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CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME III
July 1, 1924 - December 30, 1924

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NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

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VOLUME III

July 1, 1924 - December 30, 1924

July 1, 1924.

Remarks to the Newspaper Men by the President.

The date of notification hasn't been decided. I imagine that it will be probably by the week beginning July 21st, sometime during that week. Of course there wouldn't be any joint notification. One committee was directed by the convention to notify the nominee for President and another committee to notify the nominee for Vice President. Whether the Chairman notifies the President and the Temporary Chairman notifies the Vice President, I don't know, though I believe that Rep. Burton is going abroad, so that it is doubtful if he will be able to return in time to participate in the notification of General Dawes. But they will be separate of course.

Now, that conference which is mentioned here, between the General, Mr. Butler and myself, is something about which really I have no knowledge. I have gotten my information about it from the newspapers. Perhaps you are better informed about that than I am. I am not certain that Mr. Butler is to be in town. Is he in town? Yes. I don't know that any preliminary plans of the campaign are going to be discussed with Mr. Butler. Very likely General Dawes and he and I will sit down to see what each of us know, and make suggestions about the proper conduct of each other, though I haven't any plan of campaign at the present time, other than to go on with my work here very much as I have been doing.

I don't think that Ambassador Jusserand mentioned the matter of the Russian Government. He was in the other day, as I explained, on merely a formal matter, as Ambassadors do when they are returning to their own country. Merely a formal visit of departure. I am sure that nothing was said about Russia. The matter might have been mentioned in the most casual way, but I don't think a word was said about it. There is no change that I know of in the attitude of the American Government about our relations with Russia. I set out my position in that respect in my message to the Congress, delivered last December. There was a note sent some time after that by Secretary Hughes, in response to some inquiry that came here from the Russian Government, which was a little different in tone from what I said in my message, but analyzed I think was the same in substance. I know of no change.

In my message to the Congress I expressed the hope that conditions would come about under which the Russian people would take their place again with the nations of the earth. I have a great desire to be of every possible assistance to them. I have had no communication that I recall with any one about Russia, or any occasion to take any different position than that which I have expressed.

+ Anything in the Cabinet meeting, Mr. President?

No, except that Secretary Wallace reported that for six days there had been no fresh outbreak of the foot and mouth disease in California.

July 18, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I sent a telegram yesterday, I think, to Governor Richardson of California, inquiring whether I could give him any assistance in dealing with the forest fire difficulties. I got a telegram back that the state and federal authorities were cooperating and helping each other, and I also took the matter up with the Secretary of War, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Interior. The Secretary of War said he had already sent a telegram to the General, I think it is Morton, in command of that section, asking whether any request had been made of him to render assistance, and the reply came back that no request had been made. I had the Secretary of War telegraph today to the General, telling him to get in touch with the Governor of California and see if there is any assistance that we can render him. My press reports would indicate that there has been a considerable fall of rain out there, which probably has been helpful in putting out the fire.

I haven't had any information about the difficulties in Brazil, other than what I have seen in the press. No information has come to me from the State Department or any other source.

There hasn't been any request for federal aid, other than that reply which came from Governor Richardson, and that was only a statement that the federal authorities were already cooperating.

I haven't any information other than what I have seen in the press of a report that the post of Reparations Agent General had been offered to Owen D. Young. I don't know whether it would be proper for me to make any comment on that in advance. I suppose it would. This appointment is made entirely by the European authorities. It isn't an appointment that has anything to do with directing the Government of the United States. It is as though they wanted an engineer, or that they wanted a high class surgeon, or a man that understands , or something of that kind, and decided that they had found the man with the right kind of equipment in America. They asked him to come and serve, undoubtedly, in this case. No one would accept an appointment of that kind without inquiring if such action would embarrass the United States Government, or whether it would be satisfactory to them. I do not know of any reason now why Mr. Young wouldn't be entirely satisfactory to our Government, and I don't see any reason why we shouldn't

be very much pleased if he is willing to accept such a position, if it were offered to him. I think I have seen the statement from him that no such post had been offered and didn't know it was going to be. So I can't make any direct statement about it. I suppose it would go without saying that he served over there in the capacity of an expert acceptably in a way that was very satisfactory to our Government, and that we would have every confidence in him to meet any kind of situation that he might undertake.

I don't know for certain when Mr. Butler will come to Washington. The fact is that I haven't given a great deal of attention to political matters. I understood he was coming Wednesday, but I think he found later it was necessary to stay in New York to arrange for the headquarters there. It is my understanding that he expects to come down here the first of the week, and to come here before going to Chicago. Perhaps he will come here Monday morning.

+ I haven't started any special work on my address of notification. I have gotten now just to the point where someone asked the man who had a reputation as a speaker how long it took him to prepare his speech, and he said he had been working on the speech all his life. Of course I am in that sense working on my notification address all the time, in that I am undertaking to familiarize myself with the current needs of the Government of the United States and undertaking to determine what action is necessary to solve the problems of government. I haven't any particular plan at the present time as to my notification address, as to just what line it will take, or what reference it might have to party platforms and policies, and the general situation as I might understand it to be.

+ Mr. President will you take occasion to reply to the statement made by Mr. Davis, his address of acceptance?

+ Of course, I don't know about that. A great many times if / you let a situation alone it takes care of itself. I mean that if I let this situation alone somebody may take care of it better than I can.

+ I haven't formed any general conclusion about the political situation in the different states. As I say, I haven't given any particular

attention to it. I suppose everyone knows that I have discounted the stories that come to me, but after discounting them, usually all I can say is that the situation appears to me to be hopeful.

I haven't had any requests about forest fires from any western states. I have explained the steps that I have taken, and I have explained about the reply that came from there. I got a reply at once from the Governor of California.

