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CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME II
January 4, 1924 - June 27, 1924

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NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

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Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about the appropriation for better Coast Guard defenses, involving the giving of motor boats to the Coast Guard for their use, and the inquiry asks whether General Lord has expressed any disapproval of this. No, he hasn't expressed any disapproval of it to me. I understand he is making a study of the plan to see what best can be done to expedite it. I have talked with him about conferring with other possessors of ships and merchant fleets, and the Navy Department, to see whether they have any ships or boats that can be purchased for use in this direction. If they have, we might be able to save some money, and we might be able to get them right away. So there is a twofold reason for it - one would be to expedite the work and the other to make it more economic.

Mr. President, will that hold up the estimates?

I don't know just what form the estimates are in. I think they went in with my Budget message. I am not certain about that. It is my recollection that was in the Budget. General Lord is making a study of it for the purpose of seeing, when it comes up for hearing, whether it can be hurried up and whether we can save some money.

How much is involved Mr. President?

I think it was expected that some \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 was to be expended.

\$20,000,000.

Well, I think a considerable part of that was for employment of extra members of the Coast Guard.

Whether any consideration has been given to designating a Chairman of the Tariff Commission for the coming year. No particular consideration has been given to that. Naturally no other consideration, except when I came in, that the Chairman was in the position and was serving well. My natural disposition would be, if there wasn't any compelling reason to do otherwise, to leave the Chairman to serve.

An inquiry about the Tomako that was seized some time ago. I haven't heard anything about that since that date. My understanding is that it is before the courts for adjudication. Whatever decision will be made, of course, will be satisfactory to the Government.

The British Government has just made some complaint about that, hasn't it?

I can't tell about that. The case will be before the Court, I suppose.

I don't think they have made any complaint, other than the inquiry. I think there were inquiries made.

In view of the sale of arms and munitions to Mexico, will the President please state the administration's policy? I don't know that any policy is involved, other than to consider each case that might arise and trying to consider and decide it on its merits. I don't think it involves anything further than that. Any friendly Government might request opportunity to purchase a few muskets and a few rounds of ammunition. Of course the matter would be considered on its merits. It would be quite a different proposition in selling a large amount of material that our Government thought it was expected might be used for war purposes between one nation and another. This is more a matter of domestic policy ~~and~~ than the carrying on of warfare.

Is that a matter for the consideration of Congress, Mr. President?

Of course, no action is taken on these matters without authority of law. No one would have any right to sell any property of the Government, unless the law provided for it. It has been considered by Congress, and such authority, I understand, exists.

Could you kindly tell us, Mr. President, what the total amount involved would be in money?

No I can't tell what the amount is. Not a very large sum.

Whether the proposed ^{sur-}35%-tax rate compromise which is being discussed at the Capitol would be acceptable. Well, I don't know what I can say about that exactly. This is in relation to the tax bill that has been proposed by Mr. Mellon, and which I endorsed and said I approved in its entirety, or words to that effect. That position that I stated in my message, of course, is the one to which I still adhere, and I am ^{principle} opposed to any compromise with the ~~bill~~ that has been stated in that bill. I don't mean by that that it may not be necessary, as the result of hearings, to make some slight changes and alterations, but I am opposed to making any changes that involve a change of the principle of the rates of taxation that are provided for in the proposed schedule. If that once is started at all, there would be no end to it, and the result will be compromising the bill entirely out of existence. Any effort to proceed in that direction might just as well meet with opposition in the beginning as at any other time. I think very likely that will be the position that will be assumed by the

Congress. Of course there will be a great many proposals for amendments and changes. Perhaps I am putting more emphasis than need be on this inquiry. ⁺ I learned a great while ago that a proposal for legislation, or even the introduction of a bill that was not in accordance with sound policy wouldn't need any active opposition from the executive, in order to prevent its adoption. The legislatures with which I have had to deal have usually been perfectly competent to take care of those questions themselves without outside interference. So that while there will be many bills introduced into the Congress that I shouldn't want to approve or to take any action about, or proposed amendments to legislation that is in and I wouldn't approve of, generally speaking I should not need to take action about that, because the Congress will look after it.

⁺ That doesn't mean that you approve of a bill that doesn't meet your desires?

⁺ Quite the contrary. I wouldn't approve of a bill because someone has proposed an amendment that I don't approve of. I don't need to run out and send for the Congress to come down here and become active in the opposition. I can depend upon the Congress to take fairly sound action in relation to those.

I have already stated that I didn't know the amount that was involved in the arms that Mexico is proposing to purchase, and I have nothing in mind regarding any other action that our Government might take. I think the morning papers had a very good account of the proposals for the operation of the fleet. Now that really doesn't mean a change in policy, except in one respect. It means operating in accordance with the resolution that was adopted, I can't tell how long ago, but a considerable length of time ago, by the Shipping Board. The present operation is very largely under the Emergency Fleet Corporation, but when Mr. Farley came in he was made President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation and that has tied it up, of course, more intimately with the Shipping Board, and it is for the purpose of divorcing that more entirely, in accordance with what Senator Jones thought was the policy of the law, that ~~is~~ is now proposed that the President of the Fleet Corporation should be a man who is not on the Shipping Board. So the plan goes on in a way the same as it did before, the only change being that the President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, which is a corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, will not in the future be a member of the Board, and the relationship, as I have explained it to you before and to a number of people, will perhaps be a little more intimate, as between the Interstate Commerce Commission and the railroads. We have the Fleet Corporation running the

United States Ships, and the private corporations are operating their own ships, and the Shipping Board with more or less authority have direction of policy in the fixing of rates, the laying out of routes, and so on, and jurisdiction over both the Government owned ships and the private owned ships.

Do you still think, Mr. President, that it might be necessary for you to ask somebody on the Board to retire?

Not under this plan. That leaves the Board to function just as it is now constituted.

You can't appoint any Chairman from the Interior?

Well, I don't know that it will be necessary to appoint a Chairman from the Interior. If I was of necessity going to try to find a man that was going to take charge of the running of the ships, I wasn't certain but I thought I couldn't find such a man in the Interior. If I couldn't, I wanted the chance to find one on the Coast.

This thing has changed the entire aspect, then?

No, this leaves it just as it is. It doesn't change really, but it puts the whole proposition in a condition where to my mind I am not required to make any change.

The Chairmanship?

No I haven't. Mr. O'Connor is the present Vice Chairman, and I judge he will act until after a definite decision about that. The only thing that will be left for me to do - the Fleet Corporation chooses its President. It functions somewhat through the Board, and that will take care of that. So that all that is left for me to do is to find a suitable man in the Interior to make a member of the Board.

Does that mean that you are going to refer to the Senate the nominations of Mr. Haney and Mr. Thompson after renominating them?

That is what has been done.

And then promote a member of the Board as Chairman, Mr. President?

Some member of the Board will be designated by me as Chairman. That isn't a matter of much consequence. The Chairman of the Board only has one vote. If I was obliged to find somebody that was going to be Chairman and run the fleet, well of course I should have to look for a different kind of a man. I should say it was a matter of very little consequence who happens to be Chairman.

Mr. President, there is still a vacancy on the Board?

Yes. Mr. Farley's retirement will leave a vacancy that I shall have to fill. The new appointee might not necessarily be the Chairman. I don't think he will be the Chairman. He will be new.

This new plan will then curtail the activities of the Present Shipping Board considerably?

Yes, in certain directions.

In operation, etc?

Well in operation, yes. The activities will be curtailed some. But in accordance with the resolution passed by themselves some time ago it is really putting into effect their plan.

Is that the MO-4 plan modified?

I don't think it has anything to do with that. Those details you will have to get from them. It has nothing to do with that. MO-4 is the name that is given to a certain contract that is entered into between the Government acting through the Shipping Board, and those that lease the ships for operation.

I haven't had any report from the War Department about the adequacy of shipping for the Philippine trade. Whenever that matter is mentioned, I think it always develops that there is a great deal of opposition to it in the Philippines, from the people that live there, and whenever it has been investigated I think it has developed that there wasn't adequate shipping there to fill their needs, or at least they thought there wasn't. It has been rather difficult to tell them you can't have shipping except from the United States, when they are insisting they want to use ships from other countries. So it has never been possible to do much in that direction.

An inquiry as to the nature of a conference with Mr. Breed (Mr. R. E. Breed), and Mr. R. W. Stewart. They came in separately. They came in to tell me that they had been pleased with my message to Congress. I don't think I had ever seen any one of them before. I imagine they wanted to see what I looked like. It may be that you have stimulated their curiosity.

January 8, 1924.

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Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a desire for an expression of opinion from me as to whether I agree with the attitude of Representative Longworth who favors consideration of the tax bill ahead of the bonus. Very naturally I should agree with whatever course he thought he ought to pursue as a matter of legislative policy. He is our expert in that direction and I am not, but aside from that, I do agree that it is highly desirable to take up the tax bill and secure its enactment at the earliest possible time for the good effect it will have on the country. Very naturally if they start to consider other legislation before that is taken up, it will postpone the time when the tax bill will be enacted. I don't mean by that that if it goes into effect it will reduce taxes the next day, but I do mean that the effect will be very desirable and very helpful.

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An inquiry about the Cabinet meeting. We took up the question that has been under consideration and been talked about in Government circles; that is the inability of the Government to keep good men and high class individuals in their employment. That is rather the natural thing, as you would know from your own experience. People go through the various grades and so on, both in private employment and public employment. Some of the young men that are here today will be the editors and proprietors of newspapers in the future. So that probably some of the newspapers are complaining that they can't keep high class newspaper men in their employ, that are hired out to other occupations. Of course, that is the experience of every institution that has in its employ people of high class ability and character. They are sought for by others, and they graduate out. As I said to the Secretary of War, his Lieutenants become Captains, his Captains Majors, and so on up, and that is what happens in Government. But there is, I think, a real need to consider a better scale of remuneration for experts, because you can't carry on experiments and scientific investigation if your labor turnover in that department, or the employment turnover runs up to a very high percentage. I think there is a very great need of paying experts in the Government, on account of the higher scale that is prevalent outside of Government employment perhaps, larger remuneration.

An inquiry about the Bok Peace Award. I haven't anything to add to what I said in my message to Congress about that.

An inquiry about the resolution or memorandum before the Shipping Board which is understood to have been approved by the Executive before its submission to the Board. I don't know that I can add anything to what I gave you at the last conference. But I want to make this plain. I think I have referred to it once or twice before, and that is especially my loyalty to the members of the Government Boards and Commissions and serving under me in the Government. I want those people to know that I am giving them my support. I want the Shipping Board to know that I am giving it my support. I speak of that because I thought there was a little wrong impression that I tried to remedy last Friday, - that this plan wasn't the plan of the Shipping Board. It is exactly their plan. It isn't my plan except that I am trying to adjust it for them. That had a resolution that was in effect putting the control of the Shipping Board very largely in the hands of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. That is where Senator Jones said it ought to go, and that is where the bill contemplated it should go. Under the present arrangement of the Shipping Board, the President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation is also Chairman of the Board. Mr. Farley was Chairman of the Board. He is going off. We have some very excellent men in Mr. Thompson and another man from Oregon, Mr. Haney. Both are very excellent men that have had experience on the Board. I want to retain them. I told you last Friday it was my purpose to appoint them. But I withdraw their nominations in order that I might see whether it was necessary for me to go to the Gulf or to the West Coast, possibly, to find a man that I wanted to put in that was going to be Chairman. Now there may be some good man on the Board that could take up the position of Chairman, so that I don't want to resort to that anyway. Now, the only change that is contemplated is to put in Mr. **Palmer** as President of the Fleet Corporation. The President of the Fleet Corporation is not to be a member of the Board. Now the details of course I don't know about. I don't have an opportunity to study into them or look at them. There was a resolution somewhat supplementary prepared that the Board was operating under, and I gave it to Senator Jones to look at and take down to the Board. He is an expert on those things, and I am not. He took it down. Now the Board is considering how to act upon the proposals in that resolution. I asked each one of the Board when they were at the conference if they wanted to adopt this plan, and each one said they did, with the exception of one. The thing I especially want to correct is the impression that this divests the Board of their powers. It isn't that at all. It is the action of the Board themselves in employing the manager to get out the

work. They can't divest themselves of their powers. They are imposed upon them by law, and they must be responsible for them. They of course have authority to say to the manager, "you go ahead and do this and we will ratify what you do." The inference is that if we don't like the things you do we shall either remove you, or we shall say we will not permit you to function any longer." Now what I have been trying to do, as you can see, is to the present Board in its integrity, and give them an opportunity to function in this way. That is what Senator Jones thought out to be done, Senator Fletcher thought ought to be done, Representative Graham, House Chairman, and Representative Edmonds. Mr. Edmonds is especially well advised in shipping matters. But I do want to say again that this isn't any attempt to divest the Board of their power or authority, or to take anything from them, but it is the action and plan of the Board itself.

Mr. President, may I ask if the new Chairman of the Shipping Board will take orders from the President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, or will Admiral Palmer take orders from the Shipping Board.

The orders would come from the Shipping Board. They are giving their orders in passing the resolution, in telling the President of the Fleet Corporation "you do these things for us. These are our orders." The same as when a private concern employs someone to be its manager. The concern gives the orders to the manager. If he doesn't function right they discharge him, or carry out their own orders. Usually they discharge him.

I haven't heard anything more from General Lord about the purchase of ships from the Shipping Board or the Navy for the use of the Coast Guard. I haven't any expert opinion about the Garner tax program.† The general policy that was attempted by the tax program that I have endorsed was that of undertaking to encourage people as much as we could to make their investments in business enterprise, and not put their surplus money into tax exempt securities. If I understand the Garner plan, it doesn't meet that requirement at all, or ~~even~~ to a slight degree. People that apparently have a surplus income wouldn't under the plan have an opportunity to invest it in private enterprise, so that I don't think it would encourage private enterprise. It is very much more profitable for people to pay their own taxes, than it is to ~~higher~~ hire someone to collect their taxes and pay them into the Treasury for them.

I have already spoken about the Shipping Board.

I haven't heard anything more about a loan to Germany that has not already

been published. Negotiations, or it seems to me there had been a proposal made by some German Bank, or perhaps it was a Netherlands Bank, that seemed to be entirely feasible. So much so, that the matter had somewhat gone out of my mind.

There are no further steps that I now contemplate in relation to the situation in Mexico, and no orders have been issued for any purpose in that respect other than those already published. I don't think that our Government has received the Austrian agreement to adjudicate claims of American citizens. It may have been received in the State Department, but I have had no notice of it.

I don't know about any details of any other offer to purchase Muscle Shoals. I think there were other offers. I am not acquainted with the details of them.

Whether any representations are to be made to foreign Ambassadors and Ministers with respect to the restriction of the use of liquor supplies. I haven't in contemplation anything of that kind. I don't know of any occasion for it. It sometimes happens that some particular individual connected with some Embassy doesn't carefully observe the requirements, and in that case there is action taken in relation to the particular individual. It doesn't require any general activity, or any general representation, and I don't know of anything of that kind that is pending now in relation to any individuals. I have seen it in newspapers but I never knew what foundation they had. They were very guarded. I don't know what might be behind them.

I don't know of any answer that has been received from the British Government with respect to the twelve mile limit proposal. I don't know just what request has been made in that respect.

January 11, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a small rumor, I don't generally pay much attention to the rumors because I know the press isn't interested in rumors, about Mr. Olsen of North Dakota resigning in favor of Mr. Roy Frazier. That is a rumor that never came to my attention. I guess you will be perfectly safe in saying it has no foundation. It is nothing I ever heard of. Mr. Frazier I met when he was down here. He is interested in securing some agricultural legislation. I think he has gone back. Mr. Olsen I never happened to hear of. He is an internal revenue commissioner. I have no doubt he is a good one.

I don't know anything about Governor General Wood returning to the U. S. I don't think he has any intention of coming here, and I know of no reason why he should come. I think any information that would be required from him could be sent by him very easily, if any were needed.

I think nothing has been done about selecting a Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to succeed Mr. Hill. That is being looked after by Mr. Mellon, and I don't really know whether Mr. Hill's resignation is final or not. I don't know that it isn't, nor do I know that it is. So I can't give you much of any definite information about that.

I have three or four inquiries here about the Tariff Commission. I like to keep in touch somewhat with the work of the Commissions, now that I have my message out of the way, and I am giving a little more attention to administrative features. I have had several conferences, as you know, with the Shipping Board to try and see what we could do in the way of adopting a policy for them, and yesterday I had a long conference with the Tariff Commission, in order that I might get a better idea of their problems. They have pending before them a good many different questions that go there from my office, and I wanted to see how they were getting along, what progress they were making, and what their problems are. I do not feel like giving out any information about that now. I think you can depend upon the Tariff Board to make disinterested reports, and so to conduct their hearings and make their decisions, that the results will meet with the approval of those acquainted with the circumstances. I don't know of any member of the Board, I will say here, that is financially interested in anything pending before the Board. I don't know that there aren't several of the Board that may be. But I don't know of any that are.

Mr. President, is it your plan to have similar conferences with other Boards?

I think I shall from time to time. I haven't adopted that as a definite policy any more than I have stated before, that very likely as the work of legislation comes on I shall want to give considerable attention to that. I just had a conference with Senator Smoot relative to financial legislation - to see what the prospect is. He reports it is encouraging, and I shall undoubtedly be in conference with different members of the House and Senate to keep myself informed, and in that way to see what I can do that might be of assistance; also any of the other Boards, as their problems are brought to my attention.

Mr. President, will it be in order to ask whether Senator Smoot brought any more encouraging report about the bonus, about the possibility of the Senate supporting a veto?

I don't know that I would want to anticipate what I might do with legislation that was brought to me. I have stated my position in relation to bonus legislation in my message, - -

Mr. President, I was thinking more of what Senator Smoot brought in - -

and I have enlarged somewhat on that in my budget message. † I don't believe it is quite the thing for the executive to make public announcements that he would veto certain legislation that might come to him in advance of its arrival here - though there are certain inferences always of what might be done. You gentlemen are very adroit at that.

‡ We might speculate on that, Mr. President.

‡ I don't need to stimulate you.

I haven't decided on the Chairmanship of the Tariff Commission for the coming year. There are several very good men on the Commission. I think any one of them is well qualified to be Chairman. I believe they have adopted, on the Interstate Commerce Commission, the plan of rotation. One man is Chairman one year, and another man the next year. It is a practice that has more or less merit in it, and oftentimes might be a very helpful solution.

Mr. President, would you care to say what the Cabinet discussed today?

We discussed almost nothing this morning. I was taken up taken up considerably in time by people that wanted to see me, so that I was about twelve

minutes late getting in. I don't think we stayed in session very long.

Any resignations, Mr. President?

+ No, no Cabinet resignations. None of the Cabinet resigned this morning. Several of them were absent, and that was the reason why the session was so short.

January 15, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ Here is an interesting inquiry on press reports from abroad, which indicated belief among many Europeans that American participation in the reparations inquiry is the first step toward further entrance by the United States into European affairs. My comment about that would be that it is very inaccurate. The question is very inaccurate. I don't believe the public has the impression that this inquiry would indicate. There is no entrance by the United States into European affairs, and therefore there won't be any further entrance by the United States into European affairs. It goes on to say "Can you say anything regarding the work of Messrs. Dawes, Young and Robinson, and whether the United States may participate further?" Of course General Dawes, Mr. Young and Mr. Robinson do not represent the United States in any way. They represent the Reparations Commission. They are responsible to the Reparations Commission and to them alone. The United States Government has no connection with them. Their presence does not indicate the first step on the part of the United States Government to enter European affairs, and therefore do not contemplate any further step on the part of the United States, if by United States that means the Government.

Another inquiry about the possibility of a loan to Germany by the War Finance Corporation for the purchase of food. I think I have commented on that two or three times. The last I knew there was a proposal being entertained by the Reparations Commission to permit a loan to be made to Germany, part of which I understood was to be expended in this country and part somewhere else, and part was to be taken up in this country, and part somewhere else. I never knew what decision was reached. It was necessary for them to give their approval of it, otherwise the loan would be on top of the German reparations, and payment would be very far in the future - very likely it wouldn't be much more than mere paper. So that an attempt was made to get in under that, and I don't know what decision has been made. Then after that I think there was some foreign banks that were proposing to make a loan, which looked more practicable and encouraging, and more immediately available. The last time I had any talk with Mr. Myer he spoke about that and I never heard what decision had been made. It looked quite encouraging at that time.

As I have said before, Mr. Dawes and his associates you know, and the public I think knows, went over there at the invitation of the Reparations Commission, and the other members of the board are there by the representation of their respective Governments. .

↑ Mr. President, can you say whether the Reparations Commission pays their expenses?

× I understand it does, or else they pay their own. I don't know about that. I should expect that they were paid by the Reparations Commission. Usually the party calling in an expert, I found, has to pay his expenses.

I haven't any information from Mexico that would indicate any change in the military fortunes of the opposing factions. I never had any detailed information about it, except in a general way that there was trouble going on down there. The extent of it, and so on, I never knew.

Here is an inquiry about a change in the Tariff Commission. I don't know as I can make any very helpful comment about that. The only think I can require of any member of a Government Board or Commission is that they function in accordance with the requirements of the law. As long as they do that, it is my business to be satisfied with them, and they are entitled to approbation. If they neglect that, and don't function according to statute, why then, of course, they are subject to criticism. It is very often that differences of opinion arise in Boards about things, and they sit down and talk it over, discuss it, and usually arrive at some workable solution, if each man keeps in mind his duty and makes his decision in accordance with what he thinks the situation requires. It usually works out that they arrive at a solution.

Mr. President, do you think there will be some change needed in the Constitution of the Board, having six members and having to make a decision on a subject? It seems a difficult thing to do.

It seems a very practicable suggestion, if they should happen to divide three to three, but there again it is not necessary, and probably that was the reason why they were made a three and three board, rather than a five, or 7, or 9. It is because this is a fact finding Commission, and each member would report to me what he thought the facts were, and it isn't necessary that they should agree. If they were to make a decision that affected some private interest, of course it would be rather necessary that the decision be reached. Theoretically, when a motion is made and the vote is three to three, or 10 to 10, the motion

does not prevail, but for the sake of getting a rather better decision than that it is usually customary to make Boards of an odd number, though Boards almost always agree with a fair unanimity.

There is no name under particular consideration for an Ambassador to Mexico, and no decision has been made about a successor to Victor Murdock, as a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

There has been no positive decision, so far as I know, relative to the purchase of Shipping Board and Naval Vessels by the Coast Guard for use in Coast Guard, Internal Revenue, and Customs enforcement.

An inquiry about the speech of General Dawes. I think I have already indicated that, of course, what General Dawes says doesn't indicate any policy at all of the United States Government. He speaks with his own authority and as the representative or the expert of the Commission - the Reparations Commission. He doesn't represent the United States in any way.

I don't know of any difficulty about the collections from the Mexican Government for the sale of munitions. I think they are being carried out in accordance with the agreement made at the time.

No positive decision has been reached with respect to the several judges

I have already, I think, said that no positive decision has been made about the member of the Shipping Board that is to come from the Interior, or the new Chairman.

That brings me back to the point of departure.

Anything in the Cabinet, Mr. President?

A very short session in the Cabinet, and no business taken up.

January 18, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about the lease of the Teapot Dome Naval oil reserve. That is under investigation, I think, by a Senatorial Committee, and of course no action is contemplated by any other arm of the Government so far as I know. It wouldn't be natural to take any action until the Committee had made their investigation, in order to find out whether anything develops that would appear to warrant any further investigation or action by any other part of the Government.

Also an inquiry about the present shipping problem. I don't know that we can say that it is disposed of. There are several bills pending in Congress. My own feeling about it is that the Chairman of the Committee in the Senate, Senator Jones, thinks that the present plan ought to have an opportunity to be thoroughly tried. There is a bill pending, or will be pending, I think, which is to be introduced by Mr. Edmonds on the part of the House, who is the second man on the Shipping Committee there. I think Senator Edge has a bill. I don't know whether there are any other bills or not. The shipping problem won't be disposed of until the Jones bill is thoroughly carried out, which finally contemplates a private ownership of the merchant marine. As I stated in my message, we can't carry that out under present conditions. The only thing I know of that can be done is to go along as we are going.

I have here two or three inquiries about the tax bill. It is perfectly evident that sentiment is in favor of tax reduction. It is not only of tremendous strength in the country, but is growing stronger all the time. My position was stated in my message to the Congress, and my position hasn't changed. I am in favor of the administration's bill. I don't mean by that, that I expect that any bill that is submitted will go through Congress without any change, or any amendment, especially a bill like the one pending. But I am for the bill as it stands at the present time. I think the support for the measure as it now is framed, is growing stronger and stronger in Congress. They are having more and more opportunity to study it, and I think they are coming more and more to see the wisdom of its provisions.

Here is an inquiry about the port of Tampico, that has been declared under blockade. From any information I have, I am not expecting any difficulty on that account.

An inquiry also about the passage of Mexican troops across American territory. It is my information that New Mexico and I think Arizona have given consent ~~to~~ of their Governments to the passage of Mexican troops, but that the Acting Governor of Texas thought that such passage through Texas territory might incur some danger. Of course, the opinion of the Governor there would be respected, and unless the local authorities, I mean by that the Government, state authorities, want to give their consent, our Government would notify the Government of Mexico that it seemed expedient to have troops pass through Mexico. Whether that would be refused, or changed at all, when the Governor gets home, I don't know. It may be that the Acting Governor simply didn't want to take the responsibility of making an affirmative decision, and is awaiting the return of the Governor.

No final decision has been made about the extension of coastwise shipping laws to the Philippines. A good many difficulties are in the way. I should be exceedingly loath to take action in that respect that was very much opposed by the Philippine Government, or by the Filipino people. I recall that some of our own difficulties in colonial days resulted from the fact that our people were very much embarrassed by the restrictions that were put upon their shipping. While I am exceedingly anxious to build up the American Merchant Marine, I shouldn't want to do so in a way that would imperil the friendly feeling of the people of the Philippines for America. I don't think that would be profitable or helpful. We want ~~for~~ their friendship, their commerce, and their cooperation, and in order to secure that, of course, we would have to take very largely into account their desire. If it is a wise thing to do, deliberation and discussion on their part will reveal that to them, and they would join in wishing to have it done. I am very loath to impose upon them something they don't want to have.

An inquiry as to whether there will be a representative of the farming interests to fill the vacancy on the Shipping Board. What I want is some one that will represent that region that is ordinarily known as the agricultural region, though it has very large industries besides agriculture. I am hopeful to find a man that would represent that region. It may be he would be a farmer, or he might be a transportation man or a business man of some kind, but it must be some one, if I can possibly find him that does really represent the great interior region of the United States.

An inquiry about the visit of Mr. A. W. Harris of Chicago. I am not exactly certain, but I think that his house has a Boston branch, or rather that his headquarters is in Boston. I think he is of the firm of N. W. Harris and Co., though of that I am not quite sure. I am rather confirmed in that opinion, because an old friend of mine, who is connected with that firm in Boston, named Weeks, came in with him. I understood they were both to go to Boston. It was merely a personal call, Mr. Harris coming in to call on me and being presented by Robert Weeks. He lives in Brookline and is connected with the Harris firm in Boston.

+ Whether I believe that this is an opportune time for a renewal of the invitation to France to inaugurate negotiations for the refunding of France's debt to the United States. I am not in touch with the details of that situation any more than you, and in fact any of the general public that may be following it. It is in the hands of the Debt Funding Commission, and I should want to consult them before giving any positive opinion about the present situation. I judge, though, that it has been their view that the present isn't an opportune time, on account of the difficulties that our prevailing in Europe.

I have already referred to the Senate investigation of the naval oil lease.

I have already referred to the passage of Mexican troops, and the tax bill.

I hope to be able to send in some nominations of judges by the first of next week. There is no present foundation for the suggestion that William Phillips may be appointed the American Ambassador to Italy. I don't know of any such thing being in contemplation. Mr. Phillips is a very fine man. He is a good man to represent America anywhere. I think he was former Minister to the Netherlands. I should be sorry to lose him from his present position, which ranks, of course, next to a Cabinet position in the service of the present State Department.

Did anything happen at the Cabinet Meeting?

+ I was going to speak about that. We had considerable discussion about the difficulties that are arising in the northwest on account of the closing down of some banks up there, and we are making plans to see what we could possibly do to relieve that situation. The Federal Reserve Banks and the Federal Reserve Board are going to do what they can. I have been in conference with Comptroller Dawes about it, and the War Finance Corporation stands ready to be of any possible assistance. The situation is serious, though not desperately so. They have a great many banks in the northwest that are quite different from what we understand as a bank in the

east, and with very small capital. I was astonished to find they had one bank for about every eight hundred people, which puts a good deal of a burden on eight hundred people to support a bank, but whether they have been wise in having that number, I don't know, and I am very anxious to relieve them by furnishing additional credits. Mr. Dawes has been in communication with ~~w/it~~ banks in Chicago and with the Twin Cities. Mr. Meyer also is working in the same direction. I think they have a plan by which they can finance the troubles up there and get the matter straightened out as speedily as possible. I haven't any figures on the matter. There is a large bank in Sioux Falls, I think the Sioux Falls Savings Bank, that is the correspondent of quite a lot of other banks around there, and has their deposits and keeps for them their legal reserve. It is to relieve that situation and take care of the needs of those banks that had deposits there that Mr. Dawes and Mr. Meyer are especially solicitous.

January 22, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I had a conference yesterday with members of the House Committee on Agriculture. That was particularly in connection with that portion of my message to the Congress on agriculture which is as follows:

"Diversification is necessary. Those farmers who raise their living on their land are not greatly in distress. Such loans as are wisely needed to assist buying stock and other materials to start in this direction should be financed through a Government agency as a temporary and emergency expedient."

There is a bill pending before the Committee that is based on that principle, and I conferred with the Committee to see what would be necessary to assist in the passage of that bill. I am very much in favor of the principle that the bill represents, and conferred to see what possible safeguards we might throw around it in order to be certain that money that was used for this purpose would be solely for the benefit of the farmer, and not leave him in a position where he might be foreclosed by other creditors at any time, and so have the efforts of the Government to help him out be entirely dissipated.

+ I haven't any recent information about the South Dakota bank situation. + As I think you already know, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Dawes have started for that region, stopping yesterday I think in Chicago, in order to organize the banks there for the purpose of seeing what additional credit facilities could be secured and what help they could carry from that region to those banks that are now in distress in North and South Dakota. I haven't had any report from either one of them, so I haven't any information as to what they accomplished at Chicago. Of course the Government will do everything it can do to relieve that situation, and that is + substantially all the declaration I can make about it. + I don't want to have it said in the press that the Government can cure an incurable situation, or that where losses have been made through depreciation of property and loans have been found to be insecure and uncollectible it is possible for the Government to take action that will remedy all that. The Government can't do that, but it will assist in any way in which it can assist to furnish adequate credit facilities, or credit that may be needed at the present time, but of course nothing in the way of undertaking to replace losses that have already accrued; though its action might help very greatly to retrieve losses perhaps by an extension of credit to put the debtor in a position where ultimately he would meet his demands in full.

Judge Gary of the Steel Corporation came in and I conferred with him about the abolition of the twelve hour day, which the Steel Corporation has put into operation. I asked him about the financial effect of it, and he said that it increased the cost of their production about ten percent. They hope that through improvements and inventions and better operation they would gradually work that off, but that was the immediate effect of increasing the cost of their production by about that amount. Perhaps that is one of the things that might be remembered when we find we have to pay high costs for manufactured articles. We can't have good conditions for everybody without paying the price. If we are going to have an eight hour day and high wages, which of course we all want to have, we must remember that in order to have it we must be prepared to make something of a sacrifice for it. I think we ought to do it. But we ought to do it uncomplainingly, and we ought to do it without undertaking to assess the blame in some other direction where there is no fault.

An inquiry about an invitation that I have had to go to Indiana. The Purdue University, I think, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary next spring, and they have extended to me an invitation to come there some time in May. I haven't much idea whether I can go or not. I would like to go, but naturally so long in advance it is impossible for me to make any decision at the present time.

Also an inquiry about the participation of sailors in prize fights at Madison Square Gardens. That matter was called to my attention. It has been customary to have boxing in the Navy, and I suppose in the Army, and that undoubtedly will be continued; but I have taken this matter up with the Secretary of the Navy and he will issue an order prohibiting in the future anything like the contest that took place in Madison Square Garden not so very long ago, which was in the nature of commercialized rather than amateur boxing by men that happened to be in the Navy. I couldn't just indicate the line on which the order will be given, but that will be the general theory of it.

I have a question here that suggests that I ought to make a suggestion to you about the details of what the Government may do to assist the banks in the northwest. You ought to apply to the office of the Comptroller of the Currency about that.

Here is an inquiry too about the Murphy-Coulter plan for diversification. I have already indicated that that is the bill to which I referred. It is my desire to support the principle of that bill. It is in accordance with the recommendation that I made in my message to the Congress.

The Mexican situation was only discussed incidentally. Mr. Hughes said that the troops were passing through in accordance with what was already known, and that there seemed to be no particular development in Mexico, other than what has already been given to the public.

The tax bill was also discussed in the Cabinet meeting, as I am reminded by an inquiry here. Of course it isn't possible for me to forecast what action will be taken by the Congress on any measure, without a most careful and accurate survey, and I can't give any opinion as to what action is likely to be taken on the tax bill. It is still before the Committee, and my position is the same as that which I disclosed in my message to the Congress, - of being in favor of this bill as it stands and opposed to modifications of it, or the making of any fundamental change.† I suppose it is notorious that no bill which is presented to the Congress ever goes through without amendments, and undoubtedly there will be amendments to this. I am not speaking now of fundamental changes in the bill, but perfecting amendments. Those are to be expected always, but I know of no reason for making fundamental changes in this bill, if the desire be to improve the measure. If any one is animated with a desire not to improve it, or has in mind some other result than a reduction of taxation, why then he might want to change this bill.

Mr. President, would a figure between fifty and twenty five be regarded as a fundamental change in the bill?

I think so - a change in the surtax rate.

I don't want to have any misunderstanding of my position. I am in favor of the bill and opposed to fundamental changes in it.† Perfection amendments, of course, it goes without saying are not opposed. But I am opposed to making fundamental changes.†

Mr. President, what will your attitude be if they should make fundamental changes in it?

I don't think my attitude will change. I am opposed to their making fundamental changes. I can't tell what I might do with a bill that might come before

me, of course.

A request here about the extension of the coastwise laws to the Philippines. There has been no formal report to me from the War Department about that. I am not contemplating any immediate change in the present situation.

I have here several inquiries about the Teapot Dome. As I indicated at our last conference, that whole question is under most careful and searching investigation by the Senatorial Committee. The Department of Justice at my direction went there yesterday to observe and to see what the evidence might disclose, on account of certain rumors which came to me. That is all that can be done at the present time - to observe the course of the investigation up there and to proceed in accordance therewith. I don't suppose it needs to be stated that if any irregularities are disclosed, or any misdeeds on the part of any one, they will be subject to investigation by the Department of Justice, and such action taken as the laws of the country require. I want it to be understood in making that statement that I am not making any accusations against any one, or have any opinion about the outcome of the investigation. Rumors and so on are flying around. Of course, wherever that occurs those people are summoned in before the Committee and asked to give their evidence. It may be that before the Committee finishes those hearings that discrepancies and so on that now exist will be completely cleared up. But in the meantime the Department of Justice will watch the situation and be prepared to take whatever action is warranted by the national laws. That observation applies generally. As I have already stated at previous conferences, I can't indicate that the Department of Justice is proceeding against this man, or that man, or the other. To do that would probably tend to dry up sources of information that would be necessary to have as evidence. You know evidence is very difficult to secure. It has to be done by secret investigations, and the Department of Justice I imagine, and of course I myself, if I happened to know about those things, couldn't disclose them other than to say that an investigation of any alleged wrong doing will be made; and the direction it is taking, or anything of that kind, necessarily has to be withheld. Otherwise, it would defeat the ends of justice.

I don't think I have anything especially to say regarding the reported death of Lenine, other than what would occur to anybody, - that he cast a good deal of influence over the destinies of Russia for a considerable length of time

and it would be very unbecoming of anyone in the Government of the United States to undertake to make any criticism of a man in his position having passed away. Let us hope that the work he did, though it is difficult to see just how it did, worked for the benefit of Russia and for the betterment of civilization.

+ I don't foresee any change, answering an inquire here, that may be brought about in the Russian policy of the United States by reason of his passing away. That would depend upon what happens. If the policy there should be changed, it would change our policy. If it doesn't change, ours will not. My attitude toward that was set out, of course, in my message to the Congress.

I think that covers all the questions that I have.

January 25, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about some Cabinet meetings in 1921 and 1922. I don't recall that the proposal to make the lease of oil lands was ever discussed in the Cabinet, before I became President. I don't say that it wasn't. But I don't recall. I think I should have recalled, had it been discussed at any length, or been referred to.

Mr. President, were you present at all of those meetings?

Substantially all. Of course I was away in the summer of each year and once in a while I would be away speaking somewhere. I was away in August, 1921, and August and September 1922. Sometimes I would be out of town on a trip to Chicago, or St. Louis, or somewhere.

Here is another inquiry about the recognition of the Russian Government by the British Labor Government. That has not been done yet, though I saw a report in the morning paper, I think, that it was expected that the Labor Government would recognize the Russian Government. I don't know that that would have any effect on the action of the United States Government as to its recognition of Russia. The executive end of the Government you know gets foreclosed sometimes by the legislative end, even on those things that the executive end alone has constitutional authority to act on. I think there is pending in the Senate an investigation of the question of whether the Russian Government ought to be recognized. Something may develop there that will produce information that would be controlling. The investigation is in such hands that I know that whatever develops there will be pertinent to the subject. So that I think at present I am disposed to wait and see what that investigation may develop. I don't know of any developments that have taken place since my message to the Congress that would in any way change the position that I took in the message. My position there was plain. I don't know of any development since that would change that position.

An inquiry about the conference on the Dakota banking situation.

That will be called at once. I am not certain that the call hasn't already gone out. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce are looking after that for me and conferring with the Federated Farm Bureau and the United States Chamber of Commerce to get suggestions from both of those quarters of

persons that ought to be called to the conference. It will be a small conference, but representative of the banking interests, the loaning interests, real estate mortgage loan companies, insurance companies, transportation interests, the railroads, and anyone that we think might have any general information about the situation which would be helpful.

I have an inquiry here about the progress of the criminal investigations in the Department of Justice. Of course, if I had any information about that, and I haven't any, it would probably be improper for me to disclose it. Very likely as I had occasion to say before, it would defeat the ends of justice.

Here is an inquiry about the tax bill. My observation about that is that as it comes to be better understood, and as the proposals for changes come to be better understood, that the administration's bill is getting more and more support both outside the Congress and inside of it. So that I think the prospect for a substantial agreement on that bill is getting better and better. That is my opinion. It may be wrong, but that is the best opinion I have. It is not my purpose to try and make it a partisan measure for the purpose of claiming credit for it. Credit for it will go to those that vote for it, and I should welcome support for it from anyone that wants to vote for it, and be glad to extend credit to any one that wants to support it. But my general opinion is that it is going along all right. It isn't a matter that can be worked out at once, to give figures on what the result would be of a proposed tax bill, by the Treasury Dept. It is a long and detailed operation, but I think when they come to give out the figures on other proposed bills it will be found that the results on those proposed bills are not such that any one would think that they could^{be}/supported, after they study the proposed administration bill. As I say, they are going to come more and more to the conclusion that it meets the requirements.

I haven't made up my mind about the Chairmanship of the Shipping Board. I am waiting, of course, to see if the three names that I submitted yesterday for membership on the Board are conformed.

I have here a number of inquiries about the Senate investigation into the oil leases. My position about that is as already indicated, that the Dept. of Justice is observing the course of events there and will very carefully review any testimony and take whatever action is necessary to protect the interests of the United States, and to punish any infraction of its laws. There seems to be

two questions. I have already indicated them. One, and perhaps the most important is to undertake to punish and bring to justice anyone that is guilty in this situation in any way that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States. Now I don't want to be understood as jumping at any conclusion. I am very loath to believe that any one has been guilty of any criminal intent, but it is very evident that evidence has already been given up there that requires explanation. It requires investigation, and it points toward a criminal action. That of course will be investigated by the proper authorities to see whether any criminal action will lie. You can't start a criminal action on mere rumor. It requires, of course, substantial evidence, which can be produced before a Grand Jury and which can ~~readily~~ later be produced at trial. That will be taken care of, it goes without saying, if anything of that kind appears. The other matter is to see whether the United States suffered any injury by leasing these oil lands. That is a separate question and while it might be of considerable importance financially, it isn't the main question here. The main question is whether there has been any criminal wrong doing. If the lease that has been made doesn't seem to be a proper one, why of course, appropriate action would be taken either for its annulment - I don't know of any other action that could be taken. In either instance every proper action will be taken to protect the rights of the United States and its property, and to protect the citizens of the United States against criminal wrong doing.

I didn't know that any work had been stopped in the naval oil reserves. I am very sure that if that has been stoppped it has been stopped by those that hold leases there, if that is the meaning of this question. I am certain the United States Government has taken no action in that direction.

Admiral Palmer called today merely to report to me that he was apparently getting on well with his shipping operations. I haven't heard anything from Comptroller Dawes in relation to his trip into the northwest.

January 29, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have here an inquiry about a petition from the ^{D. of} Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, recommending the removal from office of Public Printer Carter. It is my recollection that the suggestion in that petition was that he should be removed because he isn't qualified to hold the office. That was something on which I didn't have time to look up the law myself in connection with it, so that I sent it to the Department of Justice to get a report from them as to whether the allegation in the petition was correct. I think the claim was that the law required that a practical printer should hold this position, and the statement or inference was that Mr. Carter not being a practical printer was therefore disqualified.

Another inquiry as to whether the direct use of Federal funds is contemplated in the consideration of relief measures for the banks of the northwest. I am not quite certain what the question means, but according to my interpretation of it, I don't think the direct use of Federal funds is contemplated. There are two plans under consideration, or perhaps a combination of the two. One is for relief by the Federal Reserve Banking System, and the other is a relief measure by a combination of different moneyed interests to provide some capital and a local organization for administering relief, and they of course could be assisted financially by the War Finance Corporation. That is the plan that the War Finance Corporation has adopted right along, of lending money to the banks, or lending money through some local organization. Otherwise the War Finance Corporation would have to have such a large staff in the field itself, necessarily of men that were acquainted with local conditions, that before they could get an organization the acute need for relief would probably have passed and the opportunity for relief would be gone.

I haven't any list of the men that were invited to the farm conference next week. This matter to which I have just referred is one of the problems that will be taken up in that conference. A list of those to take part could be secured either from Secretary Hoover or Secretary Wallace, or both, should any one want them.

I have quite a good many inquiries about the oil leases. I have covered that as well as I could in my conference with the press last Friday,

and in my more exact statement that I gave out Saturday night. So that I think the press and the public are informed that I am attempting to accomplish two things. First, and the more important to me because in a way it involves the integrity of the Government, is the investigation of the violation of the criminal laws and action against any who have been guilty of such violations; and the second is an investigation as to the legality of the oil leases that have been made, and action for the recovery of the property. Those are the two things that are to be investigated and acted upon, and all the other inquiries that I have here I think are subsidiary to those two important questions. On those two I have made my position as plain and clear as I know how to make it.

There is pending, which leads me to another question that I have here - I have an inquiry about the reason for the conference last evening with some of the members of the Senate. That was in relation to the matters pending before the Senate and as to the form of proposed action, in order that it might work in harmony with the plans that I had, and that those who are trying to promote this action in the Senate might be taking action that was running along parallel lines with mine. I do not recall that the legality or other phases of the naval reserve lease policy was ever discussed in the Cabinet prior to the making of the leases. As I indicated at a previous conference, it might have come up at some time when I wasn't there, or it might have come up some time when I was there, but I have no recollection of it. I think very likely I should recall it. I recall some discussion about it on the floor of the Senate after the leases were made, and after that I think it was referred to in the Cabinet rather casually and in a way of explaining some questions that had been raised on the floor of the Senate.

Is it proper to ask if the Executive had any advice from the legal Department of the Government concerning the legality of these leases? I mean since the controversy?

That is exactly what I am employing the special counsel to do, - to give me advice about that and direct me as to what action ought to be taken. I haven't had any legal advice about it.

Mr. President, would you care to express your views specifically on the Senate resolution calling for Secretary Denby's resignation?

No, I don't care to discuss that.

I have not reached any decision about the judgeship for the southern

district of California.

Of course the whole reason for employing special counsel is to find out what the legal rights of the United States Government are, then to see that those rights are enforced.

Here is another question relative to my formal statement on Saturday evening that I said there was a precedent for the employment of special counsel entirely separate from the Department of Justice. The matter that I had specially in mind was the employment of now Secretary Hughes by President Wilson to investigate some charges that were made in relation to the manufacture of aircraft during the War. I was proposing to proceed on the same plan that President Wilson proceeded under in those cases, - perhaps to carry it further if it is found that circumstances warrant it.

Mr. President, has any report been received from the Interior Department as to the wisdom of the leases?

To me?

Yes, sir.

No. No report made to me. Of course it must be kept in mind that this investigation is being carried on by the Senate and up to the time that the suggestion came that there was grave suspicion of corruption there was very little question I think being made about the wisdom of the leases. Of course when the question of corruption or fraud comes up that vitiates everything and throws a question over the entire transaction and puts a very different light on it from that in which it was viewed before the question of fraud or corruption arose, and that is the reason why I have never made any inquiry about the validity of the leases. That question will now come up, of course, because the United States Government quite naturally will want to recover any property that may have been disposed of if it was in any way tainted with fraud or corruption. My statement of Saturday night was clear and definite that I propose to take action for those purposes, and to have action taken in the courts.

Here is an inquiry about the oil pollution. I do not think that I had in mind when I wrote my message anything in relation to land plants. I was thinking merely of the pollution of coastal waters. I don't mean by that that I am objecting to the inclusion of land plants within the provisions of a bill, if

legislation of that kind is necessary, but that was not brought to my attention at that time, and while my language perhaps may be broad enough to include it, I didn't know about it and so there wasn't a conscious reference. If I had known of any trouble of that kind that warranted remedy by legislation by the United States, very likely I should have included it.

No decision has been made about the appointment of the Shipping Board Chairman, and I don't think it will be made until the nominations that I have sent to the Senate for the three members of the Shipping Board are confirmed.

I am not in a position yet to announce the names of the special counsel that I shall employ because if the bill goes through requiring that they should go to the Senate for confirmation, necessarily and probably I should have to confer with Senators from the states where they were to be appointed, and a conference of that kind might change my plans.

I have already said that so far as I could recall, the making of the leases was not considered by the Cabinet before they were concluded.

Do you have any objection to the question as to whether you expect any trouble getting the counsel?

I don't think so. I believe I shall be able to pick out a couple of men, one democrat and one republican.

Is it a requirement of law, Mr. President, that they should be confirmed by the Senate?

No. The Senate is proposing a bill that has that as one of its provisions, and should that be so, of course then I should want to confer with the Senators. In the Hughes case, he was made a Special Attorney General, which I had expected to do in these cases.

Will these men to be appointed be dependent on the machinery of the Dept. of Justice in the prosecution of these cases?

No. I have asked for an appropriation of money, and that appropriation has already gone through the House, so I don't think they will be dependent upon anything but themselves.

J February 1, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about a proposed loan to Mexico. This is the first I have heard of any such loan. It is supposed to be a loan by private interests, American financiers. No proposals of that kind have come to my attention, so I don't know that there is anything I can say about the matter. I thought that Mexico was in process of repaying and refinancing some of its current obligations, rather than in process of borrowing money. This is a new proposition to me.

I don't know of any plan to send Marines to Honduras in connection with election difficulties there. I should think that such action would, of course, be very unusual, and I don't know of any occasion for the United States doing anything of that kind. Of course we have peculiar relations with some of the Latin republics, and there may be some treaty obligation of some kind or another, but I don't have any in mind.

X I don't think that American warships are retained in Mexican waters at the request of the Governments of Great Britain, France and Holland. I never heard of any such report. They are there, as you know, in order that there may be protection at hand for American citizens, or as places of refuge for American citizens that might need to come away, and in order to keep communications open in case any difficulty should arise on land and our consuls would not be able to communicate through the ordinary means with the Government here in Washington.

I don't think there is any contemplated sale either of machine guns or bayonets, or any munitions, of any kind, pending to Mexico. But about that I have no specific information.

Here is an inquiry about stopping the sale of Treasury Savings Certificates in the northwest. Those certificates were put out in order that people themselves might deal directly with the Government, for the purpose of encouraging thrift, and with the expectation that ultimately such action would bring deposits in the banks. Reports came that people were drawing their money out of perfectly good banks and investing in savings certificates in a way that threatened to jeopardize the banks and make it very inconvenient for them by taking their deposits. I understand that the Treasury Department, which was acting in this instance through the Post Office Department - the sales being made through the Post Office Department - thought it was better temporarily to discontinue sales in some localities.

No final decision has been made about the counsel in the oil leases. Mr. Strawn is in town and I have had a chance to talk with him of course. Mr. Gregory is on his way here from Texas. I haven't had a chance to talk with him and have been waiting until he reaches here, when I expect to do so. The reasons, of course, for conferring with him is to see whether he had any connections that would make it inappropriate that he should act for the Government in these cases.

I have considered in only a casual way the reappointment of the two Commissioners of the District of Columbia. I think a committee of the Chamber of Commerce waited on me one time and brought in a resolution endorsing the two Commissioners that are now in office. Whether there will be endorsements of others, I can't say. I think I have heard mentioned one or two others, but I haven't given it any special attention. I don't contemplate calling a meeting of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission in the immediate future. I haven't given very much thought about continuing the Ball Rent Act. That Commission called on me one time and from what they told me I thought it was probably desirable that the Commission should be continued. From some representations that have been made to me by others, I don't feel so certain about it. It seems to me that there are at least five hundred vacant apartments in Washington at the present time. I couldn't give an opinion that would be of very much value without getting the evidence before me. Of course the Rent Commission is a temporary expedient. It was one of those things that was provided in order to take up the difficulty out of that arose ~~xx~~/the crowding during the War. We want to get back to demand and supply as soon as we can, and just as soon as the building in Washington warrants it, I feel that ought to be done. On the other hand the Government here owes or has rather a peculiar duty to the City of Washington, because it has here so many persons who are directly employed by the Government, and unless it has some jurisdiction over the amount of rent that they have to pay and is able to help them in some way, the question immediately arises as to what additional wages and so on ought to be paid them, - a question of their compensation. So that there is a reason why conditions in the City of Washington are somewhat different than they would be in any other locality.

I have another inquiry about diplomatic relations with Honduras, and requesting a statement about what was said yesterday in the State Department. I hadn't heard anything about the difficulty in the Honduras until these questions came to me, so I am not able to give any information either about any trouble there or any

of the different factions. I should presume the United States wouldn't take any action unless it is required under the terms of some treaty, and that I don't know about.

I have heard about a proposed treaty with Panama in regard to the building of roads and construction of bridges, and so on, but I don't know anything about the negotiations. I know that negotiations are pending about that, but I am not able to give any specific information about it. I have indicated once or twice before that while sometimes a sort of a synopsis is given out about treaties, it is the duty of the Executive and the State Department also to submit treaties to the Senate before the text is given out, because they are always considered in the secrecy of the Senate and the Senate has authoritative power to remove the injunction of secrecy, which they sometimes do by passing an order.

X I am very much disturbed to hear of the illness of President Wilson. I met him most pleasantly when he returned the first time from France and landed at Boston, where a public reception was tendered him. I made an address in which I extended the welcome of the Commonwealth, and I have always recalled with a good deal of feeling that when I was chosen Governor the second time, through he was very ill, he sent me a message of congratulation. So that learning of the probable nearness of his end, it is a matter that touches me deeply. X

Anything at the Cabinet, Mr. President?

No, there wasn't anything of particular importance discussed there. There was only one matter of consequence taken up, and that will be a matter which will be given out by the State Department within a day or two. It was a communication from a foreign Government with the suggestion that when it be given out they be notified, so that it could be given out there simultaneously.

February 8, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I will take up first the matter of Mr. Brewer's report relative to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. I learned within a month or six weeks after I became President that he was making an investigation, and that he had discovered a number of peculiar things. I wasn't able to give personally the necessary ~~time~~ time for a careful investigation of it, so I called Charles G. Washburn of Worcester, Mass., and who was formerly a Congressman for several years. He is a well known lawyer and business man. I wanted him to go over the matter with Mr. Brewer. Mr. Brewer had not then finished his investigation, and Mr. Washburn recommended that he be given until the 15th of January to finish his investigation, at which time he was to make a report, which Mr. Brewer made. Mr. Washburn looked at it and conferred with Mr. Brewer, and suggested that it be referred to the Treasury Department in order to see whether they had explanations for many of the seeming discrepancies that were reported by Mr. Brewer. Of course I had talked with Mr. Mellon about it. He thought that they had explanations for the discrepancies that had appeared. I didn't know exactly what the discrepancies were, except that they related to a seeming duplication of bonds. So the report of Mr. Brewer was sent to the Treasury Department for that purpose. As I understand it, when the Treasury Department requested that he turn over to them certain exhibits that he had, duplicate bonds and duplicate coupons and so on, he refused to do that. Mr. Brewer went to court seeking some kind of a process to restrain someone, in order that the evidence might be preserved. I think I have now related the circumstances to you and my connection with it. My position is that I wanted Mr. Brewer's charges thoroughly sifted, feeling that if the Treasury Department wasn't able to explain the discrepancies that he found, then his report should be taken up for action by the Department of Justice. I am really at a loss to know why Mr. Brewer resorted to court action when I was doing all I could. The Dept. of Justice and the Treasury Department were to consider the charges which he was making, with a view to answering them where they could be answered, and with the view on my part of taking appropriate action on any that could not be answered.

Mr. President, has the Treasury Department made any answer to the various charges?

They haven't. They haven't been able to. No specific answer yet. They haven't been able to get the evidence that Mr. Brewer has - some ~~duplicate~~ bonds and some coupons that he thinks are duplicate, so that it was for the purpose of looking to see what he had that the Treasury Department wanted those things, in order that they might use them in their investigation.

Do you happen to know that the evidence is part of the files of the Department of Justice or the Treasury Department?

I understand that they are papers that would be in the Treasury Department, were it not for the fact that he had, in the course of his investigation, taken them out of the Treasury Department.

Mr. President, is that against the law, or has he any right to withhold the records he has?

I can't pass on that. He had the right, because he was employed to do the investigating, and he went over the country looking into banks and bond houses, getting evidence in that way.

Mr. President, is he still in the Government service?

He was the last I knew. I suggested he be employed until this investigation was finished up, in order that he might help a bit. Of course, if he leaves the Government service and then undertakes to keep the Government property that he had, I should think there would be some question as to his right to retain it.

Here is a question too about the investigation of the gasoline situation. I think a request came to me yesterday, I think, from Governor, I don't recall his name, in relation to the increase in the price of gasoline, so that I referred it to the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, in order that they might make an investigation and provide any appropriate remedy.

I didn't notice the statements that were made by Premier MacDonald in his conference with the American correspondents, so I wouldn't be able to comment on them. I assume they were the usual friendly statements that the officer of one government would naturally make in relation to another friendly government.

An inquiry about the Wash Resolution. I have signed that with the following statement:

I have approved Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 54, in order that a prompt and thorough investigation may be made and appropriate action taken. I express no opinion

with reference to the facts which purport to be found in the preambles to the resolution and with reference to those parts of the resolution which, under the Constitution, do not require concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives and which are unnecessary to be presented to the President of the United States to make them effective. As I said in my public statement issued under date of January 26th, it is for the courts to determine the legal effect of the circumstances incident to the execution of the leases and contracts mentioned, and whether they were executed with or without authority on the part of the officers purporting to act for the United States and in good faith. I reiterate that it is the function of the Courts to determine criminal guilt and to render judgment in civil cases and that I propose to have done.

In view of the importance of the subject matter, and of the limited legal force now available to care for the vast amount of litigation in which the Government is continuously engaged, I regard the authority to appoint special counsel as appropriate legislation." You will get copies of that as you go out.

I haven't received any report relative to the United States District Attorney at Denver. That would go first to the Department of Justice. It would be investigated there, and if it were found that he had been engaged in any improper conduct, he would be removed. I don't wish to say that as prejudging in any way. No report has come to me, but that will be the method of procedure.

There isn't anything further that I can say now about the Russian regime, other than what was contained in my message to the Congress. I don't know as I can give in detail any attitude toward the provisions of the shipping act permitting the imposition of discriminatory charges on foreign shipping as a means of aiding in the rebuilding of the American Merchant Marine. Discriminatory charges are rather of a doubtful expedient, and sometimes they might result in retaliatory measures that would be more harmful to us than any benefit we might secure. So that I should be very cautious about applying them, and only in case of absolute need and necessity.

I don't know anything new in the Mexican situation, other than what has already been reported. I don't know of any reports that have been received, which indicate that American lives or property are in any more danger than the general danger that arises from a disordered condition.

I haven't received and don't know of any impending resignations from the Cabinet.

I haven't heard of the report that General Dawes has resigned, or will resign from the special committee of the Reparations Commission. I have one or two questions about that. Those are the source of my first information.

The Attorney General is returning from Florida in accordance with his own plan. He has constantly sent word that he will return at any time. He went down to take Mrs. Daugherty down, and because he himself was very much tired out. He took a good deal of work with him, which I understand he is finishing up down there, and for that reason is returning.

No official representations have been made to this country that I know of from Japan in relation to discussions looking towards a new "gentleman's agreement".

I have never taken any action relative to the proposal of the members of the House, Ways and Means Committee to present in the tax bill a provision for ~~the~~ a reduction of 25% in the 1923 income taxes. Before I should know what position I ought to take on that, I should want to consult with the Treasury to find out what the effect would be on the finances of the United States.

I shall not be able to attend the banquet of the Republican State Voters League for the District of Columbia. I regret very much that I am not able to go.

Mr. President, is it your plan to attend the gathering on Lincoln's Birthday in New York?

Yes, I expect to go there in the afternoon and speak there in the evening.

I have a great many questions today, but a great many I find are duplicates, triplicates, and other "cates".

I have already indicated that I didn't know of any representations that have been made by Japan regarding the laws in California; nor any information about General Dawes. I have no official information about the suggestion of Premier MacDonald relative to another disarmament conference. What reply would be made by this Government would depend entirely on circumstances. We would have to examine first the proposal and see whether it, in our opinion, would lead to anything practical.

Anything in the Cabinet, Mr. President?

We were talking about the Government housing condition in the City of New York - the different departments up there, the Post Office, Labor, Agriculture, etc. We talked over the proposal of trying to assemble them all under one roof. That is a proposal that has been pending some time. It involves the exchange of the present Post Office site for some other site by the City of New York.

Has any decision been reached, Mr. President.

No, other than to have the needs of the Government in the city surveyed by somebody from the Supervising Architects office to see what it would be necessary to propose to the City of New York in the way of land to cover those needs.

Will this be a monumental building, or a real office building?

There wasn't anything said about that. The discussions heretofore, and they have been going on for some years or more, have been along the line that it might contribute to a civic center in the City of New York.

I believe the old Court House site has been definitely decided upon, or turned down?

I don't know just what has been done.

Did you have any figures before you about it, Mr. President,

No, it came up incidentally and we talked it over; it consumed quite a lot of time.

February 15, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

X Here is an inquiry about the Russian situation - whether the American attitude has produced, or shall begin to produce, results such as the stoppage of propaganda and the recognition of private American claims, etc. I haven't any information that would enable me to answer that either one way or the other. I don't know of any effect, either favorable or adverse. The situation, as I understand it, is exactly as it has been for some time, barring certain changes in personnel, etc. in Russia. Whether the action of some of the European Governments which are reported to be about to recognize, or have recognized the Russian regime, will materially affect our attitude or not, I don't know. I don't see now that it will, unless they bring about a change in the attitude of the present Russian regime. It is possible there may be some effect in that direction. Should that be so, we would govern ourselves accordingly. I don't know of any change in the situation over there. I don't know of any present activity in the way of propaganda, nor do I know that propaganda has ceased. I haven't any information on one side or the other.

Here is a local inquiry about the visit of Mayor Kendrick of Philadelphia, who was in town the other day, and I invited him to come in and have lunch with me. Quite naturally he and I compared our experience in the office of Mayor, I having been Mayor in the City of Northampton, where I believe we expended about \$130,000 a year; and he Mayor of Philadelphia, where a total of about \$75,000,000 a year is collected in taxes, he told me. That came about through my inquiry about the financial condition of the City, which he said was good. He was especially informed about the tax collections, because that is the department that he formerly was the chief of.

Mr. President, did he tell you anything about General Butler?

Not anything in detail. He made a report that he was getting on very well, he thought, and expressed his appreciation and thanks that the United States Government had been able to give him a release of time so that he might serve the City of Philadelphia. He mentioned the fact that the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was approaching. I inquired of him what they were doing in Philadelphia about that, and he said they hadn't yet adopted any specific

plan. It will be some time before the celebration. He spoke about the proposal pending for a very large celebration in the way of a World's Fair, but hadn't made up his mind yet and it hadn't been determined yet up there whether that project would be carried out. I told him that the national government would be glad to assist him in any way they could. He didn't know whether the project of the World's Fair would meet at this time with much enthusiasm on the part of the Congress. So we talked of many things that really didn't mean much.

I have heard reports about the investigation of the Tariff Commission as to the cost of producing wheat in this country and abroad, and while I haven't any of the details of it, I knew in a general way that their investigation has seemed to be showing, so far as it has proceeded, a considerably higher cost of production in America than it is in Canada. Just what the difference will turn out to be, I don't know, but it is quite a material sum, and I think the indications were that it would be above the present tariff price of 30¢ a bushel. That affects I think especially the hard wheat, and a change in that tariff would be beneficial to the hard wheat region, which is the northern region of the United States, the Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota, and indirectly it might have some benefit on the soft region, but it would be especially beneficial in the hard wheat region, and that is the region in the most financial difficulty.

X An inquiry about the suspension of preparations for the Shenandoah's polar flight. In order to carry that out, an appropriation was required of \$400,000. That is in the Navy bill. I learned that there is some objection to that. I thought it would be rather unfortunate if we went ahead and spent more or less money preparing to take the Shenandoah to the polar regions, and then found out that the Congress was unwilling to make the necessary appropriations to carry on the work. So I thought it more prudent to wait and see what might develop.

Another inquiry about a rumor that former Secretary Fall and Secretary Denby started negotiations looking toward leasing coal fields in Alaska on similar lines to those followed in the Teapot Dome lease. I don't recall that any report of that kind ever came to me. I haven't at present any information about it. I know, of course, that there is criticism about the conduct of affairs in Alaska, though I had understood that the visit there last summer of Secretary Wallace of the Department of

Agriculture, Secretary Hoover of the Department of Commerce, and I think Secretary Work of the Department of the Interior, had fairly well cleaned up any questions that were at issue. They had an opportunity to secure first hand information and were working along the proposal for the development of Alaska to the best possible advantage.

Here is an inquiry about the lines along which Government counsel may proceed in the oil lease investigation. I can't give any information about that. I haven't any, and if I did, I presume it wouldn't be appropriate to give it out, other than the general suggestion that I expect them to proceed with every appropriate remedy. Whether that would be in the way of an injunction, or some other proceeding, I don't know at this time.

Here is an inquiry about the nomination of Senator Pomerene. I have sent in the nomination of Senator Pomerene. So far as I know he has no disability of any kind. My impression is that the new nomination that I have sent in and that of Senator Pomerene (the new nomination is Mr. Roberts) will be confirmed. They seem to match each other in their ability and capacity for carrying on an investigation, and I judge they will both be confirmed. I haven't any expectation of withdrawing Senator Pomerene. Of course if it should develop, as it did with Mr. Strawn, that Mr. Pomerene had some connection that was adverse, why then I would change my attitude. But I don't think anything of that kind is likely to develop. Mr. ~~Star~~ Strawn found that the bank of which he is a director holds a mortgage which he had no knowledge of when he came down here. It is ^avery obscure and indirect connection anyway. But he thought perhaps under the circumstances he ought to ask to be relieved, so I sent word to the Committee that I would like to take their judgment on it. They were of the opinion under the circumstances that perhaps it would be better to get someone else, so I have secured Mr. Roberts. I think he is satisfactory.

February 19, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

I doubt if I can give you much of any information about the statement made by the Alien Property Custodian, Colonel Miller. His statements have all been in the press and he seems to have been misquoted. He reports that he was misquoted, so that the suggestion that it is stated that figures have been changed, or something of that kind in the Treasury Department, of course fails. He says he was misquoted in the report that indicated he had made statements of that kind.

Mr. President, did he report to you?

He sent me a copy of the letter that he sent to Mr. Mellon. I think that letter was published, was it not? Yes. So I judge that was cleared up. I don't know whether he was speaking from a manuscript at the time when his remarks were quoted, or that it was an unprepared address. X I have a great deal of sympathy for people who have to make speeches, even if they have to make them before the Gridiron Club. X Perhaps Mr. Miller is entitled to sympathy in that direction. My general observation about these figures in relation to the bonus has been that they are a dispute over terms, rather than over facts. I made a statement the other night in an address I made in New York, which was to the effect that if all of those who were entitled to take money or take certificates did so, the cost would be so and so, and the entire cost would be so much. Nobody knows what part of them would take the money, or what part would desire the other beneficial privileges. So I think that careful analysis would show that these apparent discrepancies in figures are not really discrepancies, but as I said, simply a dispute over terms. One person estimates that half the ex-service men would do one thing, somebody else one-third, and somebody else five-eighths. In that way they get a conflict in what they guess, and not a conflict in the arithmetic of it.

X I am having some inquiries made of the Commissioners of the District and also of the Prohibition authorities relative to that very lamentable accident that occurred the other night when Senator Greene was injured, in order to see whether any one was to blame and if so, to have appropriate action taken, and further to see if there are any necessary steps to be taken to prevent the recurrence of a tragedy of that kind. I haven't had a report yet, but I am expecting one from the Commissioners and from the Prohibition Department. Very likely the present rules and

regulations about the use of firearms are not at fault. Perhaps the fault came in not observing those rules. But that is a mere supposition on my part, although I should rather presume that was the case. It is dangerous of course to have any one go out armed that is not trained in the use of fire arms. It is dangerous anyway.

Here is an inquiry about the thirteen Pan-American conferences that are scheduled for the coming year and in the early part of 1925, on science, education, child welfare, and other matters that cover a wide variety of subjects. It is the policy of the Government to encourage this tendency towards cooperation between North and South America. That has been a well-known policy of our country for many years, a notable expression of which was the Pan American Union which we maintain here under the direction of Doctor Rowe, who I think is doing very splendid work in that direction. It is especially desirable from every point of view of which I can think. X It is desirable in the first place to maintain the most friendly relations between North and South America. We are contiguous countries and our interests are substantially the same, being in the western hemisphere. And I go from that on to the commercial possibilities which at the present time appear to be greatest for our country in that direction. The European field is fairly well taken up. It is an old country. It isn't a developing country in the way that new lands are. Those of South America are new and open to development. The natural resources of South America have yet to be developed. There are opportunities there for all kinds of production from agriculture to manufacture, so that the opportunity for production there being great, the opportunity for exchange is great. It isn't one Government usually that trades with another, but it is the people of one country that trade with another. The governments can help in that direction by the diffusion of proper information, and by rendering every possible encouragement to the ^{one} people of ~~that~~ country to trade with the people of another country. In that direction I think our commercial welfare lies to a good deal of an extent.

The Attorney General has not resigned and there was no discussion of him or his office in the Cabinet either before or after the meeting.

I haven't given any special consideration to the selection of a successor to Mr. Denby.

X I don't know just how far I can go hereafter in giving out any information about the oil lease cases. I am willing at all times to give the press anything I can give without embarrassing the cause of the public service. Now it is very seldom that that would be the case, but it is especially the case in the prosecution of cases in court. I don't imagine that those who may be defendants in these cases feel that their case was helped by supplying the details of their defence to the press, nor would the case for the Government be helped by supplying to the press the details of the Government's case, what it might think about the law, or what facts it had to present. X I imagine though, that the press will be and is in possession of all the facts, and can advise itself about the law. But I think it would be better for the men who have charge of that, I mean Senator Pomerene and Mr. Roberts, to assume responsibility for giving out information. That doesn't mean that you won't get what you can from any other source. It is perfectly proper to do that. I prefer, though, that they should take the responsibility of giving what they can to the press other than doing it myself. They will stand in the same relation to these cases that the Attorney General stands to the other legal requirements of the Government. X They are public officers, appointed under statutory provision and confirmed by the Senate, and that resolution or statute gives them full authority to prosecute these cases. I give you that as a preliminary, in order that you may understand hereafter if I don't have an opportunity to say much about the cases.

X I think I have already covered this matter of the regulations of the use of firearms, and I don't know what the regulations are, but as I say it will probably be found that they are sufficient and the trouble has come from their violation. X

I haven't heard anything of the suggestion that Secretary Roosevelt was to retire. So far as I know I expect him to remain.

There was no discussion in the Cabinet this morning of the oil lease matters. The general discussion in the Cabinet was in relation to the prevailing business conditions over the country, which were reported to be fairly good. Of course I am making a moderate statement about that. There doesn't seem to be any unemployment anywhere, and while the orders that are on hand in manufacturing establishments are not large, that seems to be the result of a policy not to put in large orders for

deliveries way ahead into the future, but that everything that can be manufactured in the country seems to be finding a ready market. There are evidences that the building trades are going to be active the coming season. The boot and shoe industry is active and able to dispose of ^{its} ~~their~~ products as fast as they can make them; and the textile industry in the same way is able to dispose of its products. Also iron and steel. But in these larger things there are not a great amount of orders on hand, but a very ready market. Now, that indicates a very healthy condition. If there are ^{great} no stocks of merchandise it means that no one is speculating in merchandise, (undertaking to buy it at a great increase in price and holding it up, and coming to a point where they will have to sacrifice it.) But it does indicate a very healthy condition over the country at the present time. I don't know whether you can get a sympathetic ear for a report of that kind. But I think it is very significant, and perhaps people very generally now are going to remember that we ^{have} are our ordinary vocations to look after and that the U. S. Government will go on functioning as it always has, meeting such requirements as may be necessary to take care of itself, and that the great bulk of its business is carried on without any suggestion from any source of any wrong doing, and that we ought to be especially careful in giving credence to the many rumors that arise. X It is a serious thing for a man to have an implication made against him in times like these, to which at other times nobody would pay the slightest attention, but which now with a general suspicion in the air, passes for a good deal. Such information as comes to me, I shall lay before the Government's special counsel for their action, without undertaking to run it down myself or determine what action ought to be taken. They are ~~sp~~ responsible for that. I expect to find that a great deal of it has no foundation and that people are going to go on with their usual affairs, and the country is going to prosper, and the Government is going to be able to take care of itself. X

Did the Secretary of Labor report anything about the coal settlement at Jacksonville, Mr. President?

That came to me last night in the form of a communication from him saying that the sub-committee in effect, I don't know just what it is called, had made an agreement which would be reported back to the larger committee for confirmation,

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and that undoubtedly it would be confirmed this afternoon or this evening. So that there will be an agreement, I think, running for a space of three years. That is another confirmation of what I was speaking of in relation to business conditions of the country.

February 26, 1924.

Remarks made by the President to Newspaper Correspondents.

There wasn't any discussion of the Attorney General in the Cabinet this morning, and I haven't any statement to make about it.

I am expecting to call a meeting of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission some time in the near future, though no time has been set for it. I have been so diverted with other things, that I haven't had an opportunity to take it up. I wanted to wait and see what the cost was going to be. My personal information was that it was likely to be about \$5,000,000, but with all the plans that are now contemplated in relation to carrying it out, the estimated costs run as high as \$22,000,000, which is quite a different proposal, and naturally makes me hesitate somewhat in making a decision about it.

Representative Langley has been in several times, and we have had some discussion about the new Government buildings for Washington. I understand that the situation is hopeful. Everyone recognizes the necessity for the buildings purely as a matter of the transaction of the public business, but more than that we could build these buildings and more than pay the interest on the money invested with the present rents that have to be paid to house the various Departments in different localities within the City.

I have discussed with several people the matter of the appointment of the District of Columbia Commissioners with different persons who have been in with suggestions, but I have never been able to take it up and make any decision on it. That is about all the information I can give you. I think quite a list of names have been presented, very good men. The present Commission is a good one. I don't know yet whether any change ought to be made in the personnel or not.

Mr. President, do you mind telling us how many candidates there are?

I can't give you the exact number off hand. I should think about six or eight.

X Here is an inquiry about the conference that was held yesterday with several Senators, some of the representatives of the northwest intermediate credit banks and the War Finance Corporation, in which I told the Senators that any bank that they know of that is in distress, and Mr. Meyer or the intermediate credit banks

2.

have information about, relief would be given wherever it could be given. That isn't a very definite statement is it? I think I ought to amplify that a little. What I mean by that is that relief will be given wherever the situation and condition of the bank is such that it is warranted. Of course if a bank is badly insolvent, and has no hopes of being revived and no hope of getting new money to revive it, there is nothing that can be done in the way of lending money to it, but on the other hand, if the people in the locality will take hold and give such assistance as they can, undertaking to help all they can, why new capital can be furnished, oftentimes through the War Finance Corporation or through this new \$10,000,000 association. I don't know whether they are to be incorporated, and that \$10,000,000 can be reinforced by the War Finance Corporation to two or three times the amount of their capital stock. That is the plan for relief, and the War Finance Corporation within the last three or four weeks has made loans to more than forty banks in South Dakota, and is lending money wherever it can lend it with the hope of saving the situation, and will continue to do so.

Can you tell us how much approximately the War Finance Corporation has loaned?

I can't give that to you now. I don't know the figures.

X Most of the Cabinet meeting was taken up by a report from the Secretary of Agriculture that there is a disease among the cattle in California, very contagious, somewhat like the foot and mouth disease. It is not yet spreading, but it requires the immediate attention of the national government. The authorities in California are cooperating to the best of their ability, but they haven't any specific law that enables them to be very helpful, so that pretty much everything that is done will have to be done by the Department of Agriculture. It is a matter of interest that there was prepared in advance for anything of this kind certain material, so that within an hour after the Department receives notice of it, messages and statements and directions are in the mail and on the wires. Proper pamphlets, notices and so on were already prepared in the Department and done up in bundles already to be addressed. This is the first time we have had that disease in this country since 1914, when it cost about \$4,500,000 to the national government, and about as much more to several states. It is prevalent in some of

the European countries, where they are not able to stamp it out. It is very important to stamp it out, because if it once gets going, perhaps we can never stamp it out.

Any possibility of an embargo on shipments of cattle, Mr. President?

That is what they have to do in the affected areas. That has been done before. It is one of the things that is in a way disturbing.

Mr. President, can the Federal Government issue a local embargo there in the absence of a state law?

Yes, one which is local in effect, but indicating that it would be an embargo on interstate commerce. But the local authorities are cooperating and giving every possible assistance.

X One of the troubles that is likely to occur is that it gets into the wild animals, deer and other hoof animals. It affects cattle and hogs. When it gets among them it is difficult to stamp out. That was one of the difficulties in 1914, the Secretary says.

X One of the disturbing factors at the present time to me is the large number of bills pending in Congress calling for tremendous appropriations. I think I am very well within the limit when I say that the bills up there that are seriously considered would call for an addition to the annual appropriations of the United States larger than the entire expenditures of the United States outside of the Post Office Department before the War. That means that there has to be a very determined resistance to a good many expenditures, or else our country will be entirely swamped, not only not having any reduction in taxes, but actually facing an increase in taxes. There are plenty of resources in our country to support all of us in comfort, if we are willing to go on on the present level, the present basis, and the present standards until we have produced enough to warrant an increase; but through Congressional action, the pressure of different organizations, if it happens that our taxes are greatly increased, we are going to destroy our present state of prosperity and have to face a decline until we ~~can~~ get a liquidation and can start again. I think it is exceedingly important wherever you can to sound a word of warning in that direction. The country is on the whole prosperous at the present time. There is a substantial agreement that it can go on in that condition if we will be con-

tent and not overrule ourselves and try each one of us to get more than the other. If we will just refrain from being too selfish and go on increasing our production, I think we can keep on in an era of prosperity.

Can you give us some idea, Mr. President, of what these appropriations are? There are a great many bills for increasing compensation and for pensions. Of course there is the bonus bill and a general increase of government expenditures in almost every direction.

Would the enactment of these bills practically nullify the budget?

X Well, of course, that is correct. If the executive is to have the responsibility of undertaking to lay out a financial program, that would be useless if in addition to that the Congress goes ahead and appropriates a large amount of money besides what has been recommended in the Budget. It would be a breaking down of the Budget system. I am not one of those that feels because a bill is introduced into a legislature it is therefore law. The legislature will take care of most of that. But they need the active support of public opinion in that direction, and as I said a moment ago, I don't know of any better service you can perform than to sound a word of public warning. Action of that kind is not well for the public welfare. It isn't to the benefit of ^{the} people, and the result is disastrous. That is the reason why there should be opposition to it.

February 29, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

Here is a local inquiry as to whether I will take part in dedicating a soldiers' memorial at Lackawana, N. Y. by broadcasting an address at that time. I think there is an invitation of that kind in the office, but it is very doubtful if I can respond to it favorably, though it's under consideration.

Here is another inquiry about a telegram from John Major to E. B. McLean relative to the installation of a private wire between the Washington Post and Cincinnati Inquirer at Palm Beach that would give easy and quick access to the White House. I don't know anything about that other than this inquiry, so that I don't think I can give you any information about it. I imagine that it was the usual newspaper phrase for quick action or easy access to the sources of information in Washington. Sometimes they call it the White House and sometimes they call it the Capital. I judge it meant an institution rather than a personality, though anybody has easy and quick access to me, as my Secretaries can testify, from the large number of people that I see every day.

Here is an inquiry too about the appropriations pending in Congress for increases in postal pay. Those I think would come under the requests for appropriations that I was discussing in the last White House conference. Now, substantially all of these requests for appropriations have a basis of justice in them. X Many of them I would rejoice to be able to support and approve, as I would rejoice to increase the resources of any class of our citizens, but it is a question of what we did appropriate and how much money we have, and how best to distribute it to carry on the public service, and what economy requires. X This I know is going to be carefully investigated in order to see if there are any inequalities in the postal pay which, after careful study, may be adjusted. But this is a sample of one of the large demands. I think I am well within the figures when I say that this is estimated - all of these bills - to cost from \$125,000,000 to \$150,000,000 a year. It would add very materially, you see, to the present cost of the administration of the Post Office, which I believe is now about \$600,000,000. This would be an addition of about 25%, if all of those bills should be enacted. It is a question of what the country can afford, in many of those things.

I understand that the Tariff Commission is going to report very shortly their examination and investigation into the cost of the production of wheat in the United States and abroad, and it is my understanding that it will show that there appears warrant for increasing the tariff on wheat and wheat products. If such is the case, I should expect to take prompt action.

X Here is an interesting suggestion. A news story in the Washington Star this afternoon hints at some drastic and mysterious action which the President proposes to take within the next few months. Would it be consistent to ask if the Chief Executive has in contemplation any radical departure from his present policies? I don't think any radical departures now occur to me. While I don't want to disagree with so good an authority as the Washington Star- I haven't the report before me, it is a report of a report and sometimes there is a variance in those things - I think you would be warranted in prophesying, if any of you want to prophesy, that I have at present no expectation of any drastic and mysterious action. I think it is rather foreign to me to have drastic and mysterious action. I suppose that is why this is news. It is somewhat different from what I have been doing and perhaps ~~w~~ from what you gentlemen have led the public to expect of me.

Here is another inquiry about the addition of special counsel in certain phases of the oil lease investigation. A very short bill came down two or three days ago that authorized me to appoint special counsel to investigate a lease that has been made, I think by the State of California, of school lands. I understand that these lands were set off by the United States Government to California as school lands and were then leased by the State to some of the oil producers. Such information as I have from the Department of Interior indicates that that subject has been considered by the Department after arguments by counsel in the past, and decided. But I do not understand that that would prevent another investigation and another decision, and for that purpose I am proposing to find someone who has special training and experience in land titles of this nature, in order that the case may be carefully investigated and appropriate action taken.

Can you identify that as Section 36?

36 I think, as I recall it.

Mr. President, there are two 36's; No. 1 and 2.

I can't tell about that. It is the one referred to in the resolution that

was passed and sent down to me. This is a different case than the other two cases. It is a question, as I understand it, purely of a land title. I assume by that it is very largely a question of law. I imagine there is very little disagreement about the facts, though it might be that the decision would turn on the fact of whether at the time these conveyances were made ~~that~~ it was known, or there was reasonable cause to suppose, that these were mineral lands. I don't know just when the other procedure by the special counsel will be begun. It is of more importance that it should be begun right than that it should be begun in haste. Mr. Roberts is a man especially experienced in court procedure, and Mr. Pomerene is a man of training and experience, a sound lawyer, and I am sure that they are moving as expeditiously as possible. There is a large amount of testimony that undoubtedly has to be gone over by them, and there is the question of setting up their case on paper, so that they can't exactly be hurried. But action will be immediate.

I haven't any official information about the Mexican situation that amounts to anything. So far as I have any information, it indicates that President Obregon is at present successful. I don't know whether the revolt is entirely stamped out. I do not suppose it is. We don't have sources of information that would give either the Department of State or the public an exact picture of what is going on all over the Republic of Mexico, but it may be significant that we are not at present receiving any official complaints of disorders wherever any of our American citizens seem to be interested.

I understand that the ratification of the special Claims Commission, or the agreement for the selection of special Claims Commissioners is on the way here. I think it has not yet been received. I don't know just what action has to be taken. It may be require a matter of declaration, or publication, or something of that kind in order that it may be finally completed, but nothing can be done about the appointment of Claims Commissioners until that is received. As soon as that is done we shall undertake to appoint Commissioners.

Here is an inquiry that is the first information that comes to me about a resolution adopted by the Senate asking for income tax returns of Doheny, Sinclair and Fall, and the Sinclair and Doheny Companies. I don't know anything about that, nor whether the law gives me any authority to take any action in relation to it.

I have spoken about the Tariff Commission report.

Mr. L. W. Baldwin the President of the Missouri Pacific Railroad came in to call on me this morning, as I understood, to pay his respects to the office. My conversation with him consisted of inquiring about the business situation along the territory through which the lines of his railroad pass. He told me it appeared to be good and gave promise of being good for some time to come.

I have caused inquiry to be made of the Shipping Board about the recent increase by the North Atlantic Shipping Conference in ocean rates on provisions. Those increases are small, I think 10¢ a hundred or something of that kind. The only information I have about it is that the shipping companies thought they were losing money on that kind of freight and are seeking by these slight increases to make the carrying of freight pay for itself. If anything can be done to assist the exportation of food products, agricultural products, of course I shall be only too anxious to see that it is done. Nothing has been done yet about an Undersecretary of State. Nothing would be done until my appointment of the present Undersecretary as Ambassador is ratified by the Senate. I have been making some inquiries to get a member for the Federal Trade Commission, and some inquiries about a new Secretary of the Navy, but no decision has yet been reached.

That seems to cover the inquiries for the day.

March 4, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a somewhat standard inquiry about the Mexican Mixed Claims Commission. So far as I know the treaty has not come through, though it may have reached the State Department. I haven't any information about it, and if it has reached there it hasn't been published or promulgated, or whatever may be necessary. So that I haven't done anything further about the matter of the appointment of the members of the Commission.

I have three or four inquiries about the tax bill. My position in relation to the tax bill is the same as it was when I gave my message to the Congress and the same as it has been in the several public statements that I have made since that time. I want a reduction in taxation and a scientifically drawn plan of taxation. I think the administration bill meets those requirements. Now the House has passed a bill and the bill, of course, goes to the Senate. There will be hearings there before the Committee, and I am in hopes that the Committee will be able to report out for the favorable consideration of the Senate the original administration bill. Now I don't know that there may be some things in it that ought to be changed. It would be very unlikely that such would not be the case, or to put it into the affirmative instead of twice in the negative, it would be very probable that such would be the case. A discussion of a measure of that kind always brings out points that it would appear ought to be strengthened in order to make the bill more acceptable. But I am for the bill so far as I know as it was originally drafted, with those possible slight changes, and I am very much in hopes that the Senate can produce something of that kind which it will pass, and which the House will ultimately agree to. Now there isn't any use of my undertaking to speculate about what I might do with some hypothetical bill that might reach me. You know and I know, and everybody knows, that I don't know what I will do with it. I shall have to take that matter up when it reaches me. To be specific, you want to know whether I would veto it. I don't know. You want to know whether I would sign it. I don't know about that. I shall work for the administration bill, and when the tax bill finally reaches me, I want to dispose of it in accordance with what I think is for the benefit of the country. My great desire is to secure taxation that will be for the benefit of our country. That doesn't mean to tax any particular

class, this class or that class, but to raise sufficient revenue with which to meet our public expenditures in accordance with the best economic plan that the experiences of the country can devise. I think I have made that as plain as I know how. I am in favor of the original bill, and when that bill comes here I shall still expect to be in favor of it. I don't know what I might do with some hypothetical measure that may come to me. Nobody can tell now what kind of a bill will come to the President. I think it is always inappropriate for the President to run out and publish that he will veto this measure, or that measure, or the other measure, and that it is better to wait until the measure comes and take appropriate action at that time, approving it if it will be to the benefit of the country, and disapproving it if it isn't to the benefit of the country. X I am speaking now generally, and not of the tax bill.

I haven't yet been able to make up my mind about a successor to Mr. Denby. I sometimes sit here at my desk and wish that I had the information at my command that is represented by you men. If I had all that information of the country and the men in it, as you do in your combined experiences, I could reach out and pick out a man for any place that the Government might need one to serve in, and that brings me to the suggestion that if any of you think of the right kind of a man for the Secretaryship of the Navy, and I am perfectly serious about this, though it might seem offhand as a little unusual, I should be very grateful to you if you will drop me a line or give the name to Mr. Slomp. I am searching the industrial world and the commercial world to see if I can find a seasoned executive that can take up the work of the administration of the Navy Department. It is difficult to find a man who meets all the requirements, and I don't expect to find such a man, but I do think I can find one that meets the majority of the requirements, and that is about all we can hope for. As soon as I find a man of that kind, I shall, after appropriate inquiries, submit his name to the Senate. We want a man of course of ability and character, and if I can find a great merchant, or if I can find ^{the} a head of a great industrial or manufacturing establishment that would meet the requirements that I have in mind, I shall submit his name. There are some engineering problems involved now on account of the oil leases, but they are not predominant; they are somewhat accidental and other talent could be called in to give advice on those. However, it may be that if I could get hold of the right kind of an engineer that it would be helpful under these circumstances.

I have an inquiry here about the McNary-Haugen bill. I am in entire sympathy with the objects of this bill, which is to benefit the wheat raisers. That is a problem on which I have been constantly engaged ever since I landed in Washington last August. It is very pressing, and an important problem. I referred to it in my message to the Congress, and I referred to that problem in my address in New York. I don't know that I can say anything further than what was presented in those two addresses. I have never been able to make up my mind entirely about the benefits that this bill would secure to the farmers, and for that reason I have had it under investigation by experts. If it will be beneficial to the farmers, I think the country ought to adopt it, even though it might cost something out of the public treasury, though it is claimed that that would not be the case under the provisions of the bill. On the other hand, it is claimed it would simply be a delusion and not of any real benefit. But we have to know that before we undertake to put it into operation. It is a very intricate measure in its provisions. About all I can say about it is that my mind is open about it, as I have told people constantly. I understand that is exactly the position of the Secretary of Agriculture. He and I have discussed the measure and have never been quite certain about it. There are men in his Department that are very certain that this would be a very beneficial bill. If my investigation leads me to that conclusion, I shall favor it. If on the other hand ~~xxxxxx~~ my advices should lead to a different conclusion, and they seem to be conflicting at present, I should ^{not} want to favor it. That is the present state of my mind in relation to it.

I have only had a telegram and a short note from the Attorney General since he left Washington. He sent me a telegram on his arrival in Chicago, saying that he was writing to me and sent me a note telling of his work up there and his expectation that the grand jury would report an indictment, which the grand jury did, and that he was on his way from there to his wife, who is ill in Miami. Those are the only communications I have had from him. I think that covers the situation this morning.

March 7, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about the appointment of Commissioners for the District of Columbia, and wanting to know whether I propose to wait for information from various citizen organizations in the District. I think I am already pretty well advised by their opinions. I have here endorsements of Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Oyster by the Dairy Farm Citizens Association, Congress Heights Citizens Association, the Southwest Civic Association, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, West End Citizens Association, Garfield Citizens Association, South Washington Citizens Association, and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, the Washington Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, Federated Citizens Association, and the Thomas Circle Citizens Association. I think there is also an endorsement by the Republican Organization of the District, and I am not certain about the Democratic organization.

Mr. President, are you approaching a decision on that matter?

I think so, very soon. There are several other names suggested, but these men have practically a unanimous endorsement. The different associations and political organizations, quite naturally I would refer to for an opinion.

Will they probably be reappointed, Mr. President?

X I wouldn't assume too much about appointments until they are made. I got caught once or twice by thinking I had an appointment all settled when I was Mayor or Governor, and announced it, and then found out there were reasons why it couldn't be done. It is embarrassing. X

When do you think you will make them, Mr. President?

I think very soon. I think their term of office runs out sometime next week. I think early in the week I shall submit their names.

Here is an inquiry about the duty on wheat. I don't know just what can be done about that. I have submitted the report to the Treasury Dept. to draw up a proper proclamation, if one is warranted by the report, in order that it may be done by the experts of the Treasury Department under whose jurisdiction, of course, the collection of revenue comes. I don't know just what they will find or just when they will find it. I think though that that ought to be returned to me within two or three days. Here is another inquiry about the Mexican Claims

Commission. I think that the Convention has been ratified and sent up here, but the proclamation so far as I recall has not come to me. That would be the next step necessary; to make the proclamation; and after that is made then I could make the appointments.

Here is an inquiry about a joint resolution for a reduction of 25% in the tax on 1923 incomes as a separate measure. I have seen that referred to in the news dispatches. I don't think I could be said to be advocating it, nor on the other hand am I opposing it. I do feel it would be very desirable if we could get that resolution adopted before the 15th of March, in order that it might apply to the first payment as well as the others. That would be my general reaction about it, but there may be some reasons why that wouldn't make any difference, although that is the particular point about it that occurs to me. I think the first tax payments are due the 15th of March, and if this 25% were to be deducted from them, it would result in an easing up of the necessary amounts of credits that have to be transferred. I haven't decided on a successor to Secretary Denby. I should think that if I should decide I could send the name to the Senate any time before his resignation becomes effective, which is next week sometime.

Did the newspaper men make any suggestions, Mr. President, or give you any aid?

Well, I think some of them have been suggestive. I haven't got quite as many as I expected. Perhaps it isn't so easy as it may have appeared to pick out the right kind of a man.

X Here is a statement about an international conference on Europe's economic situation, and suggesting that it might follow the report of the Dawes' Committee on reparations, and inquiring whether I care to say whether the U. S. would participate in such a conference, should it take place.

X That is a very hypothetical question, and I don't believe I could give a hypothetical answer to it. All I can say is that we have repeatedly refused to participate in a conference of that kind. I don't know of any reason up to the present time for a change in our attitude in that direction.

Here is another inquiry that wants to know when the Dept. of Justice will begin presentation of evidence relating to charges disclosed by the Chicago Grand Jury. Of course I have no information about that, nor have I any information about the nature of the charges, other than what is in the paper. I do not even know

whether the Department of Justice feels that it has sufficient evidence to warrant a presentation of that evidence to the Grand Jury. All I can say is if they have evidence nor, or if their investigation discloses to them evidence, I assume they will make a presentation right away. I have suggested to the Department that they proceed expeditiously for the purpose of securing action. Here is this rumor that some members of Congress were involved, which was very distressing to the House. They are entitled to have the matter cleared up at once. If the Department had evidence that could be presented to the Grand Jury, and if there was sufficient to warrant an indictment, it would be reported and everyone would know who was involved. If it wasn't sufficient to secure an indictment, why that fact should be made known and everybody would be cleared. Whatever evidence they had as a result of the Chicago investigation, I assumed that they would proceed with it at once. What that is, I don't know. My only suggestion was that they be as expeditious/ as possible about it.

Here is an inquiry about the evidence of Ira Bennett. I think I have seen him here once or twice. I can't give any recollection about his conversation with me, or mine with him. It is in my mind that he came in to say how-do-you-do. I don't recall any conference with him since this matter became acute. But it may be that he came in during a conference and stopped after the conference to say how-do-you-do to me. I don't recall very much about it.

Will you say anything about the telegram that you sent with reference to a Mr. Prescott, to Mr. McLean? I noticed the statement given out yesterday, but it isn't quite clear.

No, that was an inquiry that I made. I sent it to Mr. McLean because it was sent, as you perhaps notice from the date of it, at 9.30 or so in the evening. If I had been over here and my office force were here, I could have found out ~~before~~ before Mr. Slomp left. But I didn't know just what time Mr. Slomp was going and I didn't have his address. I knew that Mr. McLean was a resident there each winter and well known, and so I made the inquiry of him, and also for the purpose of shortening up the telegram. I remembered that Mr. McLean had said to me one time that if you ever want to know anything about District matters, Mr. Prescott would be a good man to talk with. That was the occasion of that telegram.

That had reference to the expiration of the terms of the two District Commissioners, didn't it?

No, not that especially. Just district matters. I wasn't very much

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acquainted with the men in the District who knew of District matters, and as he was I inquired who I could ask about District matters. I recollected that he said Mr. prescott was Republican City Chairman here. I tried to get Mr. Presocott one time, but he was out of town. So I made that inquiry of Mr. McLean. Does that make ~~it~~ the matter plain?

March 11, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

X Here is our old friend the report which is to the effect that I will make an important speech shortly. I haven't in mind making any speech in the immediate future. X I think I have an invitation to speak to the Associated Press at New York. My recollection is that it comes about the middle of April. There is the usual Decoration Day speech that is made at Arlington, and I think I am invited to and probably shall be present (I expect to be present) at the opening of the D.A.R. Annual Convention. I think that is about the middle of April.

Have you accepted the Associated Press invitation, Mr. President?

Only tentatively. I told them I would do what I could about it. Those are the only engagements that I think of at the present time, though there might be something incidental around town like the dedication of the National Arts Building, or I think it is called the National Academy of Sciences. They have wanted me to come there.

What about the Monument, Mr. President?

Yes, when the stone is placed in the Monument representing the State of Arizona.

Anything definite on speeches in Indiana?

I haven't any invitation to go there.

Do you know the date of the Arizona stone laying?

It seems to me to be about the 15th of April. I am not sure.

I am not certain when Mr. Warren is going to Mexico, though he reported to me through Secretary Hughes that he would be ready to go in a few days, and that was some days ago. Perhaps that would indicate that he would go the latter part of this week. He has been confirmed by the Senate and is all ready to take up his duties. I don't know of any more developments in the Mexican situation. I know of no complaints that have come here. It isn't always easy to get reliable reports of just what may be going on in the country there. We get reports from Mexico City that present the view of the Mexican Government, and we get reports from around the border that represent the view of other people, I mean public newspaper reports. But so far as I know the situation down there is quiet and apparently hopeful.

Mr. Van Fleet came in this morning. I wanted to talk with him about the type of man to put on the Federal Trade Commission, whether he ought to be a business man or a farmer. He thought either one might be helpful, and that there might be some ways in which a farmer could be quite helpful in some of the questions that come up before the Commission, not only in solving the problems that the Commission has, but as a general assurance to those in agriculture that they are represented on the Board in their viewpoint, and that there is somebody there especially dilligent seeking to protect their interests.

I have acted on a proposed pardon, I think, for the man named Rumely of New York. It is my recollection that I refused to grant it. It didn't seem to be a case for a pardon, though it is a very pitiable one. The serving of the sentence has not yet begun. There is a suggestion that there might be some executive clemency extended in the way of commutation of the sentence.

Do you understand, Mr. President, that the matter is still up?

It is always up, in the sense that it is possible to make an application for commutation or executive clemency.

I haven't set a meeting for the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, though I expect to call a meeting of that Commission very shortly and Colonel Sherrill has prepared a bill that he thinks will meet the present situation if enacted, and the bill I have referred to General Lord. I expect to get his report on it very shortly. The suggestion has been made that a small appropriation be made for the current year to finish drafting such plans as the Commission may approve, in order that the work of building the bridge proper may be taken up right away. I am rather inclined to favor action in that direction, though I don't speak with any authority from the Committee.

Does this bill provide for the expenditure that you spoke about recently around \$22,000,000?

I tthink this provides just for the building of the bridge and other expenditures for the incidental things, including the widening of B Street or an extension of it.

Mr. President, how much money is contemplated under Colonel Sherrill's bill?

Well, the bridge proper, it was my understanding, was to cost about

\$5,000,000. The most expensive proposal in the plans that were laid before us called for an expenditure of some \$22,000,000. That of course included very much more than the mere building of the bridge. It included all the approaches to the bridge and the proposal to extend B Street through to the Capitol. B Street is cut off in two sections, so in order to come from the Capitol on to B Street you have to come down to Pennsylvania Avenue. Under the plan there would be a parallel street running from the Capitol down to the approach of the bridge without coming into Pennsylvania avenue at all.

It has been suggested in relation to the public buildings that there is already sufficient law (and I am having that investigated) so that all that is required at the present time is an appropriation. There is an appropriation impending, I think, in some of the appropriation bills. I presume it is in the one for the Treasury. I am not quite certain about the details of that.

I have spoken about Judge Van Fleet, have I not?

Yes, sir.

It is too soon to have any particular reaction on the agricultural situation as the result of the increased duty on wheat and wheat products. One of the duties on wheat products was lowered - that is the duty on feed. I think that would be especially for poultry and cattle. But on all other products it was increased. Of course the increase in the tariff doesn't go into effect until thirty days from the proclamation. I may say, however, that I have had many reports from those interested in agriculture approving of the action and saying that it certainly would be beneficial.

There is nothing especially new about the foot and mouth disease. That has been confined to three or four countries, perhaps not more than two or three, in California, where there is a strict quarantine on, and it is apparently under control. It is not spreading any at the present time, so far as reports would indicate that have come to me. I asked the Secretary of Agriculture about that Friday, and that was the report he made then.

I haven't ordered any special investigation relative to the charges made by Rear Admiral Plunkett. I don't know what those were. There were some newspaper reports, but oftentimes it turns out that reports made of statements of men in the Army and Navy do not turn out to be very accurate. I should want to get an accurate statement as to just what Rear Admiral Plunkett said. But I

saw enough of the substance of it so that I am going to call the attention of Major Haynes and ask him to look into it and say if anything ought to be done along the direction as indicated by the statement it was reported Rear Admiral Plunkett made. I don't know whether that brought any real new information, other than reiteration of what we all know, that in order to enforce the prohibitory law it is necessary to have constant vigilance and constant activity. The report that the Attorney General made the other day indicated that there was great vigilance and great activity in the attempt to enforce the prohibitory law. A very large number of cases have been brought to trial, an astonishing amount has been collected in fines, and the tremendous number of convictions indicate an activity on the part of the Federal Government much greater than what I had supposed existed. I hadn't supposed it to be anywhere near so many cases. I knew the Government was acting with vigilance, but I had no idea of the number of convictions.

× I am sending a special message to the Congress asking for a resolution making effective a special reduction of income taxes by March 15th. That has just gone up. Most of the audience I see is going after it. That was the reason for my delay in receiving the press today. I wanted to speak with some one on the 'phone at the Capitol, and there is only one wire. All the rest have been put out of commission by the storm. It took me some time to reach the person I wanted to communicate with. I don't know that it will be possible to secure legislation at this time. It would require unanimous consent, but I thought that such action would be so helpful that we ought to ask to have unanimous consent, and if we can't secure it why we can't, that is all. ×

I haven't selected any Secretary of the Navy yet.

I haven't made any final determination about the appointment of Commissioners in the District. I think at the last conference we had, I ~~did~~ indicated the very unanimous endorsement that had come from the many different organizations in Washington of the two City Commissioners. I inquired of them if they would be willing to serve, if I should make up my mind to appoint them. Since then I have received a number of communications, not exactly in the nature of charges, but in the nature of protests that I thought perhaps I ought to clear up before I send the names up, and for that reason I am obliged to take a little time to investigate the charges. I don't

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think they really amount to anything. X It would be very unusual that Commissioners would be in office for three years without there being two opinions as to whether they functioned properly. I know that, because I was Mayor of Northampton and after I had given a very excellent administration for a year there was a division of opinion as to whether I ought to be reelected. X

I think that covers all the questions.

You may dwell with such emphasis as you want on the necessity of getting the tax reduction. The arguments for that are stated in my message.

March 14, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

Here is a suggestion that I discuss the appeal of the United States Sugar Association from the ruling of the Tariff Commission excluding the Philippine Islands from the pending investigation into the tariff on sugar. That is a matter about which I don't happen to have any information. I knew the Tariff Commission was making an investigation into the cost of the production of sugar. I don't know to whom the appeal would lie, unless possibly it means that the Sugar Association wants to appeal to me. It is my understanding that the Tariff Board would make this investigation on my request and that therefore they would follow whatever request I have made. Whether I have made a request that would warrant this or not is for them to determine. So I am not in a position where I can give much information about that.

The administration hasn't any new attitude about the loans of private American financial interests to foreign governments. Technically, I suppose that in time of peace in a way any American has a right to lend his money wherever he thinks it will secure him the largest return, taking everything into consideration. I think large loans are not usually made to foreign governments by private interests unless it is known that the U. S. Government has no objection. Not that the Government takes any responsibility about it, but simply that it indicates it has no objection to it. This recent loan that was made came to my attention first through press information. Very likely ~~if~~ there was inquiry made at the State Department about it, though about that I have no information.

X As I understand the attitude of the American Government about things of that kind, loans to foreign governments, it goes right along that line. It recognizes the privilege of American financial interests to place their money where they think it will be of the greatest service to those to whom the money belongs. Sometimes it is necessary to take a rather broad view, to consider not merely the immediate financial return, but the general result. That is especially true under present conditions, when large sums of money are owed to us by European countries, so that on that account we have what we might say is a direct financial interest in the economic reconstruction of Europe and in those countries becoming financially able to repay us. We are collecting very large sums from Great Britain and naturally would not want anything to

occur that might jeopardize those payments, and we should be glad to have any reasonable action taken that might put other countries in Europe in a financial condition to consider repayment to us of money due us. That has relation merely to our debt. I don't want to bring that up at this time as indicating a determination to press it or anything of that kind. I simply speak of it as a present condition. Then of course there are always the trade relations. I think it has been for many years the policy of the British financial interests to make investments abroad for the purpose of the commercial advantage of the people of Great Britain. Sometimes that takes one form and sometimes another, but as those investments are made abroad they result in credits there and financial obligations which it is supposed have been a very dominant influence in increasing the trade of Great Britain. So that our country would be glad to have surplus capital of our nation invested in that way. Then of course we always have to look at our domestic conditions. There are times when credit in this country is scarce and money is high and dear, and when there are conditions of that kind our Government would probably not want to encourage the investment of money abroad. They would rather have it retained at home where, in taking a general and broad view, it would be of more advantage to the American people. Now all of this comes down to one thing. It ought to be the attitude of the American Government so to encourage the use of American capital as best to administer to the welfare of the American people. Sometimes that is done by suggesting that we make no investments abroad. At other times it would be done by encouraging investments abroad. X I suppose that the recent loan took all of those conditions into consideration. No doubt they thought it would be best for the welfare of the nation and for the welfare of those who hold the money to make, or to stand ready to make, a large investment abroad for the purpose of protecting American interests. Of course there is a little broader view than that to take - of assistance to those that are in distress. That is a duty that always falls on us, as well as merely taking care of our own material needs. It is a real duty, one that we can't escape, and one that we always have to consider in determining questions of this kind.

X Here is another statement that the Department of Interior has issued instructions forbidding bureau officials from recommending attorneys to handle business before the Department. I don't know that that is the expression of any particular administration policy. It does occur to me that it is a salutary regulation, though there are quite a number of things to consider. Anyone who has been in a Department knows

that a department is constantly the recipient of requests for what amounts to legal advice and our departments are very generous in having printed forms and so on ready to send out answering questions. Of course that is probably as prevalent in the Treasury Department as anywhere when questions of taxation come up, but it is prevalent in all the Departments, and oftentimes it is very difficult for the Department to take the responsibility for giving advice, and the person inquired of, when an inquiry of that kind may come, may know of parties in Washington that are experts in this matter, and I can conceive of times when it is perfectly proper to say that Mr. A. or Squire B, as we say in the country, is an expert about this and would be able to give you advice which I wouldn't want to be responsible for. But on the other hand, you can see that abuses might arise, under which ^{there} ~~it~~ would be a claim that certain attorneys were receiving a recommendation by the Department, and, unless a good deal of care is exercised, that such attorneys get favors from the Department that ~~they~~ are unwarranted. I don't know of any such cases, but that would be a danger, so that I think Departments ought to make recommendations about the employment of particular individuals as little as possible. ~~X~~ I judge that this instruction in the Department of the Interior has been issued with that in view. Almost all instructions and laws, and so on, are the result of some particular abuse brought to the attention of some one. I don't know of any in this case, but very likely some abuse may have been brought to the attention of the Department that caused this action to be taken. Like all rules, it has to be observed with discretion and judgment.

I have appointed the Shipping Committees recommended by Senator Jones after conference with Admiral Palmer. I have sent out to try to get a list of those. I didn't keep the list here. Admiral Palmer and I made up the list and I am not able to give you from memory the names. There are two Committees and the details of the work that these Committees are to do - one of them is to look into the requirements necessary for reconditioning and keeping the ships that we have from deteriorating and the fleet from deteriorating, and the other is the general question of coordination of the different activities of the Government and private enterprise for the purpose of securing cooperation between shipping and railroads, and so on.

I don't know that I can make any specific comment about the defeat of the Norbeck-Burtness bill. I thought that bill had a good deal of merit, and thought that

It would be helpful to the present distressed situation in the agricultural regions. It seemed to be in harmony with some of the recommendations that I made in my message to the Congress. I am not familiar with all the details of it, but the policy of it was assistance by the Government to farmers to diversify, and assistance meant furnishing them with a small amount of capital with which to begin operations in that direction. I became interested in that field through the interest of the President of the Agricultural College of North Dakota, who seemed to have a very clear idea of what the present situation was, and what might be helpful in securing a way out. That bill and the McNary-Haugen bill are entirely different things. They haven't any relation. One was to help diversify, and the other to undertake to increase the price of farm commodities.

X I can't give any statement regarding the selection of Chief Justice Wilbur as Secretary of the Navy, other than what the press already has. The suggestion came that he would make a good Secretary of the Navy from a newspaper source. That is a very good recommendation always, as you would probably be willing to admit, and after careful investigation it seemed that he was qualified by his experience and training, his character and ability, to undertake that work. X

There wasn't much of anything done in the Cabinet today, except to consider a note from the Canadian Government in relation to the St. Lawrence waterways. It is my understanding that that note is to be given out this afternoon, so that it will be in the morning papers.

From what source, Mr. President?

I think from the State Department here and from the Canadian Government.

Can you give us a little more in the way of detail about the selection of the new Secretary of the Navy, Mr. President?

He was here at the time at the law institute and went down to North Carolina to visit some friends. I think it was North Carolina he went to. He stopped when he came back here and I had a conference with him.

I don't know that I can ~~go~~ make any comment about not being able to get a resolution providing for the 25% reduction in the income tax returns for March 15th. I gave the principal objects that I had in mind in relation to that in the message I send to the Congress. I have understood that there was a project on foot to pass a resolution of this kind before the next quarterly tax day. Should that be

included in the tax bill, it would be taken care of in that way.

The matter of the appointment of members of the Mexican Mixed Claims Commission can't be taken up until there is an exchange of ratification of the agreement. The agreement has been made. I think ours has been forwarded to Mexico and there's has been sent up here, but there has not been an exchange of ratification.

I have here the statement of Admiral Plunkett, which I think went to the press, though I am not certain. It is as follows:

1. "The quoted statement 'Washington is the wettest city in the United States and the Federal authorities are not attempting to clean it up' was not stated by me on the witness stand or subsequent thereto."

2. "In answer to the question by the presiding judge as to what was the wettest city in the United States, I stated 'I have been informed that Washington is the wettest city in the United States.'"

3. "I made no comment or criticism whatever upon the manner in which Federal authorities are carrying on their work or duty."

4. "The above statement I confirmed by telephone with the presiding judge this date, as I noticed a Washington paper misquoted practically everything I said. The presiding justice confirms the above statement."

I haven't any plan yet about the appointment of the District Commissioners. I am investigating some reports that were made to me. I have here the information in relation to the Shipping Committees. The Committee on survey of the needs of the merchant marine - that is to keep it intact - The Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the U.S. Shipping Board, and the President of the Fleet Corporation (Mr. O'Connor and Admiral Palmer). The Committee to coordinate activities of the Interstate Commerce and Shipping Board: Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Chairman of the Shipping Board, a practical railroad man, and a practical shipping man. Those are not yet selected, and the President of the Fleet Corporation. Perhaps because they are not selected is the reason it has not been given out.

That seems to cover the questions.

March 18, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't any official information about the European situation which would enable me to draw any conclusions about it, other than that which has been reported in the news of the day. I don't want to raise up any hopes that might hereafter prove unfounded, so that it is necessary to speak of it very guardedly, but from all the information that I have^{of}/the general attitude and the general conditions, I think we are warranted in having a hope that they are going to make some kind of a settlement. Now what that will be I don't know. I can't tell about that until the report comes out. The suggestion here is about the forthcoming report of the Dawes Committee, and on that, as I say, I have no specific information. Of course the Committee does not report in any way to the United States Government, and such information as we get in relation to it comes from Mr. Logan, who is our official observer. . I have no different information than that which is reported in the newspapers.

I haven't given any consideration to the matter of ratification of the name of Samuel Knight as Government counsel in one of the California oil lease cases. I took him because he was especially well recommended to be a judge, very excellent recommendations, which led me to suppose that he was a man of excellent qualifications. I had met him, but don't know him personally - just slightly. Of course you already have the information about the telegrams that were exchanged in which specific inquiry was made as to his connection with any oil companies and whether he was involved with the Standard Oil Company in the State of California. He said he had never represented any oil companies and that he could take the case without any embarrassment. You people that are interested in literary things perhaps recall that story of Rex Beach, "The Spoilers", that Alaska story. I think Mr. Knight is the original District Attorney that figures as one of the heroes of that story, going south by boat to get on board ship and going down to San Francisco, I believe, to get an injunction which he brought back and that ~~per~~served the situation.

I have had several suggestions about the appointment of some retired Major Generals of the Army as one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. This whole thing is under consideration and under investigation. I expect to have

a report on it very shortly which undoubtedly will enable me to take some action. I don't know that there is any necessity for great haste. The Commissioners are functioning as they have for the last two or three years, and I shall depend on the results of the investigation to see what ought to be done.

The Cabinet spent considerable time this morning considering the agricultural situation, with which we are all pretty familiar. There is one phase of it, perhaps, that might be kept in mind, and that is the organization of that \$10,000,000 Agricultural Credit Corporation. Now that there has been a failure to pass the diversification bill known as the Norbeck-Burtness Bill, I am going to ask this Agricultural Credit Corporation to function in the same way that the provisions of that bill would have functioned; that is, to assist farmers in diversification. That organization was created as the result of a conference that I called here on the 4th of February, and the bankers and business men of the northwest, middlewest, and down as far as New York, at once joined and raised a \$10,000,000 fund which of course can be supplemented by a loan from the War Finance Corporation, about \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 more, which ought to enable them to assist very materially in diversification. Dr. Coulter who formulated the plan that was embodied in the Norbeck-Burtness bill is the Vice President of the new Agricultural Credit Corporation, and I am sure that he can be very helpful in transferring some of the activities of this corporation into the field that would have been taken up by the Government, had that other bill passed.

Mr. President, is Agricultural Corporation the exact name?

The Agricultural Credit Corporation is the corporate name.

Does this contemplate an increase in the capital of the organization?

No, the War Finance Corporation has been designated to help out the banks, and when this Agricultural Credit Corporation was formed it was expected that those farmers who needed assistance and advice and counsel would resort to this corporation for aid in that direction.

March 21, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a question that I can't answer. It is relative to the preferential rail rate section of the shipping act. I am not familiar with the details of that act, so that I can't discuss it intelligently or give you any idea about what the national policy ought to be, other than supposing that the national policy is set out in that act of Congress. Sometimes we find that an act of Congress is difficult to put into operation, on account of international relations that perhaps the Congress didn't consider. There is a suggestion here that there is opposition on the part of British and Japanese interests to putting that into operation. That, as I say, I don't know anything about. I haven't heard anything about it, and am not able to give you any information about it that I think would be helpful. I think if you would inquire into it at the Shipping Board or of Admiral Palmer, ^{you}/would probably get some explicit information.

An inquiry about the possibility that additional members will be added to the national committee to consider the St. Lawrence waterways question, due to the fact that some eastern cities believe they are not adequately represented. That is news to me too. I didn't happen to learn of the suggestion that any eastern cities wanted representation. I think the establishment of that committee was not so much in relation to cities or localities, though I think there is a sort of general geographical representation as to different commercial interests and national activities and professional employments. Mr. Hoover gave me the main idea about the appointment of the committee. I think that we worked out the plan along that line, of having men on it that represent different activities - engineers some representatives of labor, some representatives of commerce, and so on, with a view to having different elements of the community and nation represented rather particular cities. I didn't have any idea of the representation of particular cities. New York is represented, not because it is New York, but because we wanted some one that understood about commercial and legal activities. A man named Reed was put on from New York. He has been the head of the Merchants Association. He is quite a lawyer. And someone from Boston was put on that represents commercial interests up there, and so on.

I have here a note of inquiry about legislation. It is always rather embarrassing for me to discuss legislation that is pending, about which there is a

controversy in the Congress. As I have explained many times, I can't very well announce beforehand that I am going to veto a bill, or that I am going to sign it. I have to keep my mind open about those things until the proposal comes to me. Nobody knows what the bill may contain when it gets here, so that I have to wait and see. X I have general policies about legislation which I have announced quite a good many times, and I think you won't make much of any mistake if you look and see what public announcements I have made about my policies, and until I announce otherwise you are probably warranted in supposing that is my attitude and mind. X

Senator Smoot and Senator Curtis came in to discuss the carrying forward of the business of getting the appropriation bills along, the tax bill, and so forth, and seeing what can be done to promote the general activity of the Senate in enacting the necessary legislation that is before it. That will be the particular subject of discussion with some of the House members that are going to dine with me this evening. I want to see what plans they have for promoting the legislation that is necessary to be passed by the House, especially the appropriation bills, to see what we can do to speed up action, there in order to get an adjournment at a reasonably early date. There is the necessary public business of the Congress to be transacted irrespective of the investigations that are going on, and the appropriations of course must be passed before the Congress can adjourn or before it can consider that its work is finished this session. In that I am interested in doing anything I can to promote or speed it up. That is what I was discussing with Senator Smoot and Senator Curtis, and what I am going to discuss with the steering committee of the House. I think they are making fair progress in that direction. I understand the appropriation bills are substantially ready for report, some of them passed the House, and some of them are being discussed in the Senate. There are about two months left now between the present time and the first of June. It seems to me that within that time we ought to be able to get the appropriation bills under way and such other legislation as may be necessary. It will be necessary of course to pass something of an immigration bill, as that present law expires by limitation, I think on the 30th of June. It is generally agreed that we ought to have a limitation on immigration, so that there must either be new legislation or some provision for keeping in effect the present law. Those are some of the main things that the Congress has to determine in order to take care of the general needs of the country.

3.

It is for the purpose of planning what we can do, and to cooperate with them, that I am conferring with the members of the House and members of the Senate.

March 25, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

No further information has come to me about the McNary-Haugen Bill. I have some reports of experts - some on one side, and some on the other, some that I am waiting to come in.

I haven't any information about the appointment of the former Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, W. G. P. Harding, with the League of Nations Commission No. 100. I don't think that is anything that would come before the United States Government. It says here that it is possible he might decline the appointment, and whether in that case the name of Owen W. Boynton, or Frederick Delano, has been suggested. There has been no suggestion about any of this, so far as I know. I have seen some reports about Governor Harding in the press, but that matter is not a matter, so far as I know, that comes before our Government at all. I certainly haven't any information about it.

I haven't taken up with the State Department the matter of the appointment of a Mixed Claims Commission to determine claims between the U. S. and Austria and Hungary. Whether that is ripe for consideration is a matter about which I haven't any information at the moment. I don't recall ever having taken it up, though I don't want to be too certain about that. It might have slipped my mind.

I have one or two inquiries about the amendment to the Naval Appropriations Bill for calling another Disarmament Conference to complete the work of the Washington Conference. Our Government has made no inquiries about that of foreign governments, so far as I know. I think I have stated once or twice my position about it. There were some things that our Government would have been glad to do at the Washington Conference which ^{we} were unable to accomplish. It may be that there is an opportunity arising in the near future, though I don't think it appears to be here at present, for taking up some of those questions and getting a solution to them. If that should appear to be the case, why it would be in order to consider it. My general opinion has been

that in the present condition of Europe, it would not be of any use to approach them with any general suggestion about a disarmament conference, or a further disarmament conference, though I suppose everyone knows what the American position was and what the agenda proposed by the American Government required, and that some of those positions were not met. The American Government at the Present time I feel certain would be glad to have those positions met that were proposed at that time. I should think that the first thing to do would be to consider what would be the agenda at a conference of that kind. A general disarmament conference, I think would be hopeless of accomplishing very much at its very outset. Then there are other matters of consideration that might be taken up - undertaking to see what could be done about international laws, which our country had in mind for such a long time but on which it could not get any action.

J. Weston Allen of Massachusetts I suppose was in town on some Federal matters that he had. He dropped in to see me - a personal call.

I imagine the postmaster at Boston will be appointed very soon.

The Secretary of Agriculture reported at today's Cabinet meeting that the foot and mouth disease had broken out afresh in one or two different places in California, and this would probably make necessary the expenditure of considerable money there to stamp it out. He thought it was under control in California and had lifted the embargo on transportation of cattle within the State. It has broken out in a rather disturbing fashion in counties at least some distance away from where it first broke out.

I don't know who will have charge of the contempt proceedings in the case of Harry F. Sinclair. I suppose they will proceed in the usual way that those cases proceed. I don't recall ever having noticed one of those cases before. I suppose the general way is to certify to the District Attorney of the District of Columbia, who then takes charge of it. I haven't any definite knowledge about it.

Senator Lodge dropped in on his way up to the Capitol to confer about general legislative matters.

I don't know as I can give much of any information about the tariff rate on sodium nitrate. There are some people interested in that, in the State of Washington, who called on me a day or two ago and I told

them that I would be very glad to give them any possible assistance that I could. I think the difficulty has arisen from the fact that the Tariff Commission is unable to ascertain the cost of manufacture abroad. Manufacturers abroad have declined to permit them to inspect their works or plant, or whatever may be necessary, so that they find a great deal of difficulty in finding what the cost of production abroad and at home is. I believe a letter was left for me which I was to take up with the Tariff Commission.

March 28, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men

I haven't made any choice yet of any one for the Federal Trade Commission.

Here is rather a long question suggesting that I develop the thought about the naval reserve conservation. I don't know as I can do that in a way that would be really helpful. The little statement that I gave out contained about what I had in mind. Of course my reason for appointing this commission was especially in order that they might develop a plan. I wanted them to consider the general question of conservation and see what might be done in that direction. And I also wanted them to formulate tentative plans, in order to be able to take immediate advantage of any court decision. They would necessarily be tentative, and their nature and operation would of course depend upon the course of litigation. I wanted to be prepared to act immediately when the courts made the decision, and I wanted to be working on the general and broad plan of the necessary conservation of oil for the use of the Navy, irrespective of present litigation and irrespective of what the result of it might be.

X Here is a question about the type of man for Attorney General. I think everybody will recognize that there are two things that are especially necessary for an Attorney General. One is that he should have a good acquaintance with the law; but I think even more important perhaps is that he should have the capacity for administration. The Attorney General has under him a number of departments, a great many subsidiaries, a great many assistants, running into a number of hundreds, and so the Department of Justice not only is equipped for the purpose of administering the law, but it is likewise a sort of business institution. It is desirable for the Attorney General to have an administrative capacity.

Mr. President, would the question of personality be permissible in that connection?

You can answer that question.

I saw some of the papers mention the names of Hughes, Borah, Kenyon and Wilbur. Are those men under consideration, Mr. President?

Those are all very excellent men, but I haven't come down to the consideration of a particular person yet.

Here is an inquiry too about the railroad and shipping men to sit on the Committee to coordinate railroads and transportation. I have on that Committee the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Palmer, President of the Fleet Corporation, Mr. O'Connor, Chairman of the Shipping Board, and Arthur Gilbert Smith, President of the American Steamship Owners Association, which has an office at 11 Broadway, New York City, a steamship corporation of course, Daniel Willard, President of the B. & O. R. R., representing the railroad men, and the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Mr. Hoover. There was scarcely anything considered at today's Cabinet meeting. It was very short, I think about 20 minutes, and no subjects were taken up.

I don't know as I can give you any information that would be helpful or pertinent about the bill relative to Porto Rico. The delegation from Porto Rico came in to visit me, perhaps you recall, some time ago. I made some comments then to them, which I later put on paper and transmitted, and I think gave to the press. I am not certain about that. The fundamental question there is a question of administration, and it is the difficulty of having an elective legislature and a Governor that serves by reason of appointment from here. I think it is recognized by students of Government that an arrangement of that kind, even when all parties proceed with the greatest possible tact, has in it necessarily elements that are quite likely to lead to some kind of conflict between the Governor on the one hand and the local legislature on the other. At the present time they are getting on remarkably well, but if some means could be provided by which the Governor could be elected by the people of Porto Rico, it would eliminate that difficulty. Now, I don't know just what this Porto Rico measure of self-government does provide for, but if anything ~~show~~ is to be done, something of a fundamental nature in that direction I think would be more helpful than anything else.

I have some information about Philippine independence. I gave out quite a lengthy statement not very long ago, expressing my views about Philippine independence. Our country is committed to the policy of ultimate independence, so that the practical question which remains is the method by which it is to be put into effect and the time. I think the pending proposal is that it should go into effect in 1935, if the Filipino people about that time will vote for that proposal. They have an election every three years. They will have an election in 1934, when that question could be submitted for referendum. I think that under present arrangements they have

an advantage in relation to their sugar crop of \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000, and in relation to their tobacco crop about \$5,000,000, which will undoubtedly be lost to them under the proposal of independence. That is a practical question that they will want to consider, when they decide on what action they ought to take. Of course they have outstanding in this country the Filipino bonds, providing for independence. They would necessarily have to take those into consideration and make due provision for their payment and retirement. There is a general feeling that if the Filipino people want independence that it is no material advantage to us or commercially to us to hold them under present arrangements. The people give voice to those two proposals and say therefore, "Why hold them?" To my mind that doesn't quite fulfill the requirements of our duties toward the Filipino people, or toward the world in general. ~~X~~ I don't suppose the United States ^{was} ~~is~~ willing to take on the obligations of Philippping Government or become responsible for the welfare of the Filipino people at the time it was taken over, but it seemed necessary that it should be done. Otherwise they would have been cast adrift and become the support I was going to say - anyway there would have been an invitation to occupation or aggression by other countries, so that we felt we had something of a duty to perform towards them. That duty is not all performed at the present time. The U.S. practically recognizes that that is the case, so that the practical question is to find the time when they may be ready to take up their duties and obligations of self-government. Some think that can be done as early as 1935.

I have received a report today from General Lord about the bill drafted by Colonel Sherrill, providing for the Arlington Memorial Bridge. I haven't had a chance to examine it in detail, and I am going to call a meeting of the Commission at a very early date in order that I may lay the report before them.

How much money is there in that bill, Mr. President?

How much money?

Yes, sir.

Well the plans in their entirety call for about \$22,000,000. The building of the bridge I think is a matter of some \$5,000,000 or \$7,000,000. I haven't any specific information about the resignation of Mr. Miller, the Insurance Commissioner of the District of Columbia. ~~xxxx~~

I understood that the Committee had reported the name of Samuel Knight to the Senate without making any recommendation either favorable or unfavorable, simply reporting it back, and by that I understand they are asking the opinion of the Senate upon it. I expect to take that opinion and not withdraw the name. The resolution that was sent to me it is true doesn't make it necessary to have the appointment confirmed by the Senate, but I was glad to have them share that responsibility as a matter of policy. Then there is another practical reason that unless the name is confirmed by the Senate there is no means by which any compensation can be paid or any expenses met for the necessity of carrying on investigation and litigation. So that while the original resolution doesn't make it necessary for the confirmation, the other bill that came to me making the appropriation of \$100,000 for things of this kind did specifically provide that appointments under it should be confirmed by the Senate.

X My conference with Chief Justice Taft had no relation to the selection of an Attorney General.

I haven't appointed the members of the American Mixed Claims Commission yet.

April 1, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about an increase in postal rates to take care of the proposed increase in salary of postal employees. I haven't any definite and specific information about that. All that I know is that the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads is working up with the Post Master General's office something in that direction, undertaking to see where they can possibly be secured an increase in revenue, paying in whole or in part the increase that is proposed to be made for the postal employees. I mean their wages of course.

I can't give you much of any information about the St. Lawrence Waterways Engineering Board. I don't recall that anything has been done about that. The National Commission I think I have appointed and has been given out, but I don't think I have made any appointment to the Engineering Board. It might be a good idea to have a member of the Engineering Board that was also a member of the Waterways Commission, in order that they might have a source of contact through having one member that has a common membership.

X I haven't been able to reach any decision about appointing an Attorney General. Of course what I am trying to do there necessarily is to get a \$75,000 or \$100,000 man for a salary of \$12,000. Now that isn't at all impossible. I expect to be able to do something that is substantially in that line.

Mr. President, I think it would interest the country to know what your judgment is as to a \$75,000 or \$100,000 man.

X What I mean by that is that a man in private practice might be able to secure that income. The Government of the United States is constantly served in that way by men, especially under-secretaries, men of capacity and of experience who are here in Washington at a very large sacrifice because they love the service. They are attached to it, not only because of the fascination of it, but because of a patriotic desire to serve the country. Of course when you come to members of the Cabinet, I don't need to designate any of the present members by name, you just think of them yourselves, you can understand whether the United States Government is getting the worth of its money in hiring those men for \$12,000 a year and an automobile.

Mr. President, have you any idea when the appointment might come?

Well, just as soon as I can find someone. It is difficult to canvass the situation in a hurry. I have to consult with a good many men and make a great many inquiries. If I wanted someone in Chicago, why I would have, perhaps, to send out there and get that person to come on here, then I would have to make inquiries in the town, make investigations, and find out what their connections are, and talk with a number of Senators and Representatives about it to see what they know. All of it takes time, but it is not a problem that will be by any means impossible or very difficult to solve. It takes some time to do it.

Mr. President, may I ask whether geographical requirements are being considered?

I don't think that is highly important. What I want is a man of character and ability that will take that office and administer it in accordance with the well known standards of administration of the Attorney General's office, and if that is done it doesn't make very much difference whether the man, if he should return home, would go to Florida, Oregon, New England, or the middle states, or to the Pacific coast. There are certain balances that we like to maintain. Sometimes that can be done, and sometimes it cannot. What I am looking for is the man, rather than looking at geography.

I haven't any definite plan for a conference with Senate leaders similar to those which I had with the House. I confer with them individually, or with one or two of them together, and that I have been doing recently. I conferred with Senator Curtis and Senator Pepper at the House this morning before I came over here, and I have conferred with Senator Brandegee and Senator Reed at dinner last evening. This is not anything, I presume, you would want to print. I just mention it as an example of my constant conferences with individual members that are coming in by two's or so.

Mr. President, do you still think Congress can adjourn by the first of June?

It can. Saying that it can, and that it will, is another thing. But I think it both can and will.

At today's Cabinet meeting I went over a very short and sketchy way the business situation. Some reports have been coming in to me that in certain lines

there is a little slowing up. That is to be expected. So I was inquiring of Mr. Hoover whether from his observation and reports there is indicated a general slowing up of business. He says that it does not, that the steel industry which is a very good barometer is going ahead well, and that the building industry which I think reached its peak last year has a larger number of permits this year than it had last. Now that industry is basic. When the building industry is good, it includes iron, steel, hardware and wood, all kinds of materials, and all kinds of industries, and if that is good the basic industries are good, and we can expect to go along fairly well. I think the reason for the slowing up of business - as a whole business will undoubtedly go ahead well if it is assured that we are going to proceed as we have been doing with our policy of economy of Government expenditures, and in addition to that if there is going to be a reduction of taxes. My own theory is that if the tax bill had been passed as it was introduced by the administration within six weeks or two months after the coming in of Congress, the country would have seen a large increase in business, a stimulation in various activities. Just at the present time there is a good deal of money piling up in the banks, so that call money is very low. Now that is a very perfect example of the way the present tax laws work, because that means that the owners of that money are not willing to invest it in industry. They would rather let it lie on deposit at a very small rate of interest in the bank, or loan it out on call at something like 3%, than invest it in industry^{as} in ordinary times when the net return was 6% or 8%. With the present method of taxation that is not the case. It results of course in a slowing up of business.

Mr. President, do you care, along that line, to discuss the prospect of tax legislation?

I have been in conference with Senator Watson about that and he says they are going to work day and night, and they are working day and night as you know, until they get that tax bill out. That is especially the matter on which I confer with Senators, in order to expedite business.

X I haven't any plan about a summer White House. I rather imagine that we will stay here, if that is agreeable to you, a very large part of the summer. Perhaps all of it. I don't know. I will do the best I can, though, to get a trip for you. But it is easier to transact business of the Government here than it is

anywhere else, and the White House with the large open space around it and the grounds is fairly comfortable in the summer. We didn't find any great inconvenience last August, after we came here. It is not nearly so warm in the surroundings here as you probably know it is in the street. You see a marked difference.

It doesn't now seem possible that I shall be able to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Perdue University at Lafayette, Ind. I am having to go up to New York to speak to the Associated Press on the 22nd of April, which will exhaust my output for some time. This will only be ten days later, and I doubt very much if I can get out there. I haven't entirely abandoned it, but I have had to tell them that it is not likely that I can be present.

I understand from the House organization that under a plan in the House, should it become necessary, they would put through a separate measure for a 25% tax reduction for the current year. I suppose they meant by that that if at any time it became apparent that the present proposed law wasn't going to pass, or was going to be delayed beyond the middle of June, or something of that kind, that in that contingency they would attempt to provide a 25% reduction which will take care of the situation.

April 4, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

X I don't know as I can say there were any particular topics under discussion when the Senators were at breakfast this morning. I expressed to them a desire that they do what they could to expedite legislation. I received a report from Senator Smoot that they expected to be able to report the tax bill tomorrow or Monday. I think he said there was a suggestion that there be no session of the Senate tomorrow, in order to give the Finance Committee the entire day to consider the tax measure. The discussion didn't take up any particular bills or any particular topics. I wanted to find out what the prospect was of pushing legislation ahead, which everybody indicated they wanted to do and on which they thought the prospect was good. X I don't know when I shall call in any more Senators or Representatives to break bread with me. I am liable to call them in any time. I am likewise liable not to call them in at all. I like to keep in touch, of course, with the members of the House and Senate. They are very busy men and unless I call them in in considerable numbers at one time, I don't have a chance to keep up that contact that I would like to keep. I can only see three or four or five men here in this office an hour, if they come in one at a time, usually for a period of about fifteen minutes, during only about three hours that I can devote to anything of that kind in the morning; so that unless I call them in in blocks, I don't have a chance to keep that intimate contact that otherwise I would like to have. Sometimes during the past season I have been able to do that Saturday afternoons on the Mayflower, but I have not been out on that for some time. Perhaps we can start up some trips on that in the near future.

There was no particular topics~~/~~ discussed with Governor Stokes or Governor Preuss. Governor Stokes some time ago indicated that he was coming to town and would like to call on me, and I suggested that he lunch with me. Governor Preuss dropped in on me this morning when he was in town with two or three of his constituents, and called on me to introduce his constituents, and I asked Governor Preuss to come to lunch. The gathering was rather casual, and the conversation was casual.

Here is perhaps an interesting inquiry, because of its suggestiveness. X It wants to know how I am going to conduct the coming campaign. There is an inference in it I judge that perhaps you will be able to interpret. I haven't myself made any plan about that. I don't think I happened to think of it; even this inquiry doesn't suggest any particular plan to me. The inquiry is whether there will be a speaking tour, or whether it will be a front porch campaign. I haven't the slightest idea about that - made no plan about it. I will do whatever appears to be necessary when the event is upon me.

I didn't discuss with Governor Preuss the political situation in the northwest, except perhaps it may have been referred to in the most casual way.

Here is an inquiry about the Brown reorganization committee and the suggestion that it is considering a proposed consolidation of the Shipping Board into the Department of Commerce, under an Assistant Secretary of Marine. I don't know whether that is a fact or not. I said to the Shipping Board at the time that Admiral Palmer became President of the Fleet Corporation that I thought there was a wide field for them to cover outside of the carrying on the business of running the fleet, and that I was not going to propose or present any suggestion for taking away from them their jurisdiction or their abolition. I think at that time there were some bills either pending or proposed to abolish the Shipping Board, and I made it plain to them at that time that I was not supporting those bills, and rather favored the continuation of the Board in order that we might see whether under the present plan, which I thought and Senator Jones thought was a more complete putting into effect of the present law, we could work out a reasonable plan for carrying on the merchant marine. It may be that the Committee is proposing something of that kind. I think the rumor came to me that they were considering something of that kind, but just what it is I don't know.

X Here is another interesting inquiry as to whether I favor the proposed tax of 10% on radio receiving sets costing \$15.00 or more. Now I think I can lay down the broad principle that I am not in favor of imposing any new kinds of taxes. I don't want to do that. I want the business of the country so conducted that the imposition of new taxes would be unnecessary.

That means of course that we should keep within the present source of our income and expenditures and be as careful as we can about adding any new expenditures, in order that we may have a reduction of taxes on those sources on which they are now laid, wherever we can, and not the imposition of new taxes. That is the general principle that I want to follow. Now sometimes there are exceptions to rules, and it may be that the studies of those who are responsible for raising sufficient revenue to meet the needs of the Government feel that there might be an adjustment of the burden in a way that would look like the imposition of a new tax, but which rather is a taking of the tax off here by means of shifting the burden to something else that is not now under taxation. If this would come within a proposal of that kind, well then it ought to be considered. But I should have to know more about the circumstances to give an opinion as to whether I think it is warranted. If that is what this proposal means, why then there might be some justification for it. I am opposed to the general policy of the imposition of new taxes at this time.

I don't know about the Dial bill that provides for the use of property in the hands of the Alien Property Custodian. I am in favor of doing anything that can be done for the promotion of trade with Germany, or trade with any other foreign country. I don't understand however that there is at the present time any lack of credit facilities, or that there is any lack of money in the banks or in the hands of private individuals, to finance any kind of trade that is proposed with Germany or any foreign country. X My idea about the Alien Property is that it ought to be held intact, in order that if it should become necessary it would be available to be applied to the claims of the American nationals and the American Government for damages that accrued to them and to it. If that be not necessary then it ought to be held intact, in order that it may be returned to its owners, the German nationals, and I think that I have indicated that I judge it is doubtful whether there is any warrant for undertaking to use this property for the financing of foreign trade, because that is what it means. If there are other finances that can be used, than I see no reason for using this. I do think it ought to be kept intact for those two purposes. I am exceedingly anxious to stimulate trade with Germany or any other foreign country, exceedingly anxious to see it sufficiently financed; but I am likewise anxious to keep this property intact for application to our claims, if necessary, and if not necessary, in order that it may be returned to its former owners.

April 8, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is a matter of some local interest relating to the successor of Judge Francis Baker of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals of Indiana. I am waiting to get the opinion of the Attorney General about that, for one thing, and it has been represented to me that there is a great deal of sentiment in favor of appointing Judge Anderson, but that he has some important cases pending before him that he really ought to close up. I know that there isn't any particular urgency about this, because Judge Mack who was on some Commerce Court or something of that kind was retired from that court, and in order to make a place for him when that court was abolished the law provided that he should be eligible for an appointment to the Circuit Court which was done, and which gave him a kind of a robe commission. He has been in New York for most of the time. He has gone back to Chicago and taken up his work again, so that there are as many judges there now as there were before. There is enough work to do, as I understand it, to warrant having a judge with a robe commission, if I may so designate it, which leaves the courts in this Seventh District, I think it is, so that there isn't any haste about the appointment of a successor. Then if Judge Anderson should be promoted, I wanted to know what agreement can be secured about the appointment of a successor to him. All of those things together have held the matter up.

Mr. President, is the name of Representative Hickey, of Indiana, under consideration for the judgeship of this court?

I don't know that any special names are under consideration. I think I had a list of a large number of names given to me - appointments that had been suggested from the State of Indiana to different Senators and Representatives, and so on. I think Mr. Hickey's name was one, and Representative Sanders another, - a good many different names.

There was practically no business that came up at today's Cabinet meeting.

The purpose of the Executive Order to coordinate the various foreign agencies was a matter of economy and efficiency, in order that no matter what particular Department, whether it was Commerce, or Agriculture, or the State

Department, a person might represent abroad, whatever information came to him he would give that information to anyone else that was representing another Department. It is simply carrying out the fundamental principle that underlies the Budget and underlies the plan of coordination and cooperation, and the consolidation and rearrangement of the different departments. There is a prepared statement that will be given out to you when you go out, stating that a little more explicitly than what I have in my oral retort.

I don't care to make any statement at the present time about another World Conference, or any kind of a conference for the discussion of a reduction of armaments and other matters.

I haven't arrived at any preference with respect to a temporary Chairman of the Republican National Convention. Very likely later I may want to talk the matter over with the members of the Committee, the Executive Committee of the National Committee, which I think is meeting on the 30th of April to consider that question. Very likely I shall confer with them about that.

It was my impression that the Tariff Commission had made public its report on the wheat tariff. I know I was in conference with some representatives of the Commission, and I thought that had been given out. I may be mistaken about it. I thought there were very large portions of it that could be given out. I don't know as there is anything in any of it that would be detrimental to the wheat raising interests, if it were given to the public. Of course, those things are all given out, as I understand it, in the annual report to the Congress.

I haven't any specific information about the two percent gas tax bill, which is for the purpose of securing reciprocity between the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am very desirous of securing that reciprocity, and have very little doubt that if the plan has been worked out by the Committees and passed, of course, by the Senate and House, and enacted into law, it would be such a plan as I could approve. Though just the provisions of the present bill, I do not have in mind. I look at the object as a sort to be accomplished with entire sympathy, and want to do anything I can to promote it.

I can't recall now whether the matter of a new armory for the District of Columbia has been brought to my personal attention or not. I rather think it has, and that it has been referred to General Lord to work out. But I am not entirely certain about that. A number of District of Columbia matters have been passed upon in that way, and it is my impression that that is one of them. But I can't be entirely certain about it.

I do not recall having received any letter from General Wood relative to Philippine independence; certainly not at a recent date. I have never had any statement that indicated one way or another any desire on the part of Mr. Adams to retire as Chairman of the National Committee, following the Cleveland Convention, so I cannot give you any information about that. Nor do I know anything about the report that Mr. Slomp might become Chairman of the Committee. That has originated entirely outside of my jurisdiction. I don't know of any foundation for it. At the present time I haven't any preference to state about who should be National Chairman, in case Chairman Adams retired.

+ I don't know that there is any statement that I can make about the result in the Michigan primary, other than what would occur to each one of you. Perhaps with more keenness than it might occur to me. I very likely don't need to suggest to you that the result was gratifying to me, and that it was in accordance with the reports that had come. I am not at all in touch with the campaign that is being made in the country. + Those that are undertaking the general management of my campaign I think had almost nothing to do with the Michigan matter. That was left entirely to the local people in Michigan. There was no one up there that represented me. I think that came up in some collateral way. Someone up there had said something or done something, and the question arose as to whether my management and myself was responsible for it. Upon investigation I found that there was no one up there representing me in any way, other than action of the people themselves undertaking to make their own choice as to who they desired for a nominee and who they desired to send as delegates to the National Convention.

I can't give you any discussion of the advance summaries of the Dawes report. I don't know that I should have anything to say about that at any time. I haven't anything to say about it at present anyway. I haven't anything to say about ~~the~~ any intention of doing something about the appointment of Samuel Knight. I think I have spoken about that at two or three conferences before. The matter is pending before the Senate, as I understand it. I haven't any additional information about it, and it is there for their determination.

April 11, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ Here is an inquiry about a statement in the letter of Secretary Mellon to me in which he ends a sentence by saying "I must advise you that neither I nor any other man of character can longer take responsibility for the Treasury." That doesn't indicate a desire to retire from the Treasury on his part, but simply an indication that if somebody else is going to run the Treasury, then of course Mr. Mellon ought not to be charged with the responsibility for it by those that are undertaking to operate it.

I haven't had any reports from the visit of Mr. Meyer and Mr. Jaffrey to the northwest. Mr. Jaffrey was here the other day and had lunch with me, and I talked the situation over with him at that time. I didn't know that Mr. Meyer was going up with him, but I did know in a general way that they were to confer with each other to see what could be done that might be helpful.

The Cabinet didn't discuss the Government's rights under the disarmament treaty to convert its coal burning ships to oil burning. The matter was merely mentioned there by Secretary Wilbur as one that was under consideration between him and the Secretary of State. But there was no discussion of it, and no conclusions. Of course we have in mind a general policy of not wanting to do anything that would cause an increase in the outlay of naval armaments of the United States or any other country. That is somewhat regardless of the treaty. + Very likely our country in this particular wouldn't be especially solicitous to put in oil burning apparatus and convert ships from coal burning to oil, if that of itself would make other nations who are parties to the treaty think that they must go to a corresponding outlay. on One of the very basic foundations of the disarmament treaty was to get away from competitive armaments, so that as a practical question our country wouldn't want to embark on the rebuilding or reconditioning of its ships if we know it would cause a large outlay on the part of other countries.

+ I haven't given any instructions about the indictment of Senator Wheeler. I didn't know about it until I saw it in the paper, and don't have in mind any instructions that I should give. Of course it is in the hands of the Department of Justice. +

I don't believe I can give any rule about campaign contributions that would be particularly helpful. I would say offhand that I do not like as a matter of principle large contributions given to campaign funds, because they create a bad impression and give the idea of a wrongful motive. But I think that it would be well to keep in mind that it isn't so much the size of the contribution as the purpose with which it is given. I can imagine a very large contribution that would be given for a perfectly justifiable purpose, and I can imagine a very small contribution that might be made for an entirely unjustifiable purpose. I don't mean by that that a large contribution can't be made for the purpose of supporting a party policy and promoting private principles without any reason for criticism, but a very small contribution might have selfish purposes and the purposes of securing favors or something of that kind, and would of course be subject to very just criticism. I don't like the idea of large contributions. I don't know just how they could be limited, and I shouldn't know exactly where to set a limit, though I think the law of Massachusetts sets a definite limit on campaign contributions.

I haven't had any report about a slowing up of the development of the operating policy of the Shipping Board, on account of differences between the Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation over questions of consolidating existing Government steamship services.

I can tell you a little about the conference that I had yesterday in relation to sodium nitrate. There is only one plant left in the United States that produces that commodity. It is a small plant in the State of Washington employing twenty five or thirty hands, as I understand it, and representing an investment of some \$300,000 or \$400,000, and they find it is impossible for them to compete with the foreign producers of this commodity, so that there has been a proposal made to the Tariff Commission, through this office, though I can't say whether it was before or since I came here, though I think it was before, for an investigation on the part of the Tariff Commission to see if the tariff should be raised. That of course depends on the cost of production here and the cost of production abroad. When the Tariff Commission sent abroad to find out the cost of production there, as I understand it, the producers there would not supply them with any information or give them the necessary information, so that they could make a proper finding. They have some information on it, and perhaps they can make a finding, but they couldn't

get all the information they desired. Then some question arose as to whether the Tariff Commission ought to furnish the foreign producers with the information that they had about the cost of production here, or some details of that kind, which the Tariff Commission refused to do, so that some kind of a suit was brought to restrain further action of the Tariff Board. So that is held up, and no reports have come to me. The American producers talked to me yesterday to see if I could do anything to assist in the way of trying to get the report of the Commission.

I had no information about the speech that Senator Pepper was to make in Maine. I never saw it and had no information about what it contained. He did not consult me in reference to it.

April 15, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

There is very little that I can say about the Dawes report. I haven't examined it minutely. About the only expression I can make about it is the hope that it will result in a settlement. There is an inquiry here as to whether that would have any effect on the payment to the United States of the amount that is due it as the cost of the Army of Occupation. I don't understand that it has any effect on that, though as I say I haven't read it carefully enough to be certain. If it had affected it in any way, I am rather certain that I should have been informed about it through the usual diplomatic channels. Mr. Logan who represents the Government over there would have informed the State Department and the State Department would have kept me informed of anything of that nature that might affect any claims that were due to the United States.

I merely discussed yesterday with Chairman Adams something of the plans for the National Convention, the work of preparing information for the drawings and the platform, and things of that nature. I don't expect to designate a commission to assist me in the arbitration of the controversy between Peru and Chile, supposing that I shall have the advantage of the advice of the Secretary of State, which I think will be sufficient without the assistance of any outside commission.

The final selection of the members of the Mexican Claims Commission of course is a matter of agreement between our Government and the Mexican Government. That is in process of being arrived at.

There wasn't anything of importance at the Cabinet meeting today. The Secretary of Labor reported that there was very little unemployment - some dullness in the New England textile centers, and some readjustment in the coal fields, but not anything of importance. The Secretary of Commerce reported that there was a very large number of contracts let for building in different cities. The number is larger than it was last year at this time. The Secretary of Labor also reported that there has been some increase in wages in the building trades, that adjustments had all been made in the building trades, and so he didn't think there was any chance that there would be any labor difficulty there; that the increase of wages indicates, of course, the press for building

operations, and that business in that direction is very good. The Secretary of War spoke of the efforts he is making to enable an adjustment at Chicago, relative to the amount of water the Chicago drainage canal is to take out of the lake. There is nothing that can be done about that at the present time, because it is pending before the Supreme Court. I think Mr. Madden, Representative Madden, of Chicago, has a bill pending that undertakes to deal with the situation. He is very solicitous that nothing be done there that would by any means imperil the health of that great community. That I think can be satisfactorily adjusted.

I was only referring in my message to the Senate, as I think an inspection of the message would show, to the inquiry that was proposed in the Department of Secretary Mellon.

I think I shall send to the Congress, at least for its information, the report of the Department of the Interior Advisory Commission on reclamation. Someone referred to that as the Department of Agriculture (it is the Department of Interior, as the person that wrote this question undoubtedly knows) having made that report. I think for the information of the Congress I shall send it up there. Secretary Work is away at the present time, and I want to confer with him about it before I make a final determination. I don't think there is any comment that I can make in relation to the proposed legislation about the exclusion of Japanese and others, who are not entitled under our laws to take out naturalization papers and become citizens.

April 18, 1924.

Remarks to the Newspaper Men by the President.

Here is an inquiry as to whether the Dawes report has been transmitted to the American Government, and whether any steps are contemplated here in connection with it. It hasn't come to me, but I think that through the usual diplomatic sources, Mr. Logan I believe is the one who was in touch with that situation for the American Government, it was transmitted to the State Department. It hasn't been brought over to my office, and I don't know of any steps that it is contemplated to take here in connection with it.

+ I don't think any decision has been made relative to the selection of a Chairman for the Republican National Convention. I don't know of any. So you are at liberty to make nominations as fast and furious as you want. There are so very many excellent men that you haven't enough Conventions to take up all of your output.

I can't make any comment at the present time about the immigration bill or its provision excluding those who are inalienable to citizenship.

+ I haven't any definite and particular plan for additional White House conferences with members of Congress in connection with the legislative situation, though those conferences go on all the time. While I don't know when I am going to have one, I know I am going to have a good many.

+ I think this report that I am to attend the Republican Convention, from what I have already said, and make an address there, you will see is exaggerated. There will be plenty of members at the Convention prepared, I have no doubt, to make sufficient addresses without calling me and my assistance. I don't ever recall that a President went to a Republican Convention, or a Democratic Convention.

I haven't signed the Gasoline Tax Bill relative to automobile reciprocity between Maryland and the District of Columbia. It came down, and as is usual in those cases, it has been sent to the District Commissioners for their comment. All bills relating to the District of Columbia go to the Commissioners to see whether they have any comment to make on them.

Here is another inquiry about the report of the Tariff Commission on wheat and wheat products, noting that/wheat item included transportation costs in determining the difference between the cost in this country and Canada. I don't think that is to be considered exactly as a precedent, and that in every case the cost of transportation would be included, though I think the rule would be that they would be included where they were a material part. Of course it is perfectly evident that an article which is produced in Europe, in order to get it into our market over here, it will be necessary to pay the freight charge. I should judge also the insurance charge and so on, and that probably in that case it would be an element in determining the cost of production. I don't know, or don't happen to think of a good example of a case where the cost of transportation would not be included. I don't think it was intended to make a precedent one way or another, simply a matter of a case where it seemed that the cost of transportation was a material part of the cost of the article at the market place. Therefore it would be added in. Whenever that is the case, why of course transportation costs will be added.

I think I have here the report of the Interior Advisory Board or Commission, and expected to talk with the Secretary of the Interior about it, but found he had left the city before I had an opportunity to do that. I don't know whether it will be necessary to confer with him before it is submitted to Congress. I think I shall submit it without any further conference with him about it.

Mr. Lansing, former Secretary of State, has not been selected for one of the Mexican Claims Commissioners. It is my impression that he represents claimants though I am not certain about it. It is an impression I have. Of course he is a very good man and would make a very acceptable Commissioner. It is my understanding that he is interested in some claims there and represents some claimants, which would of course make it impossible to appoint him.

I haven't taken any definite steps toward postponing the application of Section 28 of the Merchant Marine Act, and don't know that I can. I have communicated to the Chairman of the Commerce Committee in the Senate, Mr. Jones, the request to give a short hearing to some exporters who wanted that I should give the Committee some information they had, and I have also communicated with the Chairman of the Shipping Board with a view to seeing what can be done to relieve the embarrassing situation that exists.

I haven't enough information myself to warrant me in asserting that great difficulties would be incurred by putting this section into operation, though I have heard that stated by people that I think do know that that would be the case.

I think there is a proposal before the Shipping Board to defer action, or suspend action, for a time, and there is also a proposal for legislation. There is a difference between the Shipping Board and Senator Jones, as I understand. Senator Jones says that it is not the intention of the bill to provide that the section might be put into operation as to those ports that are sufficiently provided with shipping, and leaving out ports not sufficiently provided with shipping. The Shipping Board, as I understand it, says that the section has to be put into operation as a whole, or not at all, -They can't make any exceptions.

I don't know of any further measures that are pending in relation to the curbing of the foot and mouth disease, other than those which are already in operation. No new plans are under contemplation for it. I think I was informed by the Secretary of Agriculture this morning that at present it did not appear to be spreading any. It is a difficult situation that has arisen in California, on account of different states in that region putting on an embargo on the shipment of fruits and so on out of California. That we are attempting to remedy by providing for a conference between representatives of California and representatives of surrounding states, at which conference the Department of Agriculture would be represented to see that if some workable plan can be arrived at, so that there will not be an embargo on a great many products of California. There are very large areas, I think all of the Imperial Valley, that grow cantaloupes, grape fruit, and so on, that are getting ready to ship. While there is no sign of foot and mouth disease, there seems to be a disposition to put an embargo on products out of that locality. So we are trying to see whether by conference we can work out a plan to enable the Californians to ship out their products, and at the same time to provide ample protection to surrounding states and communities against any possible infection.

I can't give you any definite information about Postmaster Baker of Boston. I understand he is to be appointed right away. Any definite information about that you would get from the Postmaster General.

April 25, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

+ I don't think I know enough about Charles F. Murphy so that I can make any special comment about him and his death, other than what would occur to every one. He was evidently a man of a good deal of force of character. He impressed himself upon a great city and was for a good many years a great influence there.

Here is a suggestion that I should be very glad to comply with if I can, that on account of daylight saving we have the Tuesday conference at 12:00 o'clock and the Friday conference at 3:00 o'clock. This is signed by Mr. Durno of the International News Service. Now if the White House Press Association would like to have me do something in that direction, wont they talk it over with their directors, or whatever you call your executive body, and let me know. I do not see any reason why I can't have the Friday conference at 3:00 o'clock, and probably almost always get the Tuesday conference in at 12:00 o'clock. I suppose that is the more important, to get the Tuesday conference earlier, than the Friday conference.

Mr. President, if the Friday conference is held at 3:00 o'clock the afternoon papers get all the news.

I suggest that the matter be taken up with your Executive Committee as to just what it is you want.

The Bonus Bill hasn't come to me yet, and the Immigration Bill hasn't come. I am trying to see if anything can be worked out in relation to the Immigration Bill.

I don't think I can enlarge very much on what I have said several times in conferences and addresses, I think I referred to it in my address before the Associated Press, about this suggestion that comes to me here relative to pending legislation that calls for large expenditures. Of course, on that, I hope we shall not have such legislation. + We need to be as prudent and careful as we can, as was pointed out with great power by Senator Borah in that address he made to the Senate the other day, which went over the general financial situation, with great vigor. It seems to me that he reached very logical conclusions. I am talking now with regard to the general situation, and not any special bills. +

We are working, as I said at a conference previously, on a selection of the Mexican Claims Commissioners. There has to be an agreement between the two governments. I think we are reaching such an agreement. If we do not reach it, then it is referred, I think, to the President of the International Court for the selection of the third man.

I have stated my position in relation to the World Court several times. I ~~WEM~~ hold the same position now that I have in the past. I stated it in my address the other day, and it is in my message to the Congress.

May I ask if you can elaborate on what you have just said on the immigration bill?

I am attempting to see if there is any way that that question can be solved so as to satisfy those that want to have restriction and at the same time prevent giving any affront to the Japanese Government.

April 29, 1924.

Remarks by the President in Newspaper Conference.

This first inquiry is about Section 28 for the enforcement of preferential rail rates of the shipping law, and the inquiry is as to whether this is to be given further consideration by administrative agencies, or whether the matter of the effective date now rests with Congress. I think the answer to that should be that both of those agencies are working on it and should continue to. The matter is going to be taken up by that special committee that I have appointed relative to cooperation in transportation, where I have undertaken to provide an agency for the coordination of the railroads and shipping, and the producers of freight and carriers both by land and sea. It is my strong impression from such information as I have that it would be well to suspend the operation of this proposal for the year. I think there is a bill before the Congress that would provide for that, but the question as to whether it can be adjusted between the Shipping Board and the Interstate Commerce Commission is a question of some difficulty. It is recognized I think by the Shipping Board that there are some ports that would not adequately be served under this proposal, but their difficulty ~~is~~ as they interpret the law is that they cannot put it into effect as to certain ports and not in effect as to other ports, and that it has to go into effect as a whole or not at all.

I have before me the report of the Tariff Commission on the tariff duty on sodium nitrite, but on account of some legal complications I have had to ask the opinion of the Attorney General as to just what I can do legally, and what might be proper for me to do as a matter of observing the spirit of the law. While the report was pending before the Tariff Commission an injunction was sought to restrain them, I think, from making their report to me. That case came up for hearing, and it was decided against the petitioners. I think there is an appeal pending. Whether I ought to take any action pending that appeal, I don't know. I have several inquiries about that.

+ Here is an interesting inquiry as to whether I can suggest the character of the conversation that is likely to take place between General Dawes and me. Perhaps we wont interpret that too literally. I haven't any plan about seeing the General. I would like to see him, of course, and learn his story of his ~~EXER~~ ex-

experience over there, and what he knows of the General European situation, with which he must have become particularly well informed. I would like to see him to express my personal appreciation for the character of the service that he has rendered as an American citizen. drawn from private life and undertaking to do his part, and what I say in relation to him I mean in relation to all three of the members who served upon the expert board with him to do their part for the settlement of the difficult situation in Europe, attempting to bring it back into harmony with the prevailing force of civilization, to settle their differences so that they can take up the burdens of meeting the just requirements, restoring Germany to productiveness, and undertaking to provide a method for reparations to be paid to the other interested governments and peoples.

There isn't much of anything I can say about the immigration bill. That is before the Committee in Conference. They are undertaking to see if some arrangement cannot be made which will provide for exclusion and at the same time avoid wounding the sensibilities of a friendly nation. In that I am in entire sympathy. I think that statement covers quite a good deal. I don't know that I could add anything to it by undertaking to amplify it. There are two things, exclusion and that the ordinary courtesy of conduct/ought to characterize all the actions of the Government of the United States of America.

The Bursum Pension Bill hasn't come to me.

† Here is another inquiry that we won't interpret too liberally or too narrowly. Could the President indicate his probable action on this measure? Yes, I could indicate my probable action on all measures that come before me, - to try and take it up and find out what the effect of the legislation will be, and try to decide it on its merits. Of course I should be extremely gratified in a great many ways if I could approve a measure of this kind, and am hopeful that I may find that I can do so. If I find that it has undesirable provisions in it, and there seems to be an unwarranted expense on the public treasury, then I shall have to disapprove it. X I haven't made up my mind about it. I haven't seen the bill and it hasn't come to me.

Mr. President, has it been referred to the Pension Department?

No. Well, I may be wrong about that. Those bills don't come to my desk in the first instance. When they are brought in there are rules of procedure that anything relating to the War Department would go over there for their comment, and those

relating to the District of Columbia to the Commissioners, Navy bills to the Navy Dept., and so on. That is done as a matter of course.

Here is an inquiry about the selection of Representative Burton of Ohio as Temporary Chairman. I always dislike, and you know I avoid if I can, to say anything that would appear to spoil a good newspaper story. I dislike to do that in this case, but the plain fact is that Representative Burton was chosen in what I believe to be the proper way for making a choice of this kind. I think that his name occurred to me before anyone mentioned it to me. I mentioned it to several people myself, and it seemed to be received with approval. Chairman Adams and Committeeman Mulvane came in the other morning. They inquired of me as to whether I had any choice for the Temporary Chairman of the National Convention, and I told them I had, and that my choice was Representative Burton. I didn't tell them that because I thought it was my business to dictate any choice about the matter, but simply that I thought it was my privilege to suggest names, and if on consideration any reason should be given that the suggestion I had made didn't seem to meet the requirements of the situation, I should want to change that and make another suggestion. But the name met with their approval, and when they went out they wanted to know whether they could give it out. Knowing the appetite of the newspapermen in the outer office, I told them of course they could give it out, which they did. Personally I like the selection of Representative Burton. I think it is a happy circumstance that he lives in the City of Cleveland, and for that reason will be able to extend a sort of neighborhood welcome to the Convention. Of course that means also that he lives in the State of Ohio, which is naturally entitled to consideration on account of the peculiar circumstances of which you know. My predecessor lived there, and I would very much like to have the greetings to the assembled delegates extended by a resident of that state, and one who is known to be a friend of former President Harding.

As I have said several times, the selection of the Mexican Claims Commission is a matter of negotiation. The last time Mr. Hughes spoke to me, which was several days ago, he had not had advices from Mexico. I haven't learned that he has received them. No decision has been made about who is to present my name at Cleveland, and I haven't made any determination about who I should like to have for permanent chairman of the Cleveland Convention. I suppose that that will be arrived at by conference in substantially the same way as the temporary chairman. Of course, the temporary chairman is chosen by the national committee - the executive committee I believe.

May 2, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

There are several inquiries here about the National Convention. I haven't any information that I can give out about that. I think the plans that were made yesterday by the Executive Committee or special committee at Cleveland (I guess it was the day before yesterday) have all been reported, and that is all the information I have.

I haven't appointed any delegates yet to attend the Inter-American Electrical Communications Conference, which is to be held in Mexico City on the 27th of May. No appropriation has been made at the present time for expenses, but whether any appropriation is made or not I shall appoint someone under the Act that went through. I used to do that when I was Governor, and suggested to the appointees that there was no appropriation made, which meant that they would defray their own expenses. I haven't any doubt that the many people who would be interested in a conference of this kind, and in the general development of electrical science, would be pleased to attend a conference on that basis.

I haven't taken any action on the pension bill which is before me. I have been having it scheduled to see just what it does. I haven't had a chance to look over the results of the studies that I have had made of it.

There wasn't very much that came before the Cabinet meeting today, except the matter of quarantine that has been put on products in California. We are interested in undertaking to see if there isn't some method through negotiation, by which we can open up a passageway for those products to market, either under the certificate of the Secretary of Agriculture or something of that kind.

The interview with General Dawes and Mr. Young and Mr. Robinson went along the lines that I indicated to you in my conference on Tuesday, in which I expressed my appreciation of the services they had rendered, and I was able to learn from them that they thought there was a good deal of hope for having their plan adopted by the nations that are interested.

The sodium nitrite report I think has come back to me with the suggestion from the Attorney General, but I haven't had a chance to digest that yet, so that I can't tell whether I shall make any proclamation changing the rate of duty on this commodity.

There hasn't been any request, so far as I know, from the New England Textile industry for a higher tariff on cotton goods. It may be that some request has been sent here which would, as a matter of course, go from here to the Tariff Commission. I don't know of any such request coming in.

I don't know of any decision to call off the around-the-world flight, because of the apparent loss of Major Martin. I assume that when that flight began it was known that dangers would be encountered, and because of the encountering of dangers perhaps the loss of one of the aviators. While that of course is most regrettable, I should not think that unless there is disclosed some serious obstacle to the continuance of the flight it would make any difference about the continuation of the rest of those engaged in this flight. I don't know of any disclosures of that kind coming out of his loss.

There was perhaps no reason entertained for selecting Mr. Butler for presentation to the incoming National Committee as a proposal for the Chairmanship, other than that which was disclosed in the statement I made last night. Mr. Adams didn't care to serve as Chairman of the incoming Committee.

Mr. President, would you permit a question as to whether you have anything to report on the Japanese affair?

I haven't anything to report. I think I made my statement very clear about that the other day, that I was in favor of exclusion, but was trying to accomplish it in a way that wouldn't give any unnecessary offense. I am trying to provide for it in the most courteous manner possible. I don't doubt there will be an exclusion bill. What we want to do is to accomplish it in a way that will cause the least possible offense.

May 6, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't had any report except in the most informal way from Secretary Hoover about the preferential rail rates known as Section 28 of the Shipping Bill. I know he thinks there ought to be an extension of time, and that is my opinion. I don't claim that I have made a sufficient study of it, so that I would be prepared to discuss the question. I am relying more on the information given to me in the judgment of those who have studied it.

Are you in favor of an extension even beyond June 20th, Mr. President?

June 20th of the present year? Oh yes. I think it ought to be extended for six months or more. That is my judgment about it. But my judgment is based on the opinion of people who I think have investigated it, though I am in entire harmony with what the Shipping Board is trying to accomplish. They are trying to do what we all want to have done, and that is to secure the transportation of American merchandise in American ships. Unless we can do that we can't maintain our merchant marine, and it won't be worth while to have American ships if we are not going to use them. But the difficulty comes, as I indicated before, that there is a difference of opinion as to whether it could be put into effect and leave out some ports, or whether it has to go into effect as a whole or not at all. There are plenty of American bottoms in some ports to carry merchandise, and at other ports there aren't plenty.

The text of the sodium nitrite opinion won't be made public until I have a chance to act on it, which I think will be very soon. The opinion was to the effect that I have authority to act at the present time.

I don't know that there is very much I can say about the tax situation. My position is pretty well known about that. I was in favor of the administration's bill, and not in favor of compromise. I feel certain that there are very undesirable amendments in the present bill in the Senate. Some of them are I think even more undesirable than the general substitution of what are known as the Simmons rates.

By amendments do you mean the publicity feature?

I don't know just what the features of that are, but I am not in favor of general publicity. There are things of that nature that I think are even more undesirable than the Simmons rates.

Are they so undesirable that you might hesitate about signing it?

Of course I can't tell about that. I am speaking about things in the bill/^{now.} Everybody knows that a bill of that kind comes out of conference very much changed. Sometimes the conference changes it in its entirety. I have indicated at several conferences that I always want to try and make my report on a bill to the Congress. I don't think it is good policy for an executive to go out and say I am going to veto this bill or that bill. I think one of the things that is due to the legislative body is careful consideration of the measures that are passed by the executive to see if it is all right.

I haven't any preference for a Secretary of the National Republican Committee. I haven't given that matter any consideration.

There has been no decision as to who will place me in nomination at the Cleveland Convention.

I haven't given any particular attention to a platform. I know that the National Committee is assembling data and getting information on which the Committee can draw up a platform.

There hasn't been any agreement reported to me on the immigration bill. Of course it needs to be kept in mind that we have exclusion now under the so-called Gentlemen's Agreement, so far as I know, and no one is suggesting that that be changed. That is what I mean when I say there is a general acceptance of the principle of exclusion. What we are trying to do here is not to offend the sensibilities of the Japanese nation. If we enter into any agreement with them we want to maintain the honor of this nation.

I haven't given any additional thought to the advisability of reorganizing the Veterans Bureau on account of the speech of Senator Oddie. I have talked with Senator Oddie, and all I can secure from him is a most general statement that there ought to be a reorganization and that certain positions ought to be vacated. He didn't give me any specific reasons for it, nor was he able to cite them in any particular action of wrongdoing. So far as I can learn other members of the Committee that has investigated the Veterans Bureau didn't agree with Senator Oddie's suggestion. I think General Hines has already removed six men. Whether he thinks others ought to be removed or not I don't know. But you might talk to General Hines. I should judge he didn't think any such condition existed in the Bureau as Senator Oddie's remarks would indicate. There seemed to be a difference of opinion between them. I am not able

offhand to judge which is correct, though Senator Oddie gives no specifications.

Of

Of course I have given constant study to American naval strength. That comes up every time the question of their appropriation comes up, and also every time the question arises as to whether additional ships shall be built. By ships I mean all kinds of craft, both those surface boats and submarines. I don't understand that there is any alarming condition in our navy. Of course the navy consists of units that have a limited period of life that have to be renewed, when there is a change in the methods of building and methods of armament and methods of operation, so that there is a need of changes in construction. X I think that I have recommended or endorsed formally some suggestions to the Congress for the building of some new cruisers and for the laying down of some new submarines, and for the making of a generous appropriation for the carrying on of the navy. It needs constant renewal as I said, and constant rebuilding, but I don't understand that its present condition is any different from the ordinary state. Each year it needs additions and consideration for ships that are to take the place of those that will become obsolete and worn out, and too old for use in a certain number of years. That condition is a going condition of the navy. Attention has been brought pointedly to some things the navy needs. That is pertinent. Of course the navy needs things all the time and those things have to be pointed out in order that they may be remedied. I haven't the slightest doubt that a great mass of information about conditions, showing the great efficiency in other directions of our navy, could be assembled at any time.

May 9, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have another inquiry about the opinion of the Attorney General on the sodium nitrite question. I don't know whether there would be any reason for not publishing that or not. There is a case pending in the courts, I think, relative to it. That would be the only reason that I know of. My inquiry of the Attorney General was simply to find out whether there was any reason why I couldn't issue a proclamation changing the rate of duty on this product while that suit was pending. The opinion was to the effect that there was nothing to prevent my action during the time the suit was pending. Whether the publication of the opinion would do any harm, whether it would be anything that would prejudice the rights of the Tariff Commission while the suit is pending, I don't know. You will have to find that out from them or the Attorney General.

I haven't been consulted about any successor to Mr. Burns. I didn't know he had retired until I saw it in the afternoon paper.

I haven't any comment to make about the announcement of Speaker Gillett's candidacy for the Senatorial nomination in Massachusetts, other than what would occur to everyone, his qualifications and so on.

I haven't been directly consulted about the provisions of the proposal of Senator Lodge for a World Court. He told me one time that he had a plan that he was going to present, but he didn't consult me as to its provisions. Anything that Senator Lodge on account of his long experience in international affairs might suggest, of course, the matter would be given careful consideration. My position on the World Court was expressed in my message to the Congress and again in the address I made at New York before the Associated Press.

I haven't any plan other than that which was outlined in my address before the Associated Press at New York, relative to another conference of the powers for the purpose of disarmament or the consideration of the codification of international law. I don't know whether both of these questions could be considered ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the same conference. The question of disarmament is one that affects certain large powers. The question of international law is one that affects all the nations of the world. I should think from what information I have now that it would not be practical to

call one during the summer. There is a political campaign that will be going on during that time, and I don't know now what the condition in Europe will be. I indicated in my New York address that before there would be much hope of a successful conference it is necessary to have European questions settled, so far as they can be, and a more composed state of mind there than there apparently exists at the present time. There are very hopeful indications that a settlement will be made in Europe, but when, no one can tell. They have had elections in Germany. Elections I think are to be held this month in France. Those elections may have something to do in determining what the attitude of France may be, and after the elections I suppose it will be some time before the coming in of those who are chosen, and naturally ~~there~~ it will take some time after that to arrive at a settlement on the part of the governments concerned. With all those things in mind, I don't see how it could be possible to think that there was a practical hope of success for having a conference during the summer here.

I think I shall be able to announce the appointments of the Americans to sit on the Mexican Commission very soon. .

I don't know of any change in this country's attitude in relation to the allied debts. Our position on this has been stated several times. Nothing has occurred to change my attitude on that question.

I have an invitation to speak at Independence Hall ~~or~~ in Philadelphia, or rather an intimation that I shall receive such an invitation, for next July.4th. I also have an invitation to speak on that day at the gathering of the great convention of school teachers that is to be held in Washington. I can't tell at the present time what my decision may be. I think though that the chances would be more that I should remain here and speak at the teachers convention, than that I should go to Philadelphia. But that is just a suggestion.

May 13, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

The immigration bill hasn't reached me yet so I haven't had a chance to study it. I don't know whether there is anything further that I can do before it reaches me or not. I have still got that under consideration to see if there is anything possible.

I have two or three reports on the bonus bill that I haven't had a chance to study. One of them came in this morning. I shall have to look those over before taking any action on the bill.

I have appointed the American delegates on the Inter-American Electrical Communications Conference to be held in Mexico City. I appointed our Ambassador to Mexico, Mr. Warren, and representative White of Maine, who has been very prominent in getting the resolution through, and the electrical engineer, Allen H. Babcock of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The report that I have of him here says that he has been for many years a close student of electrical communication, a man of national reputation in his field. He is from Buffalo, and graduated from Phillips-Exeter and Lehigh University. He has made a special investigation in hydro-electrical power development. He is a fellow-American of the Institute of Electrical Engineering, an associate member of the Naval Construction Board, a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

I don't know that there is anything I can add to the statement of Mr. Barnes, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. I have been conscious of a slight slowing up of business, which is in part due to the fact that this is a Presidential year I presume, and there is a responsible opinion that it is in part due to the failure to provide tax revision, which it is thought would have been a good deal of a stimulant to business if it had been secured and put into effect before this time.

I have here another inquiry that I hesitate some to comment about, though perhaps I can with the understanding that there is not any undue prominence given to it, or any undue emphasis placed upon it. It is an inquiry about my going to the circus. It is no doubt an experience that all of us look back to with a good deal of pleasure. The first circus I ever went to was in Ludlow, Vt., a railroad station about 14 miles from Plymouth.

May 16, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents

Mr. Otto Kahn came in to see me this morning. He was only here about 8 minutes, just about Cabinet time. The most that we talked about was the business situation in this country, a passing remark, and I think he and I exchanged an expression of hope that the Dawes plan would be found to be a method of adjusting difficulties in Europe. But more particularly I was asking him about business conditions in the United States. I was much gratified to have his opinion that the fundamental conditions are sound. There is no accumulation of products. While orders are not coming in very much for the future, there is a very steady stream of orders coming in for immediate delivery. There was nothing said about any other European affairs, the German loan, or anything of that kind.

The Tariff Commission's report on barium dioxide I think is the one that came in two or three days ago, which I sent over to the Treasury Department, which I do with those reports that come from the Tariff Commission, for their information over there and instruction as to the form of a proclamation, if I should desire to make one.

I haven't any reports from the Senate relative to the stand of that body on the bonus.

I haven't taken any official notice of the decision of Judges Carpenter and Wilkinson relative to what is called here a pardon case.

Was the charge against him contempt of court?

Yes, there had been an injunction issued and it was pending, and it was alleged that he had violated the injunction. The report that came to me was that the only evidence that warranted the finding that there had been a violation of the injunction was that given by one person, who now came in and said he was lying.

I shall undoubtedly make some short remarks at the Arlington National Cemetery on May 25th at the Confederate Memorial Service, and perhaps ^a more extended address on the 30th of May.

I have just sent to the Senate, I think it has reached there by now, so it is perfectly proper to give it out, the nomination for the Chief Justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Judge Martin, who is now sitting on the - who I think is a member of the Customs Court. Mr. Graham, Representative Graham, indicated to me that he would prefer to have me do that way

and I expect to appoint Mr. Graham to take the place of Judge Martin.

I expect to reappoint Director Cooksey of the War Finance Corporation. I don't make that as a promise, however, but that is my present expectation. The only thing I can say in relation to the bonus bill and its effect on tax reduction is that which I said in my message. Of course, it goes without saying that if we increase our expenses, why we decrease to that extent our ability to reduce taxes.

Senator Reed and Secretary Mellon happened to come in together, and I was asking them about pending financial legislation.

There has been no decision about who will put my name before the convention at Cleveland.

I doubt very much if there is any discrepancy in the new immigration bill, that would permit the coming in of any persons other than as designated in the bill. I think perhaps that may arise from ^a ~~the~~ confusion of the terms, the same words perhaps being used in the treaty that is used in the bill, but to which there will be a ~~a~~ different implication in the treaty from that which is in the bill. An immigrant is a person who comes here for settlement. The term is settled. It means one not coming in for the purpose of study or to transact some business and go away. One is permanent and the other is a transient.

May 20, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

The immigration bill is being examined by the Department of Labor and the Department of State, to advise me about its workings. That is about all I can say about it at the present time. While that is going on, of course I haven't determined about any other plan.

I don't know as there is any comment I can make about the enactment of the bonus bill. I gave my opinion of the bill in my message that I sent to the Congress. Of course it will affect tax reduction, some this year and much more in the years to come, because as the national debt is paid off that would give an opportunity to decrease taxation. But with this addition of over \$100,000,000 a year, of course, it will prevent that much tax reduction. I have stated quite a good many times my theory about the relationship of taxation to business. My special desire was to relieve business, and when I say business I mean the whole people of course, and relieve the people of every possible burden of taxation. Of course this doesn't do that; it works in the opposite direction, and to that extent I am fearful of its effect on our economic condition. It takes so much more of the production of the people to pay the taxes. If the production is to be used for taxes, it can't be used for the people themselves. The different Departments are taking immediate steps this morning, they started in yesterday, to carry out the provisions of the Act. The Secretary of War told me they would require about 1,000 additional clerks. Senator Lodge sent me word that Senator Swanson had moved to take up in Committee (Foreign Relations) the message of President Harding relative to the World Court, which I endorsed in my message and have endorsed several times since in speeches, and that he and some of the members of the Committee wanted to confer with me. I have asked them to come in and confer with me this evening. I don't know what phase of it the Senator wants to take up. The question here asks what phase of the World Court will be considered. That I don't know.

Mr. President, will the conference be over here?

No, it will be over in the House.

This being Cabinet morning I couldn't very well have them come here this morning, and I disliked to ask several of the Senators to come away from the Senate Chamber this afternoon, so I set it for this evening, because he wanted to see me before Wednesday morning.

I have told the Secretary of State to accept the resignation of the Ambassador to Japan. There is no particular person under consideration for taking his place. There are several persons that I have in mind.

I haven't any plan to leave Washington for a short rest after the adjournment of Congress. Perhaps if you can find some good place to go, we can go. I assume of course that you would go with me, but I haven't any plan about it now. I thought all along that probably I could get along quite well here in Washington, as good as I could anywhere outside, so I have left it that way.

May 24, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

Good Afternoon :

I expect to pass on the Immigration Bill very soon. It has not yet come back from the Secretary of State and while I don't know what I shall do with it, it goes without saying that I shall sign it if I can. There are a good many things in this Bill. There are many things which are favorable to us and some things which I would have preferred not to have in it. But that is the case with almost every bill of any particular importance.

Secretary Mellon has not communicated his views to me about the pending revenue bill, and won't until the bill is passed and goes to the Treasury, when I shall then be able to find out just what it does and what effect it will have on the revenues. It is necessary to take in enough money to pay running expenses of the Government, if we can,- one of the necessary things to consider in every good system of administration. Whether there are such undesirable features in it as to make it on the whole a bill that ought not to be approved; or whether it has desirable features so that it is really better than the present tax law is a question for decision. If I can find that it is a general improvement on the tax law, then I shall sign it. If I find it is not, why then it would not be wise to sign it.

I have not decided who will nominate me in Cleveland at the Convention.

I do not know enough about the circumstances relating to the Boulder-Kenyon Dam on the Colorado River to give any particular information about it. There is a bill pending before Congress, and there is a report on it before the Power Commission. My recollection is that I thought some of the suggestions which were made by the Power Commission. I am not certain about that. Generally speaking, I believe in private ownership, but I think this is a project for flood control somewhat different than the power project. While that is an element, there is some reason for the action of the Government keeping the flood control under the action of the Government rather than submitting it to be turned over to private enterprise. I believe that something along those line - I should think ought to be done.

I don't know what is being done in detail to assure Germany's annual payment under the Dawes' scheme; but whatever is necessary to protect the United States is being done through the State Department and our representative. I know that something is being done, because I have had it up with the Secretary of State.

I doubt if there is much hope of getting an agreement among the Republicans on the Foreign Relations Committee on the subject of the World Court at this session. They would not need all to be in agreement, I think if they were to get action. There are two, four, six, eight, ten Republicans and one Farmer Labor, and two, four, six, seven Democrats. It won't be necessary for the Republicans all to agree. I have stated my decision on the matter, as you know, in my message to Congress, in several conferences and in one or two addresses I have elaborated my ideas. Secretary Hughes has made elaborate speeches on it. So it has not seemed necessary to make an address on the World Court. My position is favorable to the plan presented by President Harding.

I know the Foreign Relations Committee are working on it. I had a conference the other night with several of them in which they told me of several different plans that were before the Committee, and I told them that I had taken my position and virtually gone to the country on it,-- people had chosen delegates to support me on that assumption, and for no other reason than that of good faith I would not care to change my position from that which I took in my Message.

I don't think the State Department is taking any action in relation to the Immigration Bill with Japan. Nor would it be fair to suppose that Mr. Hughes has made anything like a personal issue of the immigration question. Of course the Secretary and myself are exactly in the same position about that. With my approval and with his approval, both he and I undertook to see if we could secure a satisfactory arrangement when the bill was being passed. We were not able to do this. We worked together on it and will work together on whatever there may be to do further about it. There is no reason for any suggestion that Mr. Hughes would resign, nor is there any reason for the suggestion that Mr. Mellon would resign, if either of them

did not get exactly what they wanted from Congress; and I am not going to resign because I don't get what I want.

I can't tell, of course, whether the Revenue Bill is a practical revenue measure until I get a report from the Treasury Department showing what they expect to raise upon it, and what the expenses of the United States will be when it goes into effect.

I don't think there has been any exchange of correspondence with the Japanese Government on the Immigration Bill other than that which is already known.

The Cabinet meeting today only lasted about fifteen minutes and consisted of my asking the different members if they had anything to lay before the Cabinet, to which they replied they had not.

I have an inquiry about the chlorine gas treatment which I took. According to what they told me down there it affects different individuals in different ways. You sit down in the room where it is. You get a slight affect from it. It affects the eyes of some people. It did not affect mine that way. The first two treatments I felt immediate relief. The third treatment, which I took yesterday, they put in a considerably stronger dose for that treatment. I did not like the immediate results. It made my throat smart. I thought I felt an irritation; but this morning, when I got up I found myself quite free of the cold, and the treatment was practically a complete success. I was not suffering so much from my cold as I was from being tired out. I am working rather hard and get tired out, so I thought I had better go home and rest up, which I advise all of you to do.

May 27, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Nobody has been chosen to nominate me at Cleveland.

I haven't received the report of the Federal Trade Commission on its investigation of the gasoline situation. I don't know whether it is nearly completed or not. I made the request of them some time ago to investigate it.

I haven't any plans about what the Congress ought to do at the present time.

I shall act on the tax bill as soon as I can. I don't think the State Dept. is expecting to take any steps about the immigration bill. That you can find out there. I don't know of any.

Mr. President, along that line would you permit a question as to whether any intimation has arrived from Mr. Hanihara as to his remaining in Washington?

I haven't had any intimation that he is going to retire, so I should judge all the expectation would be that he will remain here. I don't know of any reason why he shouldn't.

I haven't received any invitation to attend the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

I haven't made any decision about the vacancies in the 6th and 7th Circuits of the Court of Appeals.

I can't tell you very much about the tax bill. It is true that I have a copy here, but I shall have to depend upon the experts to point out the changes that it contemplates, and to give me the benefit of their criticism ^{before} ~~for~~ making a decision. I don't think I have received many communications about it either one way or the other.

June 3, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I think it is doubtful whether any appointment of a U. S. Circuit Court judge to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, that is around Michigan and Ohio, will be made right away. They haven't been able to agree on what they want. There have been several good names suggested. In fact, they have so many good men that it is difficult to decide which one of the good men they want to take.

I don't know that I shall have any special message to the Republican National Convention, other than to suggest to them that they make their own choice of Vice President. I think that was the course that Roosevelt adopted in 1904. It seemed to work very well then, and that is the course I am going to adopt in the coming Convention. The delegates will assemble from all over the country. They know what the general feeling of the country is better than I can judge of that, and I very much prefer to have them make the choice of a candidate for Vice President, than to undertake to make one myself.

I haven't any definite plan for a conference by the states on the tax question before the next session of the Congress, that is the tax authorities of the states and the Treasury. Sometime after election and before I prepared my message to the incoming Congress, which will be about the first of December, if the taxing authorities of the states could come together we could get some idea of what their requirements are, in order that we might make an adjustment between what the states^{are to} have in the way of taxation and what the nation is to have. I think that would be especial^{ly} relevant to the provision of the bill that I signed yesterday relative to the inheritance and state taxes.

The Cabinet didn't take up any matters today. There were one or two inquiries of the Secretary of Agriculture about the foot and mouth disease in California, which he thinks is getting under control. Then the general business condition. The Secretary of Labor reports that there is no unemployment to amount to anything. And Mr. Hoover reports that business^{is} in very good shape, though he notices a slight recession.

Senators Watson, Herrald and Stanfield came in to speak to me about the matter that is pending in the Supreme Court relative to the Red River valley. That litigation has been going on there between the State of Oklahoma and the State of Texas. I didn't have a chance to take up the matter very much. I think Senator Stanfield is coming in here again. It was under consideration in the last session of Congress and I thought it might be helpful if I knew more about it.

Mr. President, would it be proper to ask if you care to say anything about an answer to the Japanese note?

I don't know anything about it other than what has already been in the press. Some response I am sure will be made by the State Department, but I think it will be safer probably for you to get the details of that from Mr. Hughes. I have talked with him about it, but understood that there was nothing that would be done for some days.

June 6, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ I have two or three inquiries here about the Vice Presidency. I made a statement about that Tuesday, in which I undertook to announce that I had no candidate, and I adhere to that statement. Any reports contrary to that statement are, as perhaps some of you men know, without foundation. I usually keep my word for at least four days, and I can tell four days before the Convention what I am going to do. A good many very excellent men are mentioned for the Vice Presidency. Many of them are perfectly acceptable to me, but I am not undertaking to approve one above another. Let the convention select the man that after deliberation they think is best equipped to meet the situation. If I was going to pick out a candidate, I should want to go to Cleveland and talk with the various delegations when they come in, and find out what they think the requirements are, and what the sentiment is in the neighborhood in which they reside. In that way, I presume I could make up my mind what would be best. I am not as you understand making the slightest criticism of anybody, nor am I undertaking to promote any candidate. I am sorry that there are any reports that I am picking a candidate, and if there are any more of them they will be without any foundation.

I rather expect to go to the Capitol tomorrow evening to be there to sign bills as they pass. I am not certain whether it is necessary to go up, excepting at the final wind-up of a Congress. There is a difference between the end of a session and the final adjournment of a Congress which would take place on the 4th of March.

I don't know enough about the Red River Appeal bill to pass any particular judgment on it. I thought it was a matter that deserved very careful investigation.

I don't know as I know just how to answer this. It is an inquiry as to whether the approval by the German Government of the Dawes report has facilitated the execution of that report. Of course it has to that extent. What effect that may have on the other Governments, I do not know. I think Germany's approval would probably facilitate its approval by the other interested governments. I can't tell whether it has increased the chances of a German loan in this country. This country I think - I don't mean the Government, but private sources - would make a loan to Germany, as I stated in my address I made in New York before the Associated

Press. I assume they would want enough assurance that it would be a real benefit, not a mere temporary expedient that would last for a short time and then Germany would be in the same difficulty again. They would want to know whether their loan would effect a permanent remedy as far as it could. I had expected that if the Dawes report would be accepted by the Governments that there would be a favorable response from private sources in this country to any suggestion for a loan to carry out the proposals in the Dawes report.

There hasn't been any report of the oil conservation committee, other than a communication that they are about to make a report. The gasoline report of the Federal Trade Commission I have sent to the Attorney General. It is a document about that thick, so that I didn't have an opportunity personally to digest it. If I had, I doubt whether you would want to listen to a disposition of it. I sent it there for whatever action might seem to be appropriate to take care of the rights of the public.

Mr. President, do you feel inclined to tell us anything about the nature of the Federal Trade Commission report? I can't give you any idea about it. As I say, I didn't examine it with any care. There was nothing I could do about it except to submit it to the Attorney General.

Does it make possible cheaper gasoline, Mr. President?

I can't tell that. The idea I had in mind was that complaints had been made that there were conditions existing that tended to make an unreasonably high price to gasoline, so I asked the Federal Trade Commission to make an investigation. They made it and I submitted their report to the Attorney General.

I do not think I have any report from the Attorney General on the proposal to create naval oil reserves on Indian lands. I have had more or less correspondence in relation to that subject, but nothing in the way of a report and nothing that undertakes to deal with the subject as a whole. I am not certain that there is anything that deals specifically with this proposal here.

Mr. President, do you think you are to take a trip on the Mayflower this Sunday? I hope to get away for a little time in the afternoon.

June 10, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I do not recall that any suggestion has been made to me about a marine reciprocity plan, as a part of the tariff policy of the United States.

I haven't had a chance to hear from the Convention at all over the radio. I may get a chance to this afternoon.

I am going to do everything that it is possible to do on the law for putting into effect the bonus act, such as the distribution of the application blanks and similar routine. I had the Director of the Budget in for a conference yesterday morning to see what we could do in that direction, and conferred later with the Assistant Secretary of War. The Director of the Budget will look over the appropriations that are available for any kind of work of that kind and confer with the Comptroller, Mr. McCarl, and we shall work out any practical plan that is possible, not only in relation to the bonus, but in relation to the police and firemen, and other provisions for increases in pay. I don't know just what we can do. We shall do everything we can. And also in relation to the reclamation bill which failed. There was a reclamation bill that was passed earlier in the session relative to assisting those occupants of the different reclamation projects by giving them an extension of time. It wasn't quite so broad and full as the provisions in the bill that was drawn as a result of the Fact Finding Commission, but I think it is broad enough to provide a fairly remedy for those who are in such straightened circumstances that they are unable to meet ~~enr~~ their payments. I have directed the Secretary of the Interior to furnish every possible assistance that he can under that law that was signed earlier in the session. That was passed in accordance with the recommendation in my message.

Mr. President, who is taking up with General Lord the matter of the firemen, etc., I mean the District representative. That is being done by General Lord. I don't know that any District representatives could tell you about that. We have all the information at hand.

I can't give any further statement about the Japanese exclusion clause, other than that I made at the time I signed the bill.

I don't know that I have any message to communicate to the Cleveland Convention, or any convention plans, other than what I have already mentioned.

I don't expect that there is going to be any necessity for an extra session of Congress, on account of the reasons that I have already given, - the attempt that we are making to work out the problems that have come as a result of the failure of the deficiency bill. The result of the failure of the naval construction bill is more technical than anything else. The bill has passed both houses, and it is perfectly apparent I think that it will pass the Senate, and probably will pass immediately on the reconvening of the Senate. So that so far as any action that I might contemplate, I can consider the bill virtually as passed. I don't know that that would make any difference about the suggestion that I have made about a future conference in relation to armaments, either one way or the other. The much more necessary thing in that respect would be the settlement of European complications, and an adjustment of the reparations, so that they might feel that they had reached, insofar as they could, a state of stable conditions in Europe, know what they can depend on, and for that reason would be the more willing to contemplate the peaceful projects which we might suggest at a conference, than to continue to go forward as they have been doing since the armistice with constant military preparations.

Mr. President, anything in the Cabinet?

No. We didn't do anything. There was no one present but Secretary Hughes and Secretary Hoover.

June 13, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

notification.

I haven't any plans about my ~~acceptance~~. I have assumed that it would take place here at the White House, and I don't know anything about what the date will be. My recollection is that four years ago it was about the 20th of July. I should think it would be in that vicinity.

I cannot make any comment about the platform or the nominee for Vice President, other than to say that both of them are most satisfactory to me, and I am very much pleased.

I haven't made any plans yet for a summer vacation. As I have indicated before, I will do the best I can to arrange one for you.

This other question is about notification, to which I have already referred.

Mr. President, anything in the Cabinet this morning?

Yes, Secretary Hughes was there, and Secretaries Hoover and Wallace, and the Attorney General. But there was no business.

Mr. President, on behalf of the boys here, I would like to congratulate you on your splendid work.

Thank you.

June 17, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Glad to see you all back at this end of the Avenue. I expect that General Dawes will be down to make me a visit within a week or ten days. I had a telegram from him and an indirect communication with him inquiring if he could come down, and I have sent him word to come whenever his plans are convenient. I understood he would be down very shortly.

Mr. President, will he be your guest at the White House?

Yes, I invited him and Mrs. Dawes to make us a visit, and I told him I presumed the newspaper men would like to get some pictures.

+ I haven't any plans about going out of Washington during the summer. The weather gets rather hot here in July and August, and personally I don't like the hot weather so well as I like the cool weather we have been having during the last six weeks. It may be that we can find a chance to go away for a short time, though of course I have the privilege of going out on the water in the Mayflower, which gives me a great deal of relief, but doesn't relieve the newspaper men so much. I haven't, as I say, any plan about it. We will have to see what develops and what the season brings forth.

+ Nor have I any specific plans about taking part in the campaign in the way of making speeches. I suppose I would make about the usual number that a President in office makes. There will be the speech of acceptance, and probably some speeches besides that, but very few. There may be some special occasion when I shall go somewhere to make an address, perhaps not entirely political, on some public occasion or other. + I am expecting to speak to the teachers' gathering that is having a convention in Washington, and I expect to address them on the 4th day of July. There will be the usual business session of the Government departments held the latter part of June, the last week or perhaps the 30th - I think General Lord has set a specific date. I am not certain whether it has been given out. Of course, I shall address that gathering as usual. There will be various occasions of that kind, and as you have already noticed in the newspapers, there will be the usual Advisory Committee for the Chairman of the National Committee, but I do not want to have that misinterpreted. Of course, the conduct of the campaign will be where it always is, and where the rules of the National Committee provide it shall be, under the direction of the Chairman

of the National Committee and in the hands of the National Committee and the various state and local committees. I think the rules provide that the Chairman may appoint other committees in addition to the executive committee, and it has always been customary, I think, to pick different men of ability and experience in political affairs to act as an advisory committee. That will be done this year the same as it is usually done, and it has no different significance from that which it always has had. I indicated to Mr. Slomp some weeks ago that I wanted him to act on that Committee, so I could confer with him constantly because of his long experience in such affairs. He has been in the headquarters two or three times during national campaigns, and will be very helpful to me. He as you know has gone to Cincinnati on account of an operation that his cousin, or business partner has to undergo today, and as soon as he recovers he will be back here as usual. I haven't any plan about the duties of the Advisory Committee; they will be the same as they always have been. Its members take part in the campaign from time to time as advisors to the Chairman of the National Committee. I may desire to suggest to him different people that can help, after he and I make up our minds after conference with each other that such action would be helpful.

No time has been set for the notification ceremonies, and I think we better consider that they will be held here in Washington, until there is some further information. If my residence were away somewhere, quite naturally they would be held there. But I haven't any plan of that kind. Where there has been some residence, notification has been there, but where there has been none, it has been here at the White House. Whether this will be here in the White House, or the White House grounds, or in some assembly hall here in Washington, I do not know. No plan has yet been made about it.

I have just had a conference with the Secretary of the Treasury relative to the appointment of the new tax law Appeals Board, and just as soon as the personnel of that body can be made up the appointments will be made. They will really conduct proceedings as they are conducted in court proceedings, and will sit as judges. I think the law provides that they be ~~be~~ public. I suppose evidence will be presented as evidence usually is presented to a court. For that reason, and on account of the oftentimes large sums involved, it will probably be necessary to have men of legal ability and experience that can take these very important

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positions. The pay is not large, \$7500 I believe, and you can't go out and pick twenty-eight men who will serve in a position of that kind, without careful investigation. That takes time, but it is proceeding and I think we can get a decision soon. The policy will be to take some men from the Department, but also we realize that it is helpful to a Department and helpful to the administration of the Government generally to bring in fresh blood, if I may so speak of it, from the country, who have not only the point of view of the Department, but who have the point of view of the public towards the Department, and get action from them that will better insure the administration of their duties, and that will be in accordance with public desires, as well as that that develops in the Department.

The work on the Tacna and Arica question between Peru and Chile is going on. It is being done under the immediate direction of the Secretary of State. I don't know just how much longer it will take. I had expected that we would get a decision by the middle of the summer.

I haven't heard anything about the desire of Ambassador Warren to retire, other than that which I saw in the paper yesterday morning. Mr. Hughes was speaking of it yesterday, and said he had received no information about it. You know that when Mr. Warren took that position he took it at a good deal of self-sacrifice, and with the understanding that he wouldn't be able, probably, to stay in the position for a long time, but that when he had finished some preliminary work and after getting into running order, or working order, the arrangement that was made in the treaty which he had negotiated relative to the claims, that he then was to have the privilege of retiring.

I think that covers everything.

June 20, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know of anything that the Department of Justice is doing relative to the I. W. W. on the Pacific Coast. If anything is being done out there, I suppose it is being done by the District Attorneys and local authorities. The matter has not come to my attention.

I haven't heard from General Dawes as to the time when he will come to Washington. The only suggestion I have about that is the one that I made the other day at the conference. I indicated to him that he should come down at his convenience.

I haven't had any report from either of the Committees that I appointed relative to the Shipping Board program. One was for the purpose of advising about keeping up the fleet, and the other coordinating railroad transportation and shipping transportation. I think some member of the Board told me within a day or two that they were at a point where they were considering a preliminary report. Just what that meant, I do not know.

+ I received a letter from Representative Britton. Sometimes when a letter is published, half the time before I get it, it answers itself. I shall look into the suggestions that Representative Britton made. I don't expect to find anything. I think that the Naval Selection Board is rather higher at this time than usual. That seems to cover the inquiries.

Cabinet meeting, Mr. President?

Yes, we had a Cabinet meeting, but nothing of importance developed.

June 24, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men

I haven't had any report for two or three days from the Treasury Department about the members of the Tax Appeal Board. You know that they are working on the list of men which will be appointed just as soon as they can determine what appointments ought to be made.

No date has been selected for my notification, and I haven't any plans for speaking engagements. I think Mr. Dawes is coming down the latter part of this week or the first of next.. I am not exactly certain.

+ I don't think any invitations have been received to participate in the allied conference on reparations, though I notice some suggestions in the press about it. I suppose that the attitude of our Government would be the same about that as it has been constantly about European affairs of that nature. We wouldn't want to take a part in their political discussions over there, and on the other hand we want to do everything we possible can to assist in any way we can without getting into their political difficulties. Their political difficulties they can determine and decide themselves. Such assistance as we can give we ~~will~~ are of course willing and anxious to give.

Mr. President, do you think we are likely to be represented by an unofficial observer?

I don't think there will be any representation by our Government. It is very likely that what we should do would be to keep someone there who would keep us informed of what course affairs were taking. Of course it is recognized always that we have some interest in Europe direct and indirect about which we need to have information in order to protect our Government and protect our citizens. I shouldn't suppose that General Dawes would attend the conference on account of his participation in the campaign. Secretary Hughes would not reach London anyway until after July 16th, and as our Government would not be a participant in it, I do not think he would attend a conference of that kind even if he were there.

I haven't any plan for a conference with members of the Shipping Board. I have talked to the Chairman once or twice things, but no particular problem in the Shipping Board, and am conferring with him and with other departments relative to their plans for keeping within the appropriation that has been made for the

coming year. I expect to talk with Mr. O'Connor further about that. They are working out their plan to keep within the appropriations just made, which runs from the first of next July to the 30th of June, 1925.

Now, I think I have made it plain about the conference. We have had no invitation, and while I don't like to anticipate very much about what we could do if an invitation came, my idea would be that we would go on in the same way we have been going on, without undertaking to interfere in their political activities over there, and while refraining from that, doing anything that we can that would be helpful to the situation. I suppose everyone knows that we are hopeful that the Dawes plan will be accepted and put into operation. While we want to be helpful, we don't want to interfere.

June 27, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't think the Government of Uruguay has requested the United States to act as arbitrator on a boundry matter. This is the first intimation I have had of anything like that. It may be that you have a report that you know the contrary is true. It hasn't come to my attention, if it has been done, and Mr. Philip, the United States Minister to Uruguay was in to see me this morning. But his call was of the most informal character. He merely came in to pay his respects. We talked about general things there, but nothing was said about any boundry dispute.

Mr. President, may I suggest that Peru and Equador were to sign a protocal --

That is another thing. I haven't heard about that either.

I don't think the London conference was mentioned between the French Ambassador and me. I think very likely I expressed the hope that a method of settlement would be found for Europe, and am quite satisfied that we didn't say anything about the London Conference. Certainly if we did it was in such an incidental way that it didn't impress itself upon me. He is starting on his annual trip to France and merely came in to say good-by.

Here is a suggestion that Peru and Ecquador have signed a protocol which provides for the arbitration of a boundry question by the President of the United States. That hadn't come to my attention before. I imagine it would be, very likely, like the Tacna and Arica boundry dispute which we are attempting to arbitrate. There very likely might be a treaty about the same way, but this is the first intimation that I have about it, so I can't give you any additional light on it.