redemption of the debt.

I have also here an inquiry about what plans will be adopted, assuming that we are able to negotiate and get ratified the twelve mile limit treaty with Great Britain. So far as I know, no change is contemplated about that in relation to American ships. It is stated that they were prohibited from carrying liquor outside the three mile limit by Executive Order. I haven't any expectation of changing that order, and of course they were prohibited by the decision of the Supreme Court from bringing liquor within the three mile limit.

An inquiry also about the suggestions of Mr. Meyer and Mr. Mondell as to a reduction in taxes and its effect on the agricultural situation. I think their suggestions speak for themselves, and I don't know as I could comment on them in a way to add anything to them.

There is no change relative to the ^epneumatic tubes. There is some investigation on that. I have already spoken about the Budget. That, I think, exhausts the inquiries of the day.

November 13, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

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The class doesn't seem to be so inquisitive this morning as it sometimes is. There isn't a very large crop of questions. I hope that doesn't indicate that anybody is disappointed at not getting a reply always. I think I almost always cover in some way or another very nearly every question that is propounded to me. I always want to, if I possibly can. Once in a while, of course, something is asked that for some reason or another I don't think is a matter on which I can comment at that time. Generally speaking, I want to answer all the questions that come in. I want, in that connection, to express my gratitude to you for the faithfulness and the candor with which you always report these conferences between yourselves and me.

An inquiry about the return of the Crown Prince to Germany and the imminence of the Kaiser's return. Will the President state whether it is the intention of this Government to join with the allied governments in protesting against the seeming restoration of the monarchy in Germany? So far as I know at the present time our Government would not protest against that, recognizing the policy that I spoke of the other day, of every country having the right to maintain the kind of Government it wants. I suppose the allied governments, if they protest, will protest on account of some of the provisions of the Versailles Treaty. We are not participants in that Treaty, and so haven't any duty to perform under it, or any responsibilities under it. It leaves us in a different situation than the other nations of the earth.

Whether the negotiations for a joint international inquiry into Germany's capacity to pay reparations are now definitely at an end. Just at the present time I should say that they were. Though, if you wanted a careful analysis of that, you would get it by reading first the note that was sent to us by Great Britain, inviting us, and then the response that was contained in the note that we sent to them. Now, technically under that note which we sent in reply the door is still open, and technically we have made no decision, for instance, as to whether we would go on in case the investigation was not to be the unanimous effort of the other nations in Europe interested. So that question has never come up to us for decision, and no decision therefore has been made on it. With the news report that is in the morning press, that Poincaré is preparing to have an investigation by the European allied governments, similar to the investigation that we suggested, thought to be made as I understand it under the limitations that he proposed to the investigation, I should say that a decision was pretty definitely arrived at.

I think I have answered the inquiry as to whether the British Government has invited the Government to take part in an inquiry with France's absence. There has been no definite invitation of that nature than what is in the note that was sent to us in the first place.

+ An inquiry as to whether I shall deliver my message to Congress in person. I rather expect that I shall. For a great many years that was not the practice. I believe that Washington went up and delivered his message in person, and then after his administration it seems that practice fell into disuse clear up to the time that President Wilson came into office. Then he took up the ancient practice and it was continued for the most part by President Harding. I should be inclined to do what I thought the Congress liked about it. If they like to have the message delivered in person, well then I should want to try to do that. If they indicate that they very much preferred the message should be sent up in the way that was established between Washington and Lincoln, then very likely I should concur in their preference.

An inquiry about the conference with Senator Keyes and Senator Moses. They came in on the reforestation project, especially about an appropriation being made to carry out the provisions of the law that is usually referred to as the Weeks Law, referring thereby to a statute that was passed through the activities of the present Secretary of War, John W. Weeks, when he was in the House, or perhaps in the Senate. I have already indicated the interest that I feel in reforestation, and I want to make as large an appropriation for that purpose as we can, keeping in view our policy of trying to get within ~~the~~ certain definite limitations, and also keeping in view the needs of other Departments. I want to be generous in this direction. There came a time during the war, of course, and the immediately ensuing period, when some of these things necessarily had to wait because other demands were more urgent. I hope that we are now approaching a time when we can take up some of these matters that are reproductive in their various elements, and use some public money in that direction. I think that covers the questions that have come in this morning.

Anything in the Cabinet this morning, Mr. President?

We had a very short meeting and discussed nothing of general importance. I made some inquiries about Alaska, but nothing developed there of interest to public knowledge.

Mr. President, I came in too late to hand in a written inquiry. Would you care to comment on Secretary Mellon's tax program?

3.

No, I don't think I will make any comment on that now. Let us wait and see what develops about it. It is a very interesting suggestion that he has made and perhaps opens the way for fulfilling the hopes of relieving the American people from some of their present tax burden.

November 16, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

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It would be exceedingly desirable if we could put our American firms not only on a par, but so far as we can give them whatever advantages are possible over foreign firms engaged in trade in the same territory. It would be impossible for me to say whether this could be done in a way that would be fair to our taxpayers at home, unless I could first see the plan by which it is proposed to be provided. Very likely then I should have to consult experts to get a correct opinion on it, so that all I can say is I would be very much in favor of that principle if it can be carried out in a way that would be fair to our taxpayers at home.

An inquiry also about my answer to a recent question which was interpreted as favoring a monarchist regime for Germany. I suppose it is well known that the long expressed policy of the American Government, especially as set out in the Monroe Doctrine, is that of favoring everywhere a republican form of Government. That doesn't mean that we can always interfere, even when we should want to interfere, nor does it mean that the Government as a government can always express the opinion that would probably be entertained by each member of the Government, and known to be entertained by all the people of the United States. That question arose from an inquiry about a report of the return of the Emperor of Germany into that country. I suppose one of the things for which we went to war was to drive him out of power and prevent hereafter what the Emperor at that time was doing. That was supposed to have been effectively prevented by the Versailles Treaty, and those who are the parties to that treaty have the authority, of course, and ought to have the authority, to enforce its provisions, and in that they would have the sympathy always of the United States, I am sure.

An inquiry also about speeding up the house cleaning of the anthracite industry. No special suggestion about that has come to me. Our Government is acting on it, and has been doing what it could for some time through the Federal Trade Commission. I have had reports from them often. I think their reports have been published, and there is at the present time an action pending which has been

brought, I believe, in their name to effect, if possible, a housecleaning in that industry, insofar as it can be effected under present law. I haven't any suggestion to be made as to what any state should do about it, and the law enforcing officers of all the states I am sure can be trusted to do whatever the law requires them to do.

As to whether letters and reports received at the White House point to favorable public reception of the Mellon Taxation problem. So far as I have had a chance to read present reports and editorial comment, it seems to be almost uniformly favorable. There is some criticism, of course, but the great bulk of it appears to express a very favorable reception to the suggestions for a reduction of taxation.

+ An inquiry also about extending clemency to the remaining political prisoners. I don't exactly like the term political prisoners, because I hope we do not have any such thing in this country, but I use that term because you know what it means, I know what it means, and the public knows. I am having an investigation made, and when I get the results of the investigation I am going to act upon it. I think I may be able to get a report on it within a short time. I am not exactly certain just when it will be.

Whether any definite arrangement was made for a legislative program at the conference today with Senator Lodge. No. No definite arrangement was made about a legislative program. I only saw the Senator for a very few moments. He arrived last night or early this morning, and came in to see me. I hadn't seen him since very early in August. We didn't have an opportunity to discuss any legislative program, and the whole matter was left that he would try and see me at an early date and confer with me on questions in which we might be mutually interested.

+ An inquiry also about a constitutional amendment making property as well as persons and lives of citizens subject to conscription for the defense of the nation and that necessary legislation be enacted by Congress to that effect. I thought that that principle laid down by President Harding in one of his messages covered this very completely and answered a question of this kind very satisfactorily. I should say about that, that in time of war authority to take every resource of the nation, in persons and property, at reasonable pre-war rates of compensation without any profiteering would be a fair policy of operation and a fair principle. Now that is very dif-

ficult of practical application. When war arises necessarily it is followed by a tremendous force behind it to stimulate production and stimulate all kinds of activity, and the method that has been used for that purpose has been to increase prices. If you want to get more work done, more production, you pay a larger price. Wages rise, and prices of all kinds of commodities rise. So that whether that exact principle would be one that could ever practically be put into operation, I think is a question. But in theory I think it is perfectly correct, and if it could be done it would make the question of national defense one ~~of~~ much easier than it is at the present time.

An inquiry regarding a successor to Ambassador Child. The Ambassador has not retired. He has come over here on a visit, and is to return. He has indicated to me that he wishes to retire some time in the immediate future, the time for which has not been set. After the time is definitely fixed, I think there will be plenty of occasion to pick out his successor. Nothing has been done about that up to the present time.

An inquiry about the visit of Mr. Hays, that is, Will H. Hays. He is coming in to bring his brother and a Mr. Scott of Indiana, and a Mr. Stratton that he wanted to introduce to me. And further inquiry as to the suggestions in many quarters that he assume the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee. I don't know of any plan of that kind. My own opinion is that there is not the slightest foundation for supposing that anything of that kind could be carried out. Mr. Hays performed a great public service both here and in the cabinet, and ^{was} a great help and force in his leadership in the last campaign. I think at present he is in the enjoyment of, partially at least, a suitable reward for his services. It would be almost unfair to him to try to commandeer him. I do not imagine that he is seeking to relinquish his present place to take up any of his former duties.

An inquiry about the Philadelphia mail tube situation. It is my understanding that General Lord has not been able to recommend that. I doubt very much if he will find that the evidence warrants him making such a recommendation, agreeable as it would be to him and to me to rescue the property that has been used for that purpose, and put it back again as a profitable concern. He hasn't been able to convince himself, nor have I been able to convince myself that such action would either increase the service enough to warrant the expense that would be incurred.

I think that covers everything.

November 20, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Members of the Press.

+ I notice some of the representatives of the press take advantage of an opportunity to sit down. Any of you that wants can have my chair.

+ Mr. President does that go for anybody but newspaper men?

+ No.

I have here an inquiry about the Army and Navy game. My record of attendance of Army and Navy games since coming to Washington up to date has been perfect. I have been each year. I very much regret that I can't go this year. Perhaps the example that I am following makes it a little easier to remain at home. I recall that President Harding was not able to go either to Baltimore, or the year before to New York. I expect Mr. Slomp will be able to go, and trust that he may in part represent me. I have no doubt that the press will be present.

An inquiry about the twelve mile treaty with Great Britain. I wonder why the press is so interested in that. We haven't had any draft of the treaty, and no formal and official communication about it. We understand from unofficial communications that it is under way and we expect to receive it almost any time. Of course as soon as it is received, the Secretary of State's office will examine it and submit to to me, and in the usual course it would be submitted by me for ratification. But at present we have only had the unofficial rumors as to just what its provisions are, and as to just when it is likely to be consummated.

+ Another inquiry about trips in the near future. The members of the press here seem determined to get me out of town, if not to New York some other place. I haven't any present intention of leaving Washington. Very likely when Congress gets here I shall be even more busy than I am now, and perhaps in the course of a month or two I might like to get a way for a little while. But I haven't the slightest plan now. You know I remarked to you once before that I saw a great many rumors that President Harding was going to to to a great many places, usually accompanied in the same issue of the newspaper with the statement that he cancelled it. I don't want to prevent you from having all the news you can, but I would rather it would be of a little different nature from that. It is rather ineffectual to start on a trip and have to cancel it.

An inquiry about the reorganization plan. That is before the Joint Committee of the Senate and House. It was submitted to them by President Harding during his administration, and is still there ready for their action. In order that I

might inform myself and find out just what the Cabinet thought about it we went over it two or three times and had Mr. Brown come in.

Mr. President, does that mean that the Cabinet is unanimous in approving it, or that it will come back for further consideration?

No, I don't think it would come back. It will go in the report of the Committee to Congress. I read you the statement by President Harding in his letter of submission, and that statement is exactly in accordance with the present facts.

Have you any other changes in mind besides the reference to the Army and Navy you outlined some time ago, Mr. President? Not any other definite change that I could say was in my mind now. The plan is before the Committee and of course we know the Committee will give hearings on it. If the Cabinet and myself should undertake to make a cast iron agreement on a large problem of this kind, of course things would develop at the hearings that probably would cause us to change our minds. So we came to a substantial agreement and we thought we would leave it there.

+ It is understood that Representative LaGuardia of New York telegraphed protesting against the handling of some immigrants at New York, charging that Secretary of Davis let them in one day and had to exclude them on another day.

↓ That hadn't come to my attention until this inquiry was made, because in the usual routine of the office a telegram of that kind would be referred to Secretary Davis in order to get information on which to formulate a specific reply. That was done in this case. Very likely this refers to immigrants that came in on the first day of the month, when there were a great many coming over here. I had a conference with Secretary Davis about the general situation, and he concluded that on account of the great press he ought to be as lenient as possible, and I think he carried out that policy. If they were excluded at that time, it was because beyond this he felt he had no authority of law, in conscience or in humanity, to let them in.

+ An inquiry about a pardon for a German spy. That has never come to my attention. If it did, I should try to deal justly with it, as I should with any other request for a pardon. I wouldn't feel quite so sympathetic about it. But if there was a good reason for executive clemency, of course it would be extended. I should doubt very much the suggestion here, that the War Department has made a recommendation. I doubt very much if that would be made unless ~~there~~ it was a case of disease or something of that kind, or the finding of new evidence, but it is

perhaps not profitable to speculate on something of which you have no very great knowledge. I notice the name is Lowderwicz. It doesn't look so German as some other names I have seen.

An inquiry about the reaction of the country to Secretary Mellon's tax problem, in the letters and communications that have come here. You who observe the press more carefully than I do have seen the comment there. It will be interesting to see what kind of comment comes in from the farm people. The larger metropolitan papers, of course, we have seen. But those papers that are published not more than once a week have not all come in yet. It will be interesting to see what comment they make.

An inquiry about Major General Wood coming home. I am sure that any report that he is to return to this country is without any authenticity. He is administering his office over there under some difficulties, but I think with large satisfaction, and, of course, with the entire support of the administration here. So far as any knowledge has come to me that is the status.

An inquiry about clemency for Comptroller Craig of New York, sentenced to serve sixty days for contempt of court. No application of that kind has been received, that I know of, and it is my opinion that if the sentence is for contempt of court there wouldn't be any power in the executive to extend clemency. Cases of that kind are within the power of the court. That was the rule I know under which we always proceeded in Massachusetts, and I imagine that is the rule that applies in all courts. Contempt of court is contempt of the authority of the judge. It is not a violation of a statute. I don't think the pardon power extends to that at all. I never observed it did in any jurisdiction.

+ There was an interesting discussion in the Cabinet this morning, as to whether something ought not to be done to insure the reaching their proper destination of charitable contributions. It isn't a new question, and it isn't very easy to deal with, but unfortunately contributions are solicited, and it is found that the overhead expenses eat up a large proportion of the money that is received. So that contributions in very small proportion only reach the objects for which they were intended. The suggestion was made that there ought to be some central agency, or that the Government ought to exercise some kind of supervision, or that those who are proposing to promote a charitable organization of that kind ought to file some notice and make some report. Very many of those organizations give no report to any one. While

the Congress wouldn't have any authority to legislate for anything outside of the District legislation which comes under the particular jurisdiction of Congress, it would have jurisdiction over the mails, but these solicitations are not made so much through the mail. The question was whether some law of that kind ought not to be passed. There is a real evil that exists there, but it is somewhat difficult to know what can be done to afford the proper remedy.

Mr. President, was there any decision to the discussion this morning?

No, the matter was up for consideration. Nobody seemed to have any real definite answer to it.

Any likelihood of trying the law out in the District?

↓ I don't know. It was felt that something ought to be done. Of course the larger givers maintain special organizations so that whenever they are asked for any large sum, they make inquiry through an organization that they maintain and find out right away whether the object is worthy. But the small givers have nothing of that kind. They really ought to be protected - those who give the money and those to whom it is given, and there ought not to be any abuse of charitable impulses.

November 23, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

+ An inquiry as to whether aliens will be admitted at New York in excess of national quotas, and whether any arrangements have been made for such purpose. No general arrangements about it. A permanent lawyer came to see me yesterday about a boatload, I think, of some seven hundred that wanted to come in. Some are quite distressing cases. I took the matter up with the Labor Department and they tell me that in a case of that kind they try to take care of all cases of distress - those that you might call worthy cases; but when they are able bodied men or people that don't ~~interest~~ appeal in any way to the sympathy or charitable instincts, why they have to be returned.

Here is an announcement that advices have just been received from Germany stating that the Reichstag has failed to give Streseman a vote of confidence, and that Streseman and his entire Cabinet have quit, leaving the government in a complete state of collapse. I haven't any official information about that. I should imagine that if that was the case, that a new government would be formed the same as in any other country. Of course our own country, and all the other countries of the civilized world would view a collapse of Germany with a great deal of concern.

An inquiry about the Sterling-Talbot bill. I haven't any exact information about that. I know about it in a general way. I never came to any final conclusion about it.

An inquiry about the proposed reorganization of the Executive Departments and whether the administration favors a single Department of Education, or a Department of Education and Public Welfare. The plan contemplates a Department of Education and Public Welfare. The public welfare has to do with the prisoners. It also includes the Veterans Bureau, and quite a number of activities of that kind.

Mr. President, is that the name of the Department, as you express it?

Yes. Education and Welfare.

An inquiry about the proposed plan of Representative Madden for a solution of the Muscle Shoals problem. Mr. Madden has consulted me about it once or twice, and it is my understanding that he and I are working in harmony on it. It is very important that our country should secure the opportunity to produce nitrates, at a low price, both on account of their need for national defense and especially on account of their need in agriculture. And if that can be worked out at Muscle Shoals, it will

be a matter of the very greatest importance from both of those angles. We are trying to see if that is not possible. I think the present price at which nitrates are imported, most of them I believe are Chilean nitrates, is considerably lower than nitrate can be produced from power, either steam or water power. Now that means there would have to be a considerable amount of experimentation in order to be able to produce cheap nitrates. It would require a considerable capital outlay probably to have that worked out.

An inquiry also about my intention to visit Columbus, Ohio, to confer with friends of President Harding. I haven't any such plan at the present time. Very likely that may refer to some work that is being done out there by the Harding Memorial Association.

No letters have come to me, so far as I have noticed, from the agricultural papers relative to taxation.

An inquiry about a proposal for the Alien Property Custodian to use the \$187,000,000 now on deposit with the Treasury as a fund for the revival of trade between the United States, Germany and other Central European states. So far as I know that doesn't seem very feasible. The only thing we could accomplish by that would be through the use of credit or capital, and I don't know that the Government ought to use credit and capital in that way in competition with our financial institutions. I should want to think that over before approving it, and so far as I know credit is not sought for in foreign trade at the present time. I may be mistaken about it, but that is my impression, which I have gained from talking with Mr. Meyer of the War Finance Corporation. He has passed two or three months abroad for the express purpose of seeing whether the War Finance Corporation could help finance exports, especially of agricultural products, and he wasn't able to work up any business in that way.

An inquiry about extending the coastwise laws to the Philippines. I haven't any present intention of doing that. Something might come up in the future that would make it seem desirable, but according to my understanding there are very grave doubts as to its propriety, in the State Department. I had at one time a very long report about it. I didn't examine the report in great detail, so I am not able to give the details of it, but the conclusion was that it was of very doubtful propriety, on account of its apparent violation of treaties we had with other countries.

An inquiry also about my message. I want to reserve the right to discuss all subjects in my message. If you will just keep that in mind, it will help you for the next ten days.

An inquiry as to how far in advance my message will be delivered to the press. I am sure that it will be four or five days in advance of its delivery, perhaps six or seven.

An inquiry about the visit of Senator Cummins. He came in to talk about railroad legislation. He is, as you know, at work preparing a bill. We are trying to see whether it will be possible for us to agree. I have no doubt that it will.

† Can you give us any idea as to the approximate length of your message at this time, Mr. President?

† I am trying to make it as short as I can. I am glad you asked me about that. It will be in the nature of recommendations for legislation, explicit recommendations, rather than long arguments and dispositions on subjects. Very likely my recommendations may be sound enough, but some people might question my reasons. I am not trying to limit the editorial writers.

Have you decided yet to go up in person?

I am not certain about that.

An inquiry about a telegram from the Carded Woolen Manufacturing Ass'n. of Boston for relief of what they consider unjust rates on wool and mohair in the present tariff law. That telegram, I think, has been referred to the Tariff Commission in order that they might advise me what action should be taken. But this general action is taken on all complaints that come on suggestions about changes in the schedule. They are referred to the Tariff Commission, investigated carefully, and anything that on investigation shows that it is worthy of the technical investigation, which means the giving of public notice and so on, will be considered in that way. It doesn't make any difference what schedule it may relate to. Whatever may be necessary in the way of changes under the flexible provisions of the tariff law will be considered and put into effect. That doesn't mean that we want to rewrite the tariff every day, but it has been in effect for a couple of years, things are more or less settled, and in the course of time it requires investigation and it can be changed, if necessary.

An inquiry about a building program for post offices. I don't want to approve at this time any general building program. As I suggested to you some time ago, there is probably a necessity for the beginning of a building program of public buildings here in Washington, but for a general building program, I am not prepared at the present time.

An inquiry about Ambassadors Harvey and Child. Ambassador Harvey, of course, will retire whenever his successor is appointed, confirmed, and qualified; and Ambassador Child I don't think has any plan about retiring. He expects to return and remain indefinitely. I do understand in a general way that he wants to retire before very long. But this is entirely indefinite.

No recommendations have been received from the Department of Justice relative to a pardon for Comptroller Craig of New York.

I have already referred to the conference with Senator Cummins.

I have already told you when I thought my message would be ready for the press. This brings me back to where I began.

Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the Cabinet?

+ The Cabinet meeting was very short this morning, and about all that we took up was immigration questions. I am very glad you spoke to me about that because I was asked yesterday, or rather I inquired of a lawyer that was here, who told me that people came to America on boats with passports, and when they got the passports thought, of course, that gave them the right of entry. I said that was a matter that ought to be remedied if it were so. I inquired of the State Department this morning, and they say every individual that gets a passport signs a statement that he or she understands that it does not in any way entitle them to entrance into any port of our country. The passport is merely a statement by the State Department that, so far as the State Department is concerned, they have no objection to the entrance of that person. It doesn't have any jurisdiction over the Labor Department, nor, of course, over our immigration laws. They do sign, in every case where a passport is granted, a statement that they understand that, and know the significance of it. It is explained to them as carefully as it can be. But many times people come with passports that have been issued in South Africa, and so on, London or Paris, and it isn't possible for all of these different clients to keep in touch with each other and know just what the quota may be for any specific country at any specific time. So that some of the countries of Europe, who have

nationals that are spread all over the world and come back to Europe with their passports, and sail from there to here, are subject to that condition without any blame attaching to the different consuls that issue the passports.

Mr. President, about Muscle Shoals, would it be possible for the Government to run it at a profit in case it has to operate it?

I don't know. ⁺Most everything we do operate we operate at a loss. ⁺ It would very likely be operated at a loss, as we are now doing. The fixation of nitrates and securing of them in large quantities is a matter of such public importance that the Government would be justified in doing work of that kind the same as it is justified in building a highway or paying out money for reforestation, or opening up railroads and harbors, because it is a matter of very great public importance.

November 27, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men

Governor Templeton called on me yesterday. He and I spent the Fourth of July together up in Maine and I am afraid that we devoted more time to a discussion of the pleasant experience we had together last July than we did about a serious discussion of Government affairs. He didn't make any representation, any comment, or any statement at all about so-called fake physicians. About all he had to say in the nature of public business was the encouragement that he felt in the enforcement of prohibitory laws in his State of Connecticut.

I have here an inquiry about the coal conference. I am not exactly familiar with the details of that, but of course continue my position of being ready and anxious to cooperate through any United States Government agency, or help in any way we can through any state agency to solve any of the coal problems.

I have several inquiries here about the seizure of a British Ship, the Tomako. That was taken, according to unofficial reports that have reached us, outside the three mile limit, though we have no official reports and no officially reliable information about it. It is very possible that it would come within the decision that was made in the Marshall case. A ship under that name was hovering off the coast outside the three mile limit and discharging its cargo to shore contrary to the provisions of law for the discharge of cargoes, irrespective as I understand of what it happened to be, intoxicating liquor or otherwise. So the United States Government seized the ship and the case came up in the United States Court. I think representation was made by Great Britain about it, but soon after that was accompanied by the declaration that they had found that the registry of this ship, though alleged to be British, was defective, so that they withdrew their representation and dropped their interest in the case. Now it may be that this ship was seized under similar circumstances. I don't know. There isn't at the present time any change in the treaty relations between the United States and Great Britain, and I do not think the proposed text of the treaty has yet reached us. Therefore no seizure could be made under any change. Treaty conditions are just as they always have been. Our Government never has relinquished its claim, as I understand it, of a right to seize a ship that is hovering off the coast, whether it be inside or outside the three mile limit, which is discharging its cargo in an unlawful way and in violation of our laws. Very likely the decision in this case will

turn upon that important policy which our country maintained.

Mr. President, has there been any representation from the British Embassy here about it?

I do not think so. I am not certain about that. Inquiry may have been made, but that I don't know. I think rumors have come to the effect that there are peculiar things about the registry of this ship, that has just been seized.

There was practically no business at the Cabinet session today.

I have spoken about Governor Templeton.

It is possible that my message will be available as early as tomorrow. I understand that it is not to be delivered until Wednesday, according to the present plan. Congress very naturally desires to adjourn over one day out of respect to the memory of President Harding.

I am going to call a meeting of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission at a very early date. As soon as I am advised that all the members of the Commission are here in Washington. The representative from Kentucky came in yesterday and was speaking about it. I forget his name.

Langley is his name, Mr. President.

Mr. President, has anybody been appointed to succeed you as President of that Commission?

No, I think not. I am not certain about that. I think the designation is the Vice President. Should it be the President of the Senate then of course President Cummins would come in at the present time. But I think the designation is Vice President, so that nobody else could be for the time being.

Has that plan ever been approved, Mr. President?

I do not think so. The location has been approved by the Commission. Perhaps some of your members will recall accompanying us on a tour of inspection the early part of spring, and at that time decided on the location, and of course plans had to be made to conform to that location and Congress not being in session since that time, there has been no opportunity to approve the plans.

An inquiry about the Craig case. Senator Copeland came in and spoke about that. He said he understood that a petition for a pardon was to be made to me, and wanted to know if I would be in a position to expedite action on it and get an early decision. I sent over for the Solicitor General and asked him to be in possession of whatever facts there might be in order that there would be no delay, should a petition come in.

An inquiry as to whether I have any plans for Thanksgiving Day. Why, of course I have. I thought I made that very plain in considerable detail in a proclamation I made some time ago. You will be perfectly safe in following the terms of the proclamation for information about what I am going to do. I think I advised the people to assemble in their usual places of worship and in their homes for a suitable observance of Thanksgiving Day, and that is the way that I hope to observe the day.

Mr. President, will your sons be here?

No. They only have one day in the school where they attend, so that they will not be able to come down.

An inquiry about Philippine independence. I haven't any clear and definite information about that. There is a bill known as the Jones Bill that it is my impression, I think I am right, promises independence to the Philippines some time in the future. I suppose my own position is the well known position that has been reiterated from time to time by the Government of the United States, of a desire to see the Philippines under self-government as soon as we felt warranted in withdrawing. I think it is generally recognized that our presence there is not so much an advantage to us as a very large bill of expense, but that it was an obligation which we had undertaken when we received the Philippine Islands from the Spanish Government and that we couldn't cast them adrift. We are anxious, by maintaining educational institutions, to show them the way toward good government, and by the example that we are able to set there of providing a sound government for the Philippine Islands, - one that ~~they~~ will be able to maintain the freedom and independence of the people there. As soon as that can be done, we will then feel at liberty to withdraw.

Mr. President, are there any signs that that time has arrived or will arrive in the near future?

I think they are making very good progress. I haven't detailed information. I have never been in the Philippines, nor am I a particular student of them, but I get the general impression that they are making very good progress there - very encouraging progress.

An inquiry as to whether Speaker Machold of the New York assembly said anything about the Craig case. He did not. I only saw him for a moment or two. I expect to see him again, but I doubt very much if he had that errand in mind. He was in town and came in to pay his respects, and will lunch with me because he didn't have any time with me this morning.

I don't understand, by the way, that there is any difference of opinion between the State and Treasury Departments about the Schooner Tomako.

What if any distinction is set between the method the Tomako employed in discharging the cargo outside the three mile limit ^{while} ~~and~~ the ships off the New Jersey coast are never interfered with. I can't very well answer that question. It is a question of whether you can catch them discharging the cargo, I suppose. A ship has the right to stand off the coast as long as it wants to, as long as it is not caught in the violation of our laws. This one, I suppose was. For that reason it was overhauled and captured. It is very easy for a vessel to stand outside the three mile limit and for swift motor power boats to come to port in four, five or six minutes, so that it is rather hard to be able to prove an unloading and discharge of cargo. I assume that in this case it is purely an assumption, because we have no official information that they were detected in the discharge of a cargo.

A question about the agricultural situation. Have you received any new information from the Secretary of Agriculture indicating that the wheat situation is improving? I don't know that I have received any information one way or the other about that. There is no change, so far as I know.

November 30, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

When the earthquake and fire occurred in Tokyo, it destroyed the U. S. Embassy buildings there. Plans are being drawn for the purpose of reconstructing those necessary with some care and detail, because if they are reconstructed it will be desirable that they should be so made as to be able to withstand an earthquake shock. Some of the buildings in Tokyo were destroyed by earthquake and we should ^{not} want our Embassy buildings to be of a construction of that nature. That work is going on. It was spoken of by some of the Cabinet members this morning. There was also a suggestion made that it might be helpful to have some publicity about reclassification. The reclassification work is going on, and I hope that it will be completed at an early date, perhaps so that it can be acted on by the Congress at the present session, though it wasn't completed in time so that it could go into the budget. If reclassification isn't completed in time, of course, the bonus system will be carried out for the present fiscal year. But reclassification will be taken up and considered as fast as it possibly can.

An inquiry about making the Prohibition Unit a Bureau under the Treasury Department. The reorganization plans contemplate putting that into the Department of Justice. That leaves me committed, so far as I am committed at all, to that plan. My mind isn't closed about it, and there may be some reason why it should be made a special Bureau in the Treasury Department. The law now is that enforcement of prohibition is to come under the Collector of Internal Revenue and his assistants and agents.

Has the change been made in the Prohibition Unit since the original plans of the Brown Committee were prepared?

I don't think so. This is an inquiry about an independent plan to put this Unit - making it an independent unit in the Treasury Department, instead of having it under the Jurisdiction of the Collector of Internal Revenue, as the law now says. I don't know if I have made that very plain. The reorganization plan puts it under the Department of Justice. I am committed to that plan. There may be some reason why it ought to be kept in the Treasury Department, and why that would be the best plan. It can be taken up with the Committee and arguments heard for it and against it, and decided there.

Would you care to say why it was recommended by _____ to put it under the Treasury Department?

I can't give you his reasons in detail, other than that the Treasury seems to him to be the natural place for it. More natural than the Department of Justice because the Treasury Department has jurisdiction over the Coast Guard and something else he mentioned over there, that were allied to this work.

Customs?

Yes, perhaps it was customs.

An inquiry about the Craig case. That has been submitted by me to the Department of Justice. All requests for pardons go there for their investigation and report to me. They do not usually come to me. When they come here they are sent to the office there. I have seen the petition signed in the Craig case. It was sent over to the Department of Justice, and I couldn't give you any information until I get the report from the Department.

An inquiry about the authority of the President to pardon. I don't know that there has been any direct decision of the courts about that. There are quite a number of opinions of the Attorney General on it from time to time. There are different kinds of contempt. This, I think, was a proceeding under a criminal contempt, which perhaps would make it more plain that the President would have the power of pardon. If it were a civil contempt, then perhaps the President wouldn't have. I spoke of it when it first came up, in relation to my experience as Governor of Mass. when there was, it was my impression, no authority on the part of the Governor to pardon in contempt cases. That is an action of the court for the purpose of giving the court authority to administer its business. A person may be called before the court to testify. If he refuses to testify then the court has authority to imprison him until he does. Now that isn't a crime in any way, and that he should be kept in confinement until he testifies, or if he doesn't come to send the sheriff after him and bring him. That is not on the criminal side of jurisdiction at all, but if a criminal contempt is committed, which I understand was claimed in this case, then it brings it on the other side of the court.

I have here several inquiries about some actions by the Reparations Commission, which has decided to inquire into Germany's capacity to pay, and dispatches

indicating that the United States may be asked to participate. There isn't any exact information about that. There have come some reports of that nature, and it will be impossible for us to make any determination until we have exact and definite information, or a proposal as to just what was wanted and just what it was proposed to do. I think that I would be justified in saying that the United States Government, of course, would not participate. The only question under consideration would be whether certain U. S. citizens, if they were asked to participate in some action of this kind, would participate. I suppose it goes without saying that no citizen of the standing that would make it desirable for the Reparations Commission to have him there, would participate unless he knew that the U. S. Government did not object.

I suppose that my budget message will be ready whenever Congress is organized and ready to receive business.

Have you any, well definite idea, at this moment as to when your message will likely be presented?

I was going to come to that on another question. This is the budget message I referred to just now. It is my recollection that when the Congress is organized, a committee is sent down to notify the President that Congress is ready to receive the President's message. Congress comes into session on Monday. It is understood that they will adjourn over at once without the transaction of any business, so that Tuesday would be consumed in the organization of the House and Senate, which would make it appear, unless something more should occur, that on Wednesday they would send word that they were organized and ready to receive communications. Probably I should deliver my message in person on Wednesday.

An inquiry about Chairman Farley of the Shipping Board. He came in this morning and I had a short conference with him. He left some papers on which he has made some reports that he wanted to bring to my attention. I have been so busy this morning with Cabinet and so on that I haven't had a chance to look those over, and do not know what they contain. Our conversation was only general in relation to carrying on the business of the Shipping Board as it is now provided under the Jones law.

Senators Reed and Oddie came in. Of course I wanted to find out if, as a result of their investigation, they had discovered any matters for action on the part of the administration to make the Veterans Bureau more effective. I didn't know but they had some information that I ought to have, but General Hines has been

in close touch with the situation and I am sure is making any changes that are necessary, and had made them I think before the Committee began its hearings.

There is some duplication of questions today.

An inquiry about measures of food relief in Germany. ~~It~~ There is nothing yet known of a definite nature about that.

Attorney General Holland has not been in. He may possible have come in to speak with Mr. Slomp, or he may be waiting to see me.

I have spoken about the Craig case.

The Cabinet did not discuss the Veterans Bureau.

+ Another dispatch from London relative to the treaty that is being negotiated. The dispatches in that respect have been rather strange. I do not know whether they have had a foundation for fact. I feel that they have, but the information that has reached us over here has all been pretty much in the nature of newspaper dispatches from London. I don't know whether they are reliable or not. I feel that they are. But I do know, however, that they are not official, and I don't know the reason that these dispatches keep coming out, instead of some official information coming to us over here. Perhaps we are in the enjoyment of outside help in the negotiation of this treaty about which I do not know.

I think that covers everything.

There wasn't anything else in the Cabinet. We were not in session more than fifteen minutes.

December 4, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men

I have an inquiry as to when I am expected to deliver my message to Congress. Whenever I am notified by a committee from the Congress that it is organized and ready to receive communications. I judge that it will not be before tomorrow. It might possibly be some time after that, but I should think it would be safe to prophesy that it would be at the usual time tomorrow. I shall go up whenever I am invited.

Here is a suggestion that Brigadier General Smedley Butler of the Marine Corps is likely to be invited to come to Philadelphia as the Director of Public Safety. That hasn't been brought to my attention directly. Very likely that is the purpose of a visit that I am expected to receive from some of the officials of Philadelphia during the latter part of the week. I can't tell whether that would be feasible or not until I consult with the Navy Department. Sometimes they are willing to grant leave of absence to men to serve some special civic purpose, and sometimes it is impossible for them to comply with such a request. The situation is entirely evenly balanced by a desire to help any locality that we can and the absolute necessity of maintaining our own organization and keeping always on hand men who may be called upon to act at any time. I suppose it is well known that the Marines are especially an arm of the service that are called on to go anywhere at any time, and there would be a little more difficulty in weakening in any way that branch of the service, than there would be other regular army men. It sometimes happens that in the army there is an oversupply of officers, and very likely that may happen sometimes in the Navy. It would be unusual in the Marine Corps, so that until I get information on all of these points I wouldn't be able to make a decision. It would be very largely influenced by what the Navy Department said was the right thing to do.

+ An inquiry about^a/report of Major General Beach as to the safety of the White House. I haven't seen any report of that kind. I think there was some reference to it in the newspapers. Whether he has made an official report that would properly be characterized as representing the White House to be unsafe or not, I do not know. I have much doubt whether the report would go to that length.

+ Mr. President, the report was that of Major General Beach to the Secretary of War. If my memory serves me correctly, he said he called that to your attention.

+ I am not going to dispute a gentleman and an officer. I don't have time to read every communication that comes into the office, although I look at every communication that comes to my desk with the care which it deserves. But that hasn't

† come to my attention. The White House is an old building, but I think it is fire proof to the roof. Whether it is unsafe in any way, I don't know. A man who was there with President Cleveland told me that they found during his term there was an accumulation of books and old papers and documents, which you know come to be very heavy, placed up on the third floor, that was causing a sagging of the floor. There may be something of that kind there now, some water tank, or something of that kind that makes a crack in the wall.

An inquiry about Muscle Shoals. There hasn't been any new offer about that. I understand that the offer that Mr. Ford made is still open. There isn't any view that I know of that I can express about the House organization. I am not familiar with the details of it. But from such information as I have, I rather expect that they will effect an organization some time today.

The matter of General Butler I have already referred to.

The Mexican treaty, of course, will be submitted to the Senate for ratification, and it is desirable that we secure ratification as soon as we can here on account of the effect it would have in securing ratification in Mexico. I believe their Senate adjourns on the 31st of December, so that there will not be a very long period for them to consider the question of ratification. It is important on account of the claims that our citizens have that have been waiting a long period for adjustment and settlement.

Mr. President, any likelihood that you would go to the Senate with that?

No. That would be simply submitted with a very short statement.

Mr. President, it isn't necessary for us to ratify the treaty first is it?

No. Not necessary. But I think if we ratify it that might have a desirable effect down there.

There was practically no business before the Cabinet today.

An inquiry about the treaty with the British Government. That is still under negotiation.

† Here is a reference to a party that came under my notice, when I was Governor, by the name of Ponzi. I judge that the rest of you heard of him. He became notorious around Massachusetts and ended up under sentence which he is now serving at Plymouth. I think that no formal application has been made for his pardon. It is my recollection that he did write a letter here, which would be answered by sending him an application for pardon, which would be considered the same

as any other application, should he make it. I don't want to prejudge any application. From such information as I have I should think it would be very doubtful if his case would be one which would warrant executive clemency. Some change in his condition, or the breaking down of his health, or something of that kind might cause a change in my position. That appears to cover all the questions.

Mr. President, ~~xiii~~ the question of an Ambassador to Mexico, the U. S. appointing one before Mexico does?

There hasn't been any decision made about that. I should prefer to wait until we can get the treaty ratified.

December 7, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't any official notice about the action of the South Dakota Proposal Convention, and I haven't had any report about any trouble in Mexico. This question that I have before me suggests that there was a revolt in Mexico yesterday which led to the seizure of Vera Cruz and the Mexican Navy in several of the states. That is the first information I happened to see about it. I haven't any information whether it is correct or not.

No decision has been made about the release of General Butler. I received a telegram today from Mayor Moore, and it seemed to indicate that in his opinion there wasn't any such serious condition of lawlessness existing in Philadelphia as has been indicated in the prepared statement that was read to me yesterday. But that is a question for the decision of the Mayor-elect and the present Mayor, about which I do not need to comment.

+ An inquiry as to whether I was gratified with the reaction to my message. I was very much gratified, of course. A great many telegrams have been coming in with very kind comment. Also on the part of the newspapers. It is in a good many instances flattering. Perhaps you had prepared them.

Mr. President, what type of people do you hear from on this?

+ Well, very general and promiscuous. Different people. All kinds of people seem to be sending in telegrams.

Did you get any reaction on the World Court proposal?

Yes. It corresponds pretty generally with that in the newspapers.

An inquiry about the visit of the German Ambassador, and as to whether an international loan was discussed. No. Except in a most informal way. We spoke of the fact that there is a proposal for a loan to Germany for the purpose of financing exports of food from the United States.

Mr. President, would you care to discuss any opinion on Senator Lenroot's proposal to appropriate \$20,000,000 of Treasury funds for German relief?

I haven't seen that proposal. I very much prefer that it be a matter of business, and I don't know that I have before me at the present time such information that would lead me to a conviction that it was necessary to proceed in the way of charity. There is some question as to the constitutionality of a proposal of that kind, which probably would be waived if it developed that there was in existence a

great want and suffering on the part of humanity anywhere.

An inquiry about securing a treaty with Canada for the purpose of the construction of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterway. That was taken up some little time ago with Canada, about a year ago, and nothing developed. Inquiries are now being made as I indicated in my message yesterday to see whether we can secure a treaty of that kind.

I have forgotten whether I had said no decision had been made about sending Brigadier General Butler to Philadelphia.

I have several inquiries about my message. I don't think I ought to write any editorials on it. You can do that very well and interpret it probably just as well as I could - perhaps better.

I have here also an inquiry about the proposed consolidation plan. I mean by that the reorganization of the different Departments. I have to say about that what I said in my message yesterday - that such a proposal is now before the special committee and it is for them to consider it. Generally, the President and the Cabinet are in accord with the proposed plan.

Mr. President, does your recommendations to Congress include keeping the Engineering Departments intact in the War Department?

There is a proposal there I think to put the engineering activities all in one Department. This plan was laid out in accordance with what was known as bringing together all the major purposes and putting them all under one directive head. That was the reason that it was suggested that the War and Navy Departments be consolidated as a matter of national defense. I don't believe anybody would think for a moment of undertaking to take from the War Department the necessary engineering forces with which the War Department is doing a great deal of what would be known as Civil Engineering, in constructing rivers and harbors, waterworks, and looking after protection from floods from rivers, and so on. I think there is a proposal that contemplates putting those building operations into the Department of the Interior. Very likely if that were done it would be necessary to lend, so to speak, the engineering skill of the Army for that work. I haven't given that enough consideration to know whether it would be feasible in all its aspects or not, but I assume that after it has been proposed it has been carefully considered and found to be expedient in accordance with the plan of the major purposes.

Mr. President, do you happen to know whether the joint committee will hold hearings of the different Departments?

Yes.

An inquiry as to whether there will be any bills to give effect to the recommendations in my message.

Yes, there will be bills. I haven't arranged for the introduction of special bills, using my message rather to influence the carrying out of principles that are the underlying thought of bills that are already pending or that are to be introduced.

I have an inquiry about the Craig case. On that I have made my statement and it is closed.

I think that covers -

Mr. President, May I ask if you have read the report of the Secretary of Agriculture of the wheat situation that was submitted today?

I can't tell whether I have or not.

Anything at the Cabinet meeting?

There was almost nothing in the Cabinet.

Mr. President, returning to the reaction of your message, what subject in your judgement was referred to most?

+ I think the great interest is in tax reduction more than anything else. That is what has been dwelt on most in the messages that have come in.

December 11, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

No decision has yet been made about the sending or releasing of General Butler for service at Philadelphia.

An inquiry about the Mexican treaty. That has been sent, I think, by my office to the Senate. It came over here a day or two ago. I think it would have been submitted last week had it not been for the recess. I am not certain whether it has been carried up yet. I think it has been. Of course, that would be released up there immediately on its appearance. I signed it here and sent it out, and it is just a question of when the messenger goes up. I suppose he has already gone. I do not think he could have gone up yesterday. I imagine he went up this morning at 12:00 o'clock. There isn't anything or comment that I can make on treaties that are sent to the Senate, other than the usual statement that comes to me from the Secretary of State. They are, as you know, secret in a way, and the injunction of secrecy can only be removed by a vote of the Senate. I think it is the custom to give out a synopsis by the Secretary of State, which the press has already received.

An inquiry about the requested assistance of the administration to prevent unnecessary and vexatious disturbances and interference with nominal radio broadcasting. That is referred to in my message where I said there ought to be more laws governing that. Any of you that have had experience with the radio, of course know that is so. It is as yet an undeveloped field, but one that our experience will very soon show the way in which it should be dealt with legally. I imagine it can't be dealt with so much by the hard and fast rules that would be made by statutory enactment, as by leaving it to the Department of Commerce or some other administrative body to formulate rules which could be changed from time to time as the experience showed was necessary and desirable.

The visit of Governor Lowden, General Dawes and William P. Jackson, the Committeeman from Maryland, ^{was} ~~were~~ for the purpose of paying their respects to this office.

+ No decision has been made in the matter of appointing a judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. I should have made those appointments during the recess, except for the opinion of the Attorney General that, as they did not occur during the recess, they could not be filled. It is necessary for me to confer with Senators in relation to these appointments, and members of the House, because it is to quite a degree the source of my information. There is another matter that I think the press

might stress somewhat, and that is my desire to appoint men of the highest character and most marked ability for service on the Federal bench. I am willing to have come to me - I welcome the suggestions from political committees and from those who are known to be in political life or holding political office about appointments to the bench. In other cases, suggestions of that kind might be almost entirely determined by them. But in the case of the bench I should look for something more than that. I have to have the assurance of the approbation of the bar, the assurance of the approbation of the general community as to the standing, character, ability and learning of men that are to be appointed to the bench. So that political recommendations, while they are helpful and will be given due consideration, cannot be entirely the determining factor in making appointments to the United States bench. It is of signal importance that those places be filled by men about which there can't be any controversy. I don't mean by that that I should permit a man that from all the evidence I could secure was perfectly well qualified to be disqualified because he happened to have some enemies that might be willing to resort to tactics that I could not agree with or didn't seem to be supported by facts. But it is very important to put on the bench men about whom there can't be any question, and I shall try, in my selections, to be guided by that principle.

Whether any decision has been reached regarding food aid to Germany by the United States. The general decision that I have already indicated, which is that we want that done as a business proposition if possible, and investigations are now being made and proposals are being considered, and negotiations are in process for the purpose of making a loan to the German Government, as I understand it, the proceeds of which would be spent in this country by the loans made, part here and part, I think, in Great Britain, for the purpose of buying food stuffs for Germany, if that is accomplished. I have great hopes it may be. I do not think it may be so necessary to resort to charity. Now don't say anything in the paper that would result in drying up the private charity that is being encouraged. I am speaking now of Government charity. It is very desirable that the private charity that is being organized should go on. It is under the direction of such men as Mr. Allen and I believe General Dawes, who is the Director of it in his region, and other men of like calibre, and of course we are very much desirous that it should go on.

Mr. President, is there any word from France as to her attitude on a loan for this food?

No, not that I know of.

+ I have here several inquiries that I will answer by reading a statement, so that there may be no misunderstanding.

+ This Government has been informed that the Reparations Commission is considering the establishment of two expert Committees. One to consider the means of balancing the budget of Germany and the measures to be taken to stabilize her currency. The other to take up the question of the capital which has been removed from Germany. (That is the property of Germany that is said to have been removed and which is now located in other countries). The inquiry of the first Committee would comprehend all the conditions to be realized and the measures to be taken to accomplish the results desired. All the representatives of the Governments, members of the Commission, have expressed a desire to have American experts on the two Committees. It is understood that the Government of the United States is not in a position to be represented on these Committees, and that the invitation to the American experts will be extended directly by the Reparations Commission. (That wants to be made plain - that the Government of the United States does not participate, but that experts, economic experts, to participate by the direct invitation of the Reparations Commission). This Government believes that the proposed inquiry will be of great value and in view of its direct interest as a creditor, (you may recall that I developed that somewhat in my message, speaking of the European debt that is due us and also the debt that is due us from Germany. The German debt in and of itself will amount to about three-quarters of a billion dollars - about \$750,000,000. We can't tell yet just what the Mixed Claims Commission may find is the amount due, but it is of such a sum as joined to the bill of \$255,000,000 that is due for the Army of Occupation will amount to about \$750,000,000. So that we have an interest there as a direct creditor and an indirect interest as a creditor of the other nations there), and of the importance of the economic recuperation of Europe, it would view with favor the acceptance by American experts of such an invitation. (We have the interest of our debt and our interest in the economic recovery of Europe). The immediate proposal before the Reparation Commission has been made by the French delegate and President of the Commission, and has the support, it is understood, of all the allied Governments. (The French delegate is the President of the Commission, and he is the one who has made the immediate proposal). The British Government has informed this

Government of its desire that American experts should participate in the inquiry. (That takes care of all the allied Governments.)

(Now, this is a very important addition). The German Government has also brought the matter to the attention of this Government, stating that it would be much appreciated if an American expert were to participate in the work of the first Committee, as above proposed, as it is believed that in this way important progress could be made toward the solution of the problems underlying economic recovery.

(You see, that makes the entire approval of the allied Governments and joined to that is the request that comes from the German Government. I think that is very important, of course, and a very significant development. There has been abroad many times some criticism of our Government, of our people, and our ways, but that has demonstrated, I think, that when they are in real trouble and real difficulty over there, they turn to us as a nation that will be fair with them, - one in whose judgment and in whose character they can rely; and notwithstanding differences that have seemed to exist, they are willing to abide by the faith that they have in us, and I think it is a very substantial accomplishment).

Mr. President, is this the carrying out of the New Haven speech?

Not exactly, but it is along that line. This little statement I will have set up on the typewriter and it will be ready for distribution for you in fifteen or twenty minutes.

Mr. President, would it be proper to ask, in view of our interest in the \$750,000,000, why we do not participate officially and directly?

Well, that is a matter that hasn't yet been adjusted. The Mixed Claims Commission is working on that, the mixed claims part. Then we have some adjustment of the bill for the Army of Occupation. I am speaking of that for the purpose of indicating our direct interest in the situation.

December 15, 1923.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men

Here is an inquiry about the loan to Germany. That isn't anything that is pending before our Government, nor anything in which our Government can take any action. As I understand it, it is a negotiation that is pending between the German Government and either the allied Governments or the Reparations Commission, I am not quite certain which, in order to get the necessary consent to the making of such a loan in such a manner as would make it possible to negotiate. The loan is going to be made to Germany under the treaty to which we are not a party and has to be done after consent is given by the Reparations Commission. Otherwise, it would be on top of the reparations, and a loan of that kind would probably find very few takers. So this is an effort on the part of the German Government, for their immediate pressing necessities to get a loan in order to get something to eat. That would be under the reparations, as I understand it. I have no definite information about it.

Mr. President, have you heard what the amount of the loan is? Is it \$70,000,000?

I think I have heard \$70,000,000 mentioned.

Would it be anticipating too much to inquire whether, in the event of an agreement for a loan through the Reparations Commission to the German Government, what the attitude of this Government would be?

Well, you mean toward making a part of that loan in this country?

Yes.

I am quite sure that our Government would be perfectly willing that our bankers should participate in it if they so desired. It wouldn't be for us to ask them to. If they desired to participate in it, I am sure our Government would look on it with favor.

Would they wish, Mr. President, to put this loan ahead of claims?

I don't think so. But about that I am not absolutely certain. I don't think so. There is nothing, so far as I know that would prevent Germany from borrowing money anywhere in any treaty that exists between the United States Government and the German Government.

There isn't any action that is ready in relation to the prisoners - sometimes called political prisoners. That is still under investigation.

Here is an inquiry relative to a proposal made by Chairman Dempsey of the River and Harbors Committee to create a so-called Budget Committee. Generally speaking, I wouldn't care to comment on proposals of that kind, that is, relative to the transaction of the business of the House. It is their business, and they know how they want to do it, and any method that they might adopt in the way of appointment of Committees, I feel quite certain would be entirely satisfactory to me. I don't know of any reason why I should propose changes in their rules or procedure, and no reason why I should be advocating it. It is simply a matter of something that I would be entirely satisfied with any action the House might wish to take. I haven't any information about this. I don't know of any reason, though there may be very important reasons, for superseding the present Appropriations Committee of the House.

Here is another inquiry of somewhat like nature. Relative to what procedure the House had better take in the matter of taxation and bonus legislation. Of course, that is for them to determine. I don't know what would be best for them to do. I am very anxious, of course, that there should be legislation relative to taxation. Generally speaking, I should favor any plan that would appear to promote that end.

Here is another inquiry about the search for capital belonging to Germany, the German Government I suppose, or German citizens, that is located outside of Germany, and asking whether our Government would take any part in searching for it. Of course our Government would not take any part. It is a matter that doesn't concern the United States Government in any way at the present time.

Mr. President, would the United States Government permit such an examination in this country?

The United States Government has no power that I know. The only German property we have is that in the hands of the Alien Property Custodian. Our Government has no jurisdiction over any other property that is here.

Some other inquiries here about the Committee for the economic rehabilitation of Germany. There isn't anything that can be said about that until action is taken by the Reparations Commission. The exchange of notes and correspondence, and the decision of the United States, have all been published. I think those re-

veal that the only thing to do at the present time is to await the action of the reparations commission.

Here is an inquiry about Mr. Grundy of Bristol, Pa. He came in to pay his respects to the office, as I understood it.

And also an inquiry about General Butler, and whether the administration has indicated to him any ideas on law enforcement. I have never seen General Butler that I know of. I have very likely met him at some time or other. I don't think I have seen him at all since the suggestion was made that he be released, in order that he might go up to Philadelphia. I have talked with Senator Pepper and others that came in here. Their representations were public and known. They were that ~~he~~ as a Pennsylvanian he seemed peculiarly available for the discharge of a Pennsylvania duty. We dislike very much to cut down our Marine force, and the Secretary of the Navy was rather opposed to doing that, but upon the recommendations that came to me from the Mayor-elect and Senator Pepper, who is practically a resident of Philadelphia, and the Governor of Pennsylvania, that this man would be very acceptable to them, with the training and ability he has, that seemed to make him a desirable occupant of the office, he has been granted leave of absence.

An inquiry about the nominations made for the Shipping Board. Those were nominations made of men who were already in office, and who had been confirmed by the Senate at previous times, with the exception of Mr. Farley, and Mr. Farley, as you know, was a recess appointment made by my predecessor in office. So that all those names went in together. I haven't any files here of the last administration, so I do not know what recommendations were made about any of these men.

An inquiry about a conference with Mortimer L. Ship. He came in to pay his respects. I inquired of him as to whether it would be possible to better the railroad condition by consolidations. His opinion about that was that some consolidations might be helpful - that his experience had rather demonstrated to him that it was dangerous to undertake to administer business in too large units, and that the administration in cases of that kind was in danger of breaking down. There is about so much that one man can carry, and when a business became so large that it went beyond that, such an enlargement was of doubtful expediency. Such consolidations that would come within that rule, he thought might be helpful.

I think that covers ~~everything~~ thing except one or two inquiries about my message, and on that I don't think I need to comment, as I indicated the other day.

Anything in the cabinet, Mr. President?

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+ No, the cabinet had a very short meeting this morning, which I said, in the presence of the Cabinet, indicated there wasn't anything so troublesome that it needed to be discussed.

December 18, 1923.

+ Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about the offer of the Russian Government to enter into negotiation for a restoration of diplomatic relations. That has been answered by the State Dept. in a statement that has been given out to the press within an hour, and the answer in general effect is that no action is necessary on the part of this Government for the Russian regime to comply with the conditions that were laid down in my message. That can be done entirely by them without negotiating with us, and should be done as a foundation for any negotiations. I suppose you recall, generally, the restoration of property, recognition of the debt, and the cessation of propaganda against our institutions. Those were all the result of acts taken there, and can be remedied by acts now to be taken there.

Mr. President, wasn't their another condition?

Well, perhaps so.

Wasn't there the one about mete works?

Well, the doing of those things represent the works.

Also an inquiry about the Mexican situation. It was not under discussion at the Cabinet meeting, and there is no change in the administration's policy. I hope very much that the pending treaty will be speedily ratified.

Mr. President, was the Russian situation discussed in the Cabinet?

No, it was not.

I have two or three inquiries about the proposal for an American to serve on some committee of the League of Nations to look into the control of the Port of Memel. I have no information about that, other than this inquiry. If an inquiry should be made, of course, it would be treated the same as any inquiry coming from a foreign government and disposed of in the same way.

The appointment of District Judges will be made just as soon as I can decide on what appointments to make. I am taking that up with different Senators, making such attempt as I can to make satisfactory appointments.

I have already referred to the Russian communication.

I do not expect either General Dawes or Mr. Young to call at the White House before they go to Europe. I do not know that they mean to call, but I don't know of any reason why they should call.

I discussed with Senator Jones this morning the matter of shipping. He made some inquiry about the residence of Mr. Farley. His residence is the same as the residence of the Chairman of the Shipping Board that was confirmed by the Senate. There is a precedent for confirmation of Mr. Farley. Whether the Senate wishes to follow it or not, of course, I do not know. If there is any real doubt about the legality of appointing a person that lives in a place that Mr. Farley lives in, that might be taken up and an opinion secured from the Attorney General.

There was no discussion at the Cabinet meeting this morning about the officials and members who were discharged from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing by an executive order of March 30, 1922. I think all but one of them have been extended an executive order given by President Harding, which gives them a Civil Service rating and, as I understand it, it is proposed that they be admitted to serve in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving whenever there are vacancies, and there is an opportunity to employ them. There hasn't been any order made yet to that effect. I do not know that it is necessary. I understand that that is the position the Secretary of the Treasury now holds.

Another inquiry about the Russian message. When you come to read the communication from the Secretary of State it makes it very plain.

Another inquiry about the Shipping Board.

Another inquiry about the Baltic seaport.

There is a small matter of some public importance and some interest to the people of Arkansas. They had a somewhat peculiar law down there so that it was provided that they could assess the cost of the state proportion of the cost of building roads on abutting owners to the extent of fifty percent. That worked great hardship on the farming communities. In some cases, it has been represented to me, it amounted to confiscation. So that it has been with great difficulty that taxes of that kind could be collected there. That is a matter, of course, for the State of Arkansas to decide, for it isn't for the United States Government to say by what means and methods they shall raise their proportion of money that is used for the building of roads in Arkansas. The U. S. law has certain requirements, not complied with, which is that they make a contribution of 50%. There have been a great many complaints. Our Government wouldn't want to take any action

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that would result in great hardship on the people of Arkansas, and we have been trying to see if we couldn't work out some solution. That doesn't mean that we have any authority permanently to withdraw from them the use of money of the Federal Government in building roads in Arkansas. We are just as desirous of building roads there as we are anywhere else, but we would very much like to have it done in a way that wouldn't work any hardship on the communities through which the roads are built. For that reason the Secretary of Agriculture spoke to me some time ago, and in sending a complaint that came in signed by the President of the Farmers Union, stating ~~that~~ the objection of the farming communities to practically a confiscation of their lands there, ~~so that~~ temporarily I have asked the Secretary of Agriculture to make an investigation and see if we can afford any remedy before he makes any new allotments of money. Those projects that are already under way, and have allotments made, of course, will be carried out. Ultimately we may have to conclude that Arkansas can raise its money if it wants to, and that it isn't the affair of the national government. Temporarily we are trying to see if we can't relieve them of what appears to be a disproportionate burden on some of the farmers there.

December 21, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about the Shipping Board. The difficulty there, as I understand it, is that the law provides for a selection of members of the Board from different localities - the Atlantic Seaboard, the Gulf States, the Great Lakes region the Interior, and I suppose the Pacific Coast. There is a member from the Great Lakes in Mr. O'Connor, who I think lives in Buffalo. Mr. Lasker was appointed from the Interior, and his successor, Mr. Farley, who comes from or lives in the same town - I think they are both residents of Chicago or some suburb of Chicago. Mr. Lasker was confirmed by the Senate, but now, as I understand it, the Committee on Interstate Commerce thinks that Mr. Farley's residence is such that his appointment does not comply with the law. According to my information on that they have voted in the Committee not to recommend to the Senate that he be confirmed. Naturally that has left me somewhat at a loss as to what I shall do for a Chairman, and it may make necessary a rearrangement of the Commission. So that I thought it was necessary to hold up the other two appointments. I have withdrawn them. That leaves them acting, of course, under the recess appointment. Mr. Thompson from Alabama and Mr. Haney from Oregon simply continue acting under the recess appointment until I can solve the question of what to do about a Chairman. I thought it might be unlikely that I could find a man who would know very much about shipping from the Interior, which I suppose would be the states between the Mississippi and the Rock Mountains. I wanted to leave the matter open, and give myself a chance to make any necessary adjustments. That doesn't mean that I am not entirely satisfied with Mr. Haney and Mr. Thompson. I think they are both very excellent gentlemen. That is the reason why I appointed them. Very likely I can find some way of continuing both of them on the Board. I wanted the opportunity of making an adjustment, should it become necessary.

There is no action to be taken, so far as I know, with the Japanese Government on the immigration question. Whenever the question comes up of laws relative to immigration, it is quite natural that the different Governments should be solicitous for the protection of the rights of their citizens, and it is not infrequent that they apply to the State Department to know about the conditions of the proposed legislation. There is nothing unusual in that.

Would you permit a question about that subject? Mr. President.

Have you or the Cabinet ever given any thought to translating the gentleman's agree-

ment into law?

No I don't think so.

An inquiry here about the ~~abrogation~~ operation of the Arkansas tax law, the road tax law. All that is proposed there, is that on account of some complaints that came in, each project that is pending there is to be taken up and each one decided on its merits, in order to cooperate for the protection of those who live along the line of proposed highways, and in order that we may, of course, give to the State of Arkansas its full share of the money for the building of roads. These appropriations are made especially for the benefit of regions situated like the State of Arkansas, where there is a large amount of farming territory and where the population is scattered, rather than being gathered in centers. For that reason the United States wants to help, if we can, and not so as to distress any one. We expect cooperation from the officials of Arkansas toward that end.

An inquiry also about an endorsement by the Navy Department for an additional Naval Base at Alameda, California. That hasn't come to my attention directly yet. I think at present it is before the Budget Commissioner for his consideration, and later he will report to me.

An inquiry about some reports from the Tariff Commission. I don't think there are any reports before me from the Commission. They are holding a great many hearings and making a great many investigations, and it seems to me that I have had some information that they were awaiting ~~for~~ some court decision. But about that I am not certain. The suggestion has been that there would have to be a court decision, or rather that there is one pending, to clear up some question relative to the elastic provisions of the present Tariff act.

The Arkansas matter I have just referred to.

I have also referred to the Shipping Board matter.

+ I don't know as I have any very definite plans for Christmas. I think Christmas eve that some of the church choirs, or one church choir, is to sing carols at the White House - outside the White House - in which they will be joined by some of the citizens of Washington. I believe also the plan is to have a church service, a union service, which I think is to be held in the church that I attend, on Christmas morning, where I expect to go. And I think I am to press some buttons to light a Christmas tree down on the Elipse. I think, also, I am to start some kind of a celebration in California. You men that represent the

California press perhaps can tell us what that is. I think something is to be opened. What is that? Any California men know?

Is it Pasadena?

There is something out there. It seems to me it is a water works or a town, or something of that kind.

An inquiry about a supposed pardon case of Louis and Abraham Auerbach from Cleveland. No such case has come to this office. If there is any petition pending, it is in the office of the Department of Justice, and no report has been made to me, so far as I know, and since this question came in I inquired in the outer office and no recommendation has reached them.

There is no further statement that I can make about the Russian situation. Everything that I had in mind about that is contained in my message, and on that I stand, of course.

+ I haven't any plan for a short holiday cruise on the Mayflower. I think it possible that I shall take a Saturday afternoon trip on the Mayflower tomorrow. I have been out on it four or five times. Usually we go to Quantico where there is a very good opportunity to turn around, then run back up the river taking dinner on the boat, which is very pleasant, and have some of our friends along.

There hasn't been any preparation to announce any nominations for judges. I want to get that done as soon as I can. These appointments, I can say all of that them/ are pending, were left over from last spring, and they were left over because of the difficulty of solving them; The difficulty of getting the men that appeared to be satisfactory and knew the requirements that ought to be met by every man that sits on the Federal bench. There are a great many difficulties about it. I am working it out as fast as I can. I can't make any comment about the plans for the Arlington Memorial ~~Commission~~ Bridge. Several of you saw the plans. So far as I could judge of them, they appeared to be eminently satisfactory. It is mainly a question of expense. The building of the bridge itself, I think is a matter of some \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000. The other work that is contemplated by the plans would run into \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 more. I don't know just how far the Commission will feel justified in going, but naturally we would proceed slowly on a project of that kind, involving such an expense.

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I don't know of any comment that I could make on the statement of Mr. Ford, other than to say that I am very gratified that he is willing to endorse the work of the present administration.

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December 28, 1923.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper men.

I have the resignation of Mr. Farley, the Chairman of the Shipping Board, which of course I shall have to accept, as it has been determined that his residence is not such as complies with the law, in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the Senate. So that while I regret to lose his services, he is a valuable man, I do not see any other course to take than to accept his resignation and try to find someone to take his place. I don't know yet who I shall make Chairman of the Board. There is a Vice Chairman, who naturally will act until I get someone. That is Mr. O'Connor. I think the President designates someone to be Chairman without any action of the Senate confirming it, so that I shall have to see who I can find to put in in the place of Mr. Farley. It may be someone that I want to make Chairman, or it may be that I shall have to ask some member of the Board to retire, in order that I may put someone in his place to be Chairman. I am limited in my choice of men for Mr. Farley's place to a certain location in the middle west, so that it might be difficult to find anyone there that I thought was so well qualified to be Chairman. In that case, I might have to ask someone to retire. While that is something that may be done, I haven't any plan, or any purpose, at the present time of doing anything of that kind.

Mr. President, is Mr. Farley's resignation effective at once?

Well, it will be effective whenever I make it effective, whenever I may desire it to take effect. He will stay as long as I want him to stay, and he will stay naturally to finish up some things he has in mind.

Leigh C.

There was no special significance to my conference with Hon. ~~Mr.~~ Palmer. He is with the Shipping Board, and I asked him up to talk over Shipping Board matters with him and get the advantage of any information he might have.

Senator Jones today made a suggestion that it would be a good thing if the operation fleet/was divorced entirely from the Shipping Board. I have a communication from the Senator that that was rather in contemplation of the law when the law was enacted, that the Shipping Board should stand somewhat in relation to the operation of the fleet that the Interstate Commerce Commission stands to the operation of the railroads - that the active and practical operation of the United States ships should be in the hands of the fleet corporation.

Mr. President, that is a one man thing, isn't it?

No, it is not a one man thing any more than any other corporation - a railroad, or a bank, or anything of that kind in the hands of directors or trustees. They choose their President, Treasurer and the Secretary, and make such by-laws as they want. It would tend, of course, to put the direction of the fleet more in the hands of one man than the operation of it by the Board, where there are seven all with equal powers. It would tend to put the direction in the hands of different men, as on railroads there are various Superintendents of Divisions, and Vice Presidents that have certain duties to perform.

Was that communication from Senator Jones in response to your request?

No. I have talked over the shipping matter with the Senator several times, and asked him to make a little memorandum especially about the Philippine situation and other things that he might have in mind. There is nothing new in it, and nothing but what we have discussed here in these newspaper conferences several times as to what might be done better to take advantage of our shipping operations.

I don't know of any proposal - this is the first intimation that I have had, I think there are two suggestions here - for a transfer of the Bureau of Mines from the Interior to the Commerce Department. I don't think I ever heard of that. It may be something that is being discussed in one or other of the Departments, or it may be something that is in the contemplation of the reorganization. If it is in that, then I have discussed it, but I haven't any thought of issuing any executive order for that purpose. Nor have I given any thought to the matter of the formation of consumers' cooperative organizations. That was spoken of by President Harding, I am informed, in a speech he made at Idaho Falls. Whether he had any matured plan of putting that into operation, I don't know, or whether it was a thing that occurred to him that might be helpful and one about which he might speak, I don't know. Of course there are a great many consumers' cooperative organizations of one kind or another, especially in the Farmers' Union, with which they provide methods of that kind very extensively in the South and West.

+ I don't think I need to make any comment on the letter that came to me from E. Y. Clark. That was published very extensively in the newspapers before it reached me, and when that is the case, of course, you know that the reason for sending the letter to the President was in order that it might be published in the newspapers, rather than for the purpose of securing any Presidential action. You are all familiar with that method. I came into contact with it when I was Mayor of Northampton, when I was Governor of Massachusetts, and it is still in operation.

I don't mean by that, that when a letter comes to me that seems to require action, I should disregard it because it had been published. Usually the sending of a letter to me has some other expectation than any such action on my part.

+ Here is an inquiry as to whether there are any resignations in process in the Cabinet. You can say that there is no foundation for any such rumor. I think generally you will be warranted in denying any such rumors. You don't have to make any guesses. Sometimes I thought you did. If you guess that there isn't any trouble in the Cabinet, you will find that usually you have been right.

✓ There wasn't any special significance yesterday to my conversation with General Dawes and Mr. Young. They took lunch with us, General Dawes leaving immediately after lunch and Mr. Young staying a little while longer. The general drift of the conference was that they did not know yet exactly what would be required, and were prepared to study the situation and make the best recommendations they can. That is somewhat vague and indefinite, but that seems to be the condition.

I have heard about the stock market speculations of Lieutenant Osborne Wood. I knew something in relation to large financial transactions that he seemed to be making, and knew the Secretary of War some time ago had called the matter to the attention of General Wood, and I suppose Lieutenant Wood knew from the Secretary of War that any activities of that kind had to be discontinued. Nothing has ever come to my attention indicating any wrong doing, other than the generally bad policy of any one who is in the position of Lieutenant Wood engaging in market speculations.

I have just spoken about the extension of the American coastwise laws to the Philippines. The President has authority to make such extensions whenever he is satisfied that there is adequate service being rendered by American shipping. This matter has come to my attention once or twice, and I am going to have the War Department make a survey of the shipping conditions in the Philippines to see if the American ships furnished adequate service. Senator Jones says that we do commerce with the Philippines of about \$100,000,000 a year, and about \$50,000,000 of that is carried in American ships, and that an extension of the American coastwise laws would give us the advantage of having the business of the other \$50,000,000. I don't know just what that would indicate - whether it indicates we have sufficient shipping there so that I would be justified in making a proclamation, or whether it indicates that we are only doing half of the business, and therefore we are not yet in a position to do all of the business. I don't know as it has any significance either

way. It might. And of course I have also consulted the Shipping Board to get their opinion about it. I should be very glad to secure all of that business for the American merchant marine, and as I understand it, the policy of the law requires me to take appropriate action for securing it whenever that is possible.

Mr. President, if such a proclamation were issued, would there be any assurance that rates would not be raised, as the Philippines fear?

I suppose that is in the hands of the Shipping Board. If we are carrying half of the merchandise there now, that would indicate that our rates are acceptable for at least half of the merchandise. Now, it may be that we couldn't meet the rates on some kinds of merchandise. That may be one reason why we are not doing all of the business. Those are things that I would like to find out by inquiry from the Secretary of War and the Shipping Board.

An inquiry also about the creation of a Department of Mines. I should like to have that Department strengthened and made completely efficient. I don't mean that there is any criticism on the present administration of it. I have no doubt it is well administered in accordance with the present requirements of the statute. I don't think I would want to favor making a separate Department of it with the information I now have at hand. It may be that it ought to be in a separate Department, but our reorganization plan, as you know, rather contemplates cutting down the different Departments, than making new ones, and in accordance that with ~~the~~ policy I should like to keep the Bureau of Mines and other bureaus as a part of some of the present Departments. That doesn't mean much of anything more than the name. It doesn't mean they would be under the jurisdiction of somebody else. It means they are associated together. Probably they would be occupying the same building and working in harmony.

+ I haven't any plans to visit various cities and deliver speeches or participate in special celebrations within the next month or two.

I can't make any announcement about shipping Board appointments now. I have discussed that already.