I haven't received any recent reports about the results of the activities of those who had charge of the \$10,000,000 syndicate for financing conditions in the Northwest. The latest that came to me indicated that their work had been helpful, and I had a conference with the man that has charge of that. I ought to know his name very well - the same name as our housekeeper.

What's her name?

He happens to be her brother-in-law.

What's her name?

I can't speak his name now, though he was here a few minutes ago.

I don't think I can give any definition of the words "reactionary" and "progressive" that would be helpful. That reminds me a little of the old definition of "orthodoxy" and "heterodoxy". I think they used to say that "authorodoxy" was "my doxy" and "heterodoxy" was "your doxy". Sometimes the person is not well thought of and he is labeled as a reactionary. Sometimes if he is well thought of he is called a progressive. As a matter of fact all the political parties are progressive. I can't conceive of a party existing for any length of time that wasn't progressive, or of leadership being effective that wasn't progressive.

I haven't had any expressions from any one relative to the change of rate of duty on imported sugar, other than perhaps the most casual inquiry about it. It hasn't come up to me yet, and when it does come it will be referred to the proper commission for anything that the interested parties may wish to say about it.

I don't know enough about the progress of the London Conference to express any opinion on it. really satisfactory to myself, for you and your readers. I haven't any information on it other than what I have seen in the press. I judge that that is entirely accurate, and I don't say that in any way of depreciation. Of course you know and I know that it is difficult to get foreign news in the press that you can always rely on, but I think the reports that have come relative to the London Conference have every appearance of being authoritative and especially reliable, and judging from that I think it is making satisfactory progress, though judging from the personnel of the conference and what I know of its objects and its plans, I felt quite sure that that would be the result. And also judging from the rather optimistic note that Ambassador Kellogg sounded just before the Conference met, we might expect a great deal from it. He is a cautious man, and doesn't make statements unless he has a pretty secure foundation on which to base them.

I haven't noticed anything about the Geneva reports about plans for a Disarmament Conference, and I wouldn't place ~~so~~ quite so much reliance on it as I would on the reports about the London Conference, and until I get some authoritative statement about that, I don't think I would be able to pay much attention to it. It might have been an indication that they were desirous of joining with us, or it might have been an indication that they were to have a conference alone. I think the report indicates a desire on the part of a great nation to do what it can to secure further disarmament. I think it is very encouraging and likely to be very helpful.

July 22, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry as to whether I have tentatively accepted an invitation to speak at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, on Labor Day. That brings to my attention a matter that perhaps I ought to make a somewhat specific statement about. I suppose every public man is invited to to a great many places. I always go when I can. Naturally since I have been President I haven't been able to respond very much. I have only one engagement to speak, outside of my speech of acceptance, and I think that engagement is a little more than tentative. That is at the dedication of this monument down here, the 1st Division I think. I believe it comes about the first week in October. Now, I would like it very much if the press would be as careful as it can be about reporting that I am going to this place or that place to speak. Oftentimes it happens that someone comes in, and I tell him that I would like to go to your place, I don't suppose I can, but I would like to, and if you will write to me later why then I can give you a specific answer. Take it up with me later. But it is quite embarrassing, of course, for the people that are trying to manage a meeting, and it is quite embarrassing for me to have it reported that I am going somewhere to speak, when there is probably no chance that I would have an opportunity to go there. So I think we better make it a rule that the press is to understand that there isn't any engagement on my part, either tentative or otherwise, to speak anywhere, unless you get a specific statement from me here about it, or from the office. If you will keep that in mind during the course of the campaign, it will save me from embarrassment, and save the press from embarrassment. Of course, they don't like to report that I am going somewhere, and have it develop later that I am not going. There is a tendency on the part of people that are trying to get up gatherings and meetings to speak in a hopeful vein. But I think it would be a protection to all of us to keep in mind, as a rule, that you are not to consider that I am going anywhere to speak unless you get an authoritative statement about it here in the office.

Mr. President, we are not to infer that you are going to make only the two speeches during campaign time that you have mentioned?

Well, you are to infer today that I have only two engagements to speak. Of course, I am saying that hereafter you will draw your inference from making

inquiry at the office and finding out whether I have engagements to speak. It will naturally be given out as soon as I make an engagement, and it will be authoritative and you won't be embarrassed, nor will I. I was giving you now the two positive engagements that I have; of course the speech of acceptance and the speech at the dedication of this monument. Now, I think this speech at Fort Hamilton, is that the one that had to do with the American Legion?

Some labor meeting, Mr. President.

It is Labor Day, I know. I have had a good many invitations to speak at different gatherings of some of the soldier organizations, the Legion, and so on, but as I am speaking here at the dedication of that monument I think that will be about the only one I would have time to speak at during the campaign.

Here is an inquiry about General Butler at Philadelphia. I haven't the slightest information about that. Nobody has spoken to me about it, and I don't know that there is any occasion to. My understanding is that Gen. Butler was given leave of absence for a year, with the contemplation that if he wanted further leave of absence he probably could secure it. But it hadn't been promised. Nobody from Pennsylvania - Senator Pepper didn't mention it. He merely dropped in to pay his respects. And I haven't seen the Mayor of Philadelphia, and nobody from Pennsylvania has mentioned the matter. That would be quite natural, because the consent for his absence has been given. That is all the Federal authorities can do. Whether the authorities in Pennsylvania want to continue his services, is for them to decide. It isn't a matter over which we have any jurisdiction here.

I don't think there is anything that I can add to what Secretary Hughes said at the Pilgrims' dinner. That was a statement of the policy of our country, and which, of course, the Secretary and I had discussed before he went abroad, and has been the general policy that I have tried to announce when I have made any reference to it, and which I think has been constantly carried on for the past year and prior to that as to our wishes in relation to the European situation. I read the press report of his address in the morning paper, and it seems to be a correct statement of ~~of~~ what the American attitude is.

There were no particular campaign decisions arrived at when I conferred with Mr. Butler yesterday. He had dinner with me and told me of some of the progress that he thought he was making. I have already spoken about a tentative list of speaking engagements. Of course I shall make speeches during the campaign, but when

or where has not been decided yet.

Mr. President, you mean other than over the radio?

Yes. That has not been decided. There is one little radio talk that I think I am to give Friday night of this week to the Boy Scouts - I think to a troop or something of that kind of Boy Scouts that are going to go abroad. They are having a dinner in New York, I think, a preparatory or send-off dinner, Friday night, and I have been asked to speak over the radio at that time for the special benefit of those sixty Boy Scouts, and for the general benefit of the Boy Scouts over the country.

I don't think that I conferred with Attorney General Stone and Secretary Work about any land case last week. They happened to be in here together. I do not think there was anything in connection with their two Departments.

A good many of these questions refer to the address of Secretary Hughes and my conference with Mr. Butler, which I have already covered.

Would you say anything about the Cabinet meeting, Mr. President?

There wasn't anything that came up in the Cabinet meeting of importance.

Mr. President, can you be any more specific about those speeches you mentioned?

I can't be any more specific about that. I mean the formal addresses. There may be radio speeches and things of that kind, probably more than a dozen.

There won't be anything like a tour?

I haven't anything like that in contemplation.

July 25, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have rather expected to reappoint Governor Cooper as a member of the Federal Farm Loan Board, though I always make those statements with the reservation that I don't promise to make any appointment until I make it. But I think Governor Cooper is a very efficient man. My natural reaction is that when I find a man in office, to keep him there. The experience that he has had will enable him to perform the duties of the office better than could be secured by making a change. This question rather embarrasses me a little. I don't know whether to speak of it. That is, the practice that I understand prevails that when a President in office is not reelected usually the opposite party refuses to let any of his appointment people remain. That makes me hesitate a little about reappointing members of the opposite party before I find out what is going to happen to members of my own party. I should like to be certain that I could secure a little reciprocity before committing myself.

I don't know anything other than what has appeared in the newspapers about the \$26,000,000 grain merger. I think one or two people have spoken to me about it, but in a rather informal way, and I know nothing of the details of it other than I understood there was to be a consolidation of present elevator companies and present grain companies. The Armour Company, I think is one of them, and some others. I can't give the names. It was understood that the men who are experienced in managing these present companies would continue with the grain concerns to manage them. I don't think anything in the way of approval or disapproval has been expressed by the administration. My reaction is to hope that it may prove a matter of lessened expense in marketing grain, and in that way prove beneficial to the farmers and the consumers. I don't know enough about the particulars of it to express any judgment as to the details of it, or whether it will work out or not. I assume that it can be counted upon for sound financing, because of the character of the men that are going into it.

I didn't have any conference today with Attorney General Stone on any particular matters. I think he dropped in here after the Cabinet meeting, as also others did, on some matters of trifling importance.

I haven't progressed far enough with my acceptance address to be able to tell how long it will be, or when it will be completed. I want to try to get it out to the press as early as I can, in order that you may be able to give it a wide circulation without having to resort very much to the telegraph wire - mailed and distributed.

+ I don't know as I can throw any new or fresh light on the effect or general reaction to the increases in prices of wheat and corn. I think it has been recognized that the prices of farm products for the past year or two has been below the price level of manufactured products. I think there has been a general recognition of the fact that it is desirable to have those price levels substantially the same. Sometimes one is higher than the other. I think in years gone by there has been a tendency of farm products to be somewhat higher than the level of manufactured products. That was so before the war, and I don't know what the relationship was before that, but for the last two or three years it has been the other way and farm products have been lower, although now there is a gradual coming together in the prices of farm and manufactured products. I think it would be better for the whole country if there was a substantial similarity in those prices, so that the purchasing price of what they call the farm dollar will be substantially the same as the purchasing price of the dollar that comes from industry. I know, of course, that there has been difficulty in meeting obligations in the agricultural section and some diminution in the buying power there. This I judge will give the agricultural sections a chance to ~~pay off some~~ liquidate their obligations, and the farmer a chance to pay off some of his debts, and will increase his buying power, and the general result of that ought to be better business conditions throughout the nation.

I might say that I hold the same optimistic views about the London Conference that I had a week ago. My judgment about that is based upon the belief that there is almost an absolute necessity for the different nations that are having the conference to reach some kind of an agreement. While I appreciate the difficulties over there, and know that the difficulties are very great, I think the necessity is so much greater that there will undoubtedly be mutual concessions

that will bring about an agreement. I am not enough in touch with the details of the situation to give you any judgment about whether the demands of the bankers for securities are fair or not. My own judgment about that is that which was expressed in the address of Secretary Hughes, that there ought to be sufficient security. Just what the differences are in relation to that I haven't enough information to pass any judgment on it.

I had understood that Germany had consented to put into effect the Dawes plan, and all I know about the proposal for the German authorities to join in the London Conference is the suggestion I saw in the morning paper, or the afternoon paper and repeated in the morning paper, that Secretary Hughes had been instrumental and helpful in securing it. I think the plan that I understood was contemplated was to invite the German authorities to the London Conference. Whether the expectation was that they were to come there for the purpose of discussion or not, I don't know. I judged from appearances that the plan was first to agree on some method of operation and invite the German representatives there, that the plan might be presented to them.

Senator Pepper didn't have anything special except to talk about the general situation, and what could be done to advance the welfare of the Republican party.

July 29, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ I don't know as I could add anything to the sum of human knowledge by discussing my first year in the White House, and I don't know as I would be a very good judge of what would be considered as the outstanding feature. There are so many things that might be said about it, so many different ways of looking at it. I don't know what you would call the outstanding feature. I suppose it is my nomination for the Presidency, if you want to talk about political matters, and considering what the question refers to. Whether my work here has made any difference in the sentiment of the country would be something about which you could judge better than I, as you were more in touch with it before I came here.

There wasn't anything said in the Cabinet meeting about the place to which the men who are flying around the world should finish their flight. They started from some place in California. I have received some suggestion that they might finish in Seattle. But that is a matter that is under the direction of the War Department, and I suppose they know what would probably contribute most to the object that they are seeking. As a matter of course, I am sure that whether it is one state or another, one city or another, the flight would please all of them. This is a matter undertaken to demonstrate certain things, and it would be natural for the Department to choose the place that would make the largest contribution to the end sought. I don't know where they are proposing to have the flight end.

+ I haven't anything further to say about the Defense Day, or Inspection Day, as I thought it might be called, other than what I tried to make plain in my letter the other day. I did that as well as I could. But perhaps I took up a little too much space in discussing it. I think every important element that occurred to me was set out there. + I couldn't make any statement about the new Ambassador to Mexico, of course, until several necessary things have taken place. First, the person would have to be picked out. It is necessary, as you know, to make inquiries of the Senators from the state where that person might live, or lived, in a state represented by Republican Senators, and the person himself would have to be consulted to see if he is willing to accept the position, And lastly,

the important thing, the custom requires that we should inquire of the country where it is proposed to send a representative whether the person we have in mind will be acceptable. It oftentimes happens that a man of highest integrity, character, and reputation in this country, might for some particular reason not be acceptable to another country. Naturally, if we should begin to make announcements that someone has been selected, and we hadn't first made inquiry of the country, it might result in considerable embarrassment, so that we can't give out suggestions about positions in the foreign countries until all of those inquiries have been made and determined.

+ I haven't any plan about what I shall do after the notification exercises - for the period after that. I shall have to wait and see what develops. I shall watch with my usual interest to see what you do after that. On that I may base my subsequent determination of what it is necessary for me to do. However, I don't look on that with any apprehension, and I shall hope very much to thank you. I hope that I am not remiss, however, in feeling appreciation for those who have been solicitous for my welfare, and who have exhibited kindness toward me. This brings to my attention the great kindness that I had from those who perform the White House Press Association duties, and their associates. Perhaps this is a good time to express the appreciation that I feel for the great kindness you have always exhibited towards me.

August 1, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't think I can give you any information about the Republican position on the tariff, that is not contained in the Republican platform and in my message to Congress. I stated my position in my message, and the position of the party, which I think is entirely harmonious is in the platform.

I can't make any further statement about Commissioner Lewis that that which I made the other day.

Here is an inquiry about Mr. Jackson, Commissioner of Markets, from Georgia. I do not recall that I ever heard of him.

I don't know that any changes are contemplated, other changes, in the Tariff Commission; nor have I heard that Mr. Culbertson is to retire. He is not under consideration for the appointment to Mexico.

The Tariff Commission has made a report on the sugar schedule. It is a very long report and I haven't had a chance to examine it. Judging from the size of it, I should think it will take some time for me to digest it, and I can't tell when it will be possible for me to make a decision. About the other reports that have come to me about a disagreement in the Commission. I had understood that there was a division of opinion in relation to this report. If that is the case it would complicate the difficulties for me. I hadn't thought of referring it to any other department, but I don't know but that is a good suggestion. I always refer these reports to the Treasury Department, of course, before drawing and signing an order, in relation to a change in a schedule, to see that it is correct. I may have to call in the assistance of some other department in relation to the report of the Commission. That is something that hadn't occurred to me until it was suggested by this inquiry. I haven't read the statement of Senator La Follette.

Mr. Hodges never has conferred with me. I don't think I ever saw him but once, and that was almost a year ago. My recollection is that he was in the city and called to pay his respects soon after I became President.

I don't recall that Senator Smoot has had any particular conversation with me about the sugar schedules. He may have mentioned it incidentally some time. About that, I don't recall. As I haven't read the report of the Commission, I can't give any information about it. I am not going to publish it at the present time.

+
26 In relation to the diplomatic intercourse with the Irish Free State,
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the State Department advised me some time ago that they had had an inquiry as to whether we would receive a Minister, I think it was, a diplomatic representative, of the Irish Free State, and of course we replied that we would. That is all that has ever been done about the matter. That would leave the situation so that it would be proper at any time for the Irish Free State to submit a name to us, asking if such a person would be acceptable. That has never been done, so we haven't pursued the matter any further.

Mr. Warren has not tendered a specific resignation as Ambassador to Mexico. I think I understood and he understood, as a result of his talks with me here, and communications that have been passed between him and the State Department, that he is to retire at the present time, and I suppose the matter of tendering his formal resignation is just a matter of form. He is going to write it out and hand it to me. I know that is what he expects to do.

+ I don't know when I shall be able to complete my notification address. I am working away at it. You gentlemen who write even more than I do know that when you are not obliged to get a copy ready for a certain edition, in writing a casual piece it is very hard to tell when it will be done. I want to get it done early to give you every possible advantage in its distribution.

I have quite a lot of inquiries here about the sugar schedule. I think I have covered all of those already.

+ I judge from such reports as have come to me from the State Department and from what I have seen in the press today that the conference at London is making satisfactory progress. They have difficult problems to solve, and I have thought that it wouldn't be strange if it took some time to work out a solution and agree on a process of action. There are so many ~~unexistent~~ Governments and so many questions that, from the reports I have, I feel very much encouraged that they are going soon to secure a favorable outcome.

Aug. 5, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

+ I can't tell yet when my speech of acceptance will be completed. I am thinking of things I ought to put in and looking at what I have got, and realizing it is too long and ought to be cut down. It makes a rather difficult problem to solve. I suppose everyone realizes that we can't think of all the things in the United States in one address, so that I shall have to touch on a few important questions.

I don't know as I can say much about the condition of business or the crops. That report will be out in two or three days, which will undoubtedly reveal the condition. General business conditions seem to be improving. There seems to be evidence of a resumption of business.

Mr. President, you said in relation to your address you would touch on a few questions. Would you care to enumerate?

Very naturally I don't care to tell what my speech of acceptance will be. I don't know yet. All these things are coming in, and I may have to drop out some and put in others.

+ The allied conference seems to have reached a conclusion - an agreement. Of course that is exceedingly satisfactory. It seems to indicate that they have at last been able to adopt a plan of settlement in the European situation, which is very pleasing to me, and I think pleasing to everyone in this country. I don't know whether that is likely to make any difference in our ^{tariff} ~~foreign~~ policy. I don't know that it would be different from what is generally understood.

+ I can't give you any information about the particulars of the conduct of the campaign, establishing headquarters in Minneapolis or any other place. Of course that is entirely in the hands of the National Committee and their advisers. I don't know what their plans are about it.

I think some telegrams or letters have come from the sugar beet industry and farming interests, but I haven't had a chance to take that up yet, and so I don't know much about it.

Here is another pertinent question that I should have referred to in relation to the developments at London. I should judge that the probable effects there would be exceedingly good on American business conditions. I should expect that it would stimulate business, I don't mean export business, but a general feeling that at last we are reaching a stage where we can see stable conditions in Europe, and that would mean a stabilizing of conditions here, and a minimizing of the present uncertainty, so that people would feel that they could go ahead with their business enterprises.

I haven't had any suggestion lately about a conference of Governors, coal miners and operators, to take up the question of mine safety. I don't recall now whether that is treated in the report of the Coal Commission of last year. I imagine that it is almost entirely a matter of local and state governments. Of course the National Government is in favor of having anything done in that connection that it is possible to do. I don't have any plan at the present time about such a conference, though I am in entire sympathy with endeavors in that direction, - I mean in the direction of safety.

+ I haven't made any speaking engagements, and haven't any further plans about that than those which I already mentioned, which, boiled down, I think consist mostly of an absence of plans.

I can't give you any further information about the Ambassador to Mexico or Japan.

+ I haven't heard any report that Ambassador Herrick planned to resign. I am quite certain that there is no foundation for that report. A short time ago it was reported, I think, that he had been ill, but I believe that was a temporary matter and that he is now recovered.

I haven't done anything about the sugar report. I have been so busy with other things that I haven't had a chance to take any action on it.

August 8, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

No information has come to me about any danger to the life and property of American citizens in Honduras that warrants our sending any marines or sailors there. In fact, I didn't know that at the present time there was any change in the situation. They have been having difficulty over an election and we have been attempting to assist in any way that we could. I didn't know there had been any outbreak of violence, though something may have occurred.

I think that sometime after my notification I may go up to Plymouth. My boy lies there, and naturally my wife and I would like to go up there. My regret about that is that there isn't any convenient place in that vicinity for the members of the press. Within 10 or 12 miles is Woodstock, which is a most delightful place and well-known summer resort with a very fine hotel. It is a matter of 40 or 50 minutes run in an auto.

Mr. President, how long would you be gone?

10 or 12 days.

Have you decided what day you will leave?

No. That is more or less tentative.

You are fully decided that you are going, Mr. President?

Well, I am going to try to go.

I understand you will live at your father's home there?

Yes. That is where I shall go.

I don't know as I can give you any information about the political situation and any information from Mr. Butler, other than what I have already seen reported in the press. The situation is satisfactory and it is hopeful, if we take hold and do the necessary amount of work.

Mr. President, have you decided anything about a headquarters in the northwest?

I don't know. He didn't say anything about that and I didn't. I don't know whether any decision has been made about that or not.

I am afraid I can't give you any receipt for keeping comfortable this hot weather. The weather seems to have gone back on us some in the last week. And I don't know as I can give you any information about playing ball that would be of public interest. My own experience in that was confined mostly to my schoolboy

days. If any of you come up to Plymouth, I will be glad to show you where I played when I was a boy. I think I played a little after I went to the Academy, though not in any competitive way.

+ Mr. President, will you show us how you did it?

+ I am afraid that wouldn't be possible.

What position did you play?

+ I think I played various positions. Where I was a boy there weren't boys enough to make two nines. We usually contented ourselves with a game played by about three, I think. One to pitch, one to catch, and one to bat the ball. That is why I say I played in various positions.

I don't know just when I can get around to taking up the report of the Tariff Commission on the duty on sugar. Perhaps I can do something about that when I am away.

I don't think I can give any view about Mayor Hylan's letter that would add anything to it.

I haven't received any information from London other than what is in the press about the French and German compromise on the Ruhr situation. I don't know whether it is expected that the French will evacuate the Ruhr soon or not, though I had the impression that it was expected and that an agreement would be reached under which there would be an early evacuation.

+ I think there is to be a conference in Paris on the allocation of German reparations, and if that is the case we shall be represented there, because that is a matter that affects us. There are quite considerable claims against Germany, and the outcome will depend on the result of the findings of the Commission, which is now at work on that. We have a claim for the Army of Occupation, which is roughly \$255,000,000, and then there are the other claims arising out of damages that accrued just prior or after our going into the war. Those, when they were presented, were quite a large amount, but my understanding is that the findings of the Commission have reduced them very materially, so that I don't think it will run over half a billion and may be quite a considerable amount less than that.

Represented officially or unofficially, Mr. President?

Of course we shall be officially represented. It is a matter to determine how the German Reparations are to be allocated, which will mean that it will be

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determined there by what method, what time, and in what amounts we are to receive compensation to meet these claims that we have.

Has a decision been reached as to who will represent the U. S.?

I think Mr. Kellogg would be sent over, if Mr. Herrick is not there. Perhaps Mr. Kellogg will assist Mr. Herrick. And of course Colonel Logan, who is very familiar with all these questions.

I haven't had any information at all about any suggestion about refunding the allied debts. Nothing has come to me about that.

I didn't know that Ambassador Herrick had sailed from France to visit this country. I don't know of any report that he is considering resigning. I haven't had any report on that and I think I indicated in a conference within a week that I think that report is without any foundation.

I haven't any further plans than those that have already been disclosed about the conduct of the campaign.

Now we will go down ~~there~~ and attend the baseball game.

August 12, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have but two papers here, one from Mr. Timmon and one from Mr. Stephenson. Did anybody else give me a paper? If you didn't, all right.

I don't know as I can comment any further than what I have already done on the developments of the Allied Conference on the Dawes plan. They seem to be proceeding satisfactorily and apparently with every promise of reaching a successful conclusion. It will take a long time to work out all the questions and details, but the encouraging thing appears to be the unanimous desire on the part of the

I should hate by reason of having anything said about that at the present time to do anything that might cause a diversion of attention on the other side. They have their own difficulties to settle over there, and I don't want to say anything about the settlement of American debts to divert their attention from the settlement of their own affairs. But that is the case. The American Government has enacted into law its opinion about the debts due to us from foreign countries.

Mr. President, have you anything definite about your return from Vt?

I think I will be there about ten days. I shall have to be back here by Saturday the 30th, or possibly by Friday the 29th. I am going to stay as long as I can, and return when it seems to be necessary. I think there is a convention here of fraternal orders, beginning on the 25th and lasting for five or six days. They came here with very great hope and expectation that they might see me and perhaps have an opportunity to have a few words from me. If I can get back in time to do that, I want to.

August 22, 1924.

Remarks to Newspaper by the President.

Everybody in? I have several inquiries here about a conference for further limitation of armaments. I spoke of that in detail, first in the address that I gave at the Associated Press meeting in New York in April, and I spoke of it also in my address of acceptance. Now that lies in my mind this way; that when the situation in Europe is settled down so that they have the matter of their reparations out of the way and they appear to have reached a stable condition so that they are not disturbed lest they be attacked by each other, such a time would be an appropriate occasion for calling another conference for limitation of armaments. I suppose that means that there will have to be first an approach to find out whether such an invitation would be acceptable, and so on, and so forth. But I mention that as indicating my desire to call one at the earliest possible moment that it would seem to be practicable. I don't think it would be practicable until they reach a somewhat stable condition in Europe.

I don't know anything other than what I have seen in the paper relative to the attitude of private sources in this country toward a proposal to make a loan to Germany.

I don't know as I can define what would be the chief issue in the foreign field. I have an inquiry here as to whether the World Court would be one of the chief issues. That is a project which I desire to see carried out. I shouldn't think it would be so important as the results that might be obtained and which I hope shall be obtained from a conference for disarmament, though it is a very important matter. The codification of international law I regard as important. Of course, the matter of chief importance in the foreign field is the settlement of reparations, because on that hangs almost everything else.

I do not think I can make any comment on what the elder Mr. Bryan says, William Jennings Bryan. I haven't any plans about any speech-making tour, and I haven't any engagements of a political nature for making any speeches. I am expecting to speak at the dedication of a monument to Lafayette at Baltimore, September 6th. My address there will be short, and I am going to make a very short address to the Fraternal Congress which is meeting next week in Washington.

Can you give us the date, Mr. President?

Friday forenoon, I think, at 11.00 o'clock - 10.00 or 11.00. I guess it's 11.00 o'clock at Baltimore and 12.00 in Washington.

Can you tell us anything about this fraternal congress?

It is a meeting of fraternal organizations, probably Masons, Elks, Eagles, Grangers, etc., Representatives of all the fraternal organizations.

You don't have any engagement of any sort for around Labor Day, Mr. President?

Nothing definite about that.

Now, I am not acquainted with the particulars of the difference between Governor Baxter of Maine and someone that I think is not in the Regular Army, but is a reserve officer. I think I might say this, however - that one of the things that I told the War Department at Washington was that this Defense Day would be a practical demonstration of the ability of men in the Regular Army to conduct themselves with such tact that they wouldn't get into differences with the civil authorities. That is one of the things I especially cautioned them on.

I haven't any comment to make about the remarks of Mr. La Follette.

I have already spoken of a conference on armaments.

I don't want to say anything at the present time about debts due to us from foreign countries. You can see the reason. I think I explained that to you at the last conference. They have at the present time all they can do to settle

their affairs in Europe, and I should very much regret complicating it in any way by asking them to stop settling their own affairs and begin to talk about our international debts. I am not speaking now of the debt due to us from Germany. That is all covered by the statutes, and any action that is taken would have to be taken in accordance with the statute provisions. The statute lays down the terms and has provided for the appointment of a commission, which commission is in existence.

I haven't any detailed information as to the political situation in Maine. Such information as has come to me is of a hopeful nature.

I haven't expected that General Dawes would come to Plymouth. When does he speak in Maine?

Tomorrow night, Mr. President.

I hadn't expected that he would come over here. I would be glad to see him if he could come, but haven't expected it.

Have you seen him at all?

Not since he came to Washington. He came there on the 2nd or 3rd of July when my boy took sick.

Mr. President, would you care to make any more extended comment on his speech of acceptance? He very vigorously went after La Follette and the radicals.

Well, I expressed my - I sent him my congratulations immediately after hearing it and commended his speech. Of course he said that he could only cover two questions. He couldn't in one speech cover a great many things. Those he will undoubtedly discuss later in the campaign. But I thought he made a very excellent speech.

I do not think I shall have anything like a general reception here, but naturally I would like to have some day that the neighbors could come in and shake hands with my wife and me. They have been very considerate in giving us so much

seclusion and refraining from doing anything to interfere with our quiet while we have been here. I thought that tomorrow afternoon there might be a time when we would be very glad to shake hands with any neighbors that want to drop in in an entirely informal way, perhaps from 3.00 to 5.00 or something like that.

I haven't any plan for any speeches and I haven't any idea whether I will be in New England again before November. I haven't any engagement there that I now recall.

I am not certain that I can give you any exact and detailed information about the next step in the reparations. I understand that the next step is the acceptance or ratification by the German Parliament and the French Parliament. I can't give any new idea about the way it will affect American trade or prosperity or export trade. I think there is a general agreement that it would be greatly for the benefit of American trade, as well as European trade, if they could have a definite determination of what Germany is to pay and what France and the other countries are to receive. It would undoubtedly enable France to turn her attention more vigorously to commercial affairs. It certainly would have that effect on Germany and probably on Great Britain. And anything that would stimulate production over there I should judge would be of benefit to us here, as it would result in an exchange of commodities and give us a chance to manufacture and sell to them and give them a chance to manufacture more and sell to us, which would be to our benefit as long as such goods came in on a basis that would enable our manufacturers and our laborers to maintain their present American standards, - I mean such a tariff basis to be kept in effect.

You don't anticipate any change in the tariff do you, Mr. President?

Not anything definite at the present time, of a general nature, nothing definite.

I don't know of any American draft that is anything more than a draft made by some private individuals relative to world disarmament. I think I have read that there has been a draft made, but that is made by private individuals. It hasn't, so far as I know, any official sanction.

You don't recall by who, Mr. President?

I don't know. It may be a very good draft or a very poor one. I don't know.

I haven't matured any plans for participation in the remainder of the campaign, except to go on as I am going, trying to look after the Presidential office. I haven't had any reports from Mr. Butler since I have been here.

I haven't any definite outline about my Baltimore speech. I imagine it would touch on those things naturally suggested by General Lafayette and his participation in the American Revolution and the events which grew out of that.

I haven't reached any conclusion about the sugar matter.

I haven't anything that I can announce about Tokio or Mexico, the ambassadorships.

Mr. President, there has been mention of Mr. Bancroft.

I can't give you any information about that. There is nothing matured that can be announced. As soon as anything does mature, it will be announced. But as I explained before, inquiry has to be made as to whether this person, that person, or the other, will be acceptable.

I don't know that I can comment on the benefits that I have received from my vacation. It is naturally quite a relief to be up here for a while. While we have had as you know a remarkably comfortable summer in Washington, yet the altitude there is low and the atmosphere is very much different from what it is here. We have about a 400 ft. elevation here and we are quite a distance north of Washington. They say it is a good plan for a person to go back as often

as they can into the atmosphere in which they were born and brought up. I always get refreshed by coming up here. Naturally I feel rested and revived.

I haven't paid any particular attention as to what we were having to eat. I think there is a story isn't there about the man that illustrated the perfect digestion. He said that as for himself he had no digestion. And I assume the cooking up here has been so good and so natural that I have eaten it without thinking about it.

Have you weighed, Mr. President?

No, I haven't.

Nothing has come to my attention about an American representative to the Irish Free State. I think I explained that we have been ~~inquired~~ inquired of as to whether we would welcome someone, I have forgotten the name, and we replied that he would be very agreeable to us. He seemed to be a very able man and we would be pleased to have him come. I do not think we have taken any action here about sending anyone over there.

I don't know anything about receiving the members of the Michigan Grange. I think I have heard of some of them coming here. I will be glad to do anything I can for them.

No negotiations have been opened in relation to an arms conference for the reasons that I have given you. The Europeans are very busy trying to settle their own affairs, and I don't want to complicate that with other things. We couldn't have a conference that would be likely to reach any practical solution until their affairs are settled.

I haven't thought about my annual message. I have an inquiry here. I suppose I shall see that about twice a week now - about what I shall put in my annual message. You can generally expect that I am advocating today the same

things I have yesterday, unless you have an official announcement from me that I have changed it. I keep seeing in the papers that I have changed my position about something or other, which is all new to me. When people come to me about certain bills I refer them to ~~my~~ messages to Congress and statements I have made. Sometimes they go out and seem to indicate that I have changed my mind. Of course there is a continuity of action where something is started today, and which would require supplementary action tomorrow.

That Congress I spoke about is designated here as the World's Fraternal Congress.

I haven't had any recommendations given to me up here about that Committee that I am going to appoint to look into the agricultural situation. I have asked some members of the Cabinet and others to think the matter over and make some suggestions to me.

I noted the report that the American flyers have reached Greenland. That was the longest leg of the journey, and that would seem to indicate that there is every expectation that the -round-the-world flight will be a success. It is one of the great achievements of air aviation. I suppose it is really the greatest one that the world has ever accomplished.

I haven't any definite plan yet for Labor Day.

I think that covers the day's questions.

August 29, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Good afternoon, gentlemen:

The Cabinet meeting didn't develop much of anything this morning. The Secretary of Agriculture reported that the foot and mouth disease had apparently been stamped out in the West. There is a little danger of it in some of the mountain regions, though we can't make any official statement about it. There have been periods of two or three weeks when there has been no new outbreak.

I haven't yet decided on the personnel of the Agricultural Committee.

There wouldn't be any way to send a representative of this country to the Irish Free State until the legislation required by an act of Congress establishing a ministry there is passed making an appropriation to defray the expenses of it.

I haven't had the matter of removing an embargo on arms to Cuba brought to my attention. I put one on some time ago, because of threatening conditions that existed there at that time. I know that those conditions seem to have been eliminated. It may be that the embargo can be removed soon, but it is a matter about which I have no definite information one way or the other.

Neither the President or the Secretary of War has heard anything about legislation to pay the draft boards for their services during the war. If General Duncan has made any statement about that, it hasn't come to the attention of either the War Department or myself. I don't know whether it is true that he has made such a statement or not.

I suppose the Washington Baseball Team is the one that represents the whole nation. The others have some local claims. That which comes from the City of Washington I suppose represents the nation in its entirety more than any other team. If it should be so fortunate to secure first place, in that respect I suppose it would be more agreeable to the whole nation than that which could be secured by having any local team win the pennant. I don't know as I can make any statement about the present condition of our team that hasn't already been better made by someone else. I am not an expert on baseball, though I enjoy the game. I haven't made any plans yet about attending the World's Series, but should that be the case I assume that it goes without saying that I should want to see the opening game.

Mr. President, would it be permissible to quote that remark about baseball, Mr. President?

No, I don't think so.

I haven't been able to do much of anything about the report on the sugar tariff. I took some of that report with me to Plymouth, but wasn't able to do much about it, because I found when I considered it that it was going to be necessary to consult people here. Of course I couldn't do that very well there.

I haven't any plans about speeches other than what has already been given out. I haven't any plan about a conference with Mr. Butler, the Chairman of the Republican Committee. I suppose it goes without saying that he will be here from time to time in order that he may keep me posted as to the progress of the campaign.

I haven't seen the British protest against increasing the range of our guns on American battleships. I am not certain whether any formal protest has been received. My position about that would be to maintain whatever right the American Government has under the treaties, as a matter of right. Now, in addition to that is the matter of policy. Our Government, in conjunction with others, is trying to discourage competitive armaments. It entered into treaties for that purpose. It is also known that the governments in Europe are struggling along under a heavy burden of debt. I don't want to do anything here that would make it necessary for them to start increasing their naval armament expenses for the purpose of building new ships, or changing over those ships that they already have. I should be very loath to start in on a policy of that kind. But that is entirely apart from what right the American Government may have under the treaties. As I say, whatever right we have I shall assert at all times. I don't want to surrender the right. That is somewhat different from what we might consider a practical policy to pursue. I think the practical policy to pursue at this time is not to enter into a competitive method of arming ourselves. As I have already indicated, they have staggering expenses abroad. I don't like to refer to it too often - they owe us money over there. I should very much prefer that they should take their money and pay us, than on account of any action we took over here feel that they should take their money and build battleships. I think it would be very much better for all concerned to adopt a policy of that kind. I never knew of just how much importance the British protest was, whether it was a natural form they took for the purpose of filing a protest in order to save any right they might have and to indicate they might not want to start in on any competitive armament at this time, or whether they thought it was a distinct injury to them or a violation of the spirit of the

treaty. I haven't seen the protest. The time for action on it wouldn't arrive until we made an appropriation by the Congress, and then undertook to determine whether we wanted to spend the appropriation that had been made. I think I have made myself clear - that is, to assert all the rights we have and surrender none of them. But so far as the policy is concerned, I am very loath to take any action that would cause the governments abroad to think they must spend great sums of money on their naval armaments.

I don't know as I can make any statement about the improvement in the business situation. I think everyone has noted a distinctly more optimistic feeling as a result of the London Conference, and I have no doubt that the action of the German Government today, which has come to me indirectly but which I think is reliable, in approving the Dawes plan, will have a further result in the same direction. It seems to be perfectly apparent that when the people of America and Europe understand that the reparations question has reached substantially a final settlement, or apparently is in process or a final settlement, though I don't want to anticipate too much, they will feel that the time has arrived when they will be justified in going ahead with development plans for commercial extensions and other developments. I think that should result in enlarged purchases of raw materials. There is every opportunity to finance such purchases, especially in this country, on account of the abundance of capital and the low charge of interest at the present time. Of course the purchase of raw materials would immediately mean an increase in business.

September 2, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I can't go into details in relation to the Railroad Labor Board. What I said yesterday was practically a repetition of the recommendation I made in my message to Congress at the first of December. It is generally understood that the Railroad Labor Board is not exactly satisfactory either to the employees on the one hand or the railroads on the other. I think it is also generally understood that I said yesterday it is a step in advance. It has made a perfectly astonishing number of settlements - I haven't time to go into details - many thousands, I think, adjustments of one kind or another. I believe that while it has been in operation there has been no strike of any consequence except one, the shopmen's strike in 1922. I am speaking offhand here, and my information may not be exactly accurate, but that, I think, is the situation. Now I think that is sufficient warrant for calling it a very large step in advance. Just what adjustments ought to be made, I am not prepared, and I don't know enough about the details of the different desires, to explain them. The impression that I gained from such studies as I made last year was that there ought to be some agreement between the railroad men and the ~~labor~~ railroad management as to what they want, and legislation to be on the foundation of such agreement. I think that might have been worked out last year, had it not been for the fact that a controversy arose in the Senate as to who should be Chairman of the Committee in charge of this legislation. As a result of that it was generally understood that it wasn't possible to get any legislation through.

Mr. President, may I ask if you favor the continuance of a representative of the public on the Labor Board?

Well, that would be my offhand impression if it were left to me here. What I do favor is that the railroads and the men get together and agree on something. Now, if they agreed on something different from that, very likely they might be able to convince me that their agreement is for the best interest of the public. Of course, in all these things the public welfare is paramount. As I stated yesterday the public welfare and public necessity must be protected, but perhaps the public could be better served by not having a public representative, or perhaps it can't. I couldn't decide that until we see what kind of a plan is proposed.

I haven't any plans for any participation in the campaign other than that I am undertaking to administer my office here and will no doubt make an

occasional address, if the occasion requires. My discussion with Mr. Butler this morning was very general. I asked him if there was anything special he wanted me to do. He replied that he found the situation encouraging, and desired me to proceed as I have been proceeding.

There was nothing of importance discussed at the Cabinet this morning, other than the statement made by Mr. Hughes, which has been on paper and which will be given to the press if it has not already been given out, in relation to our participation in an effort to control the sale of arms. That is a different thing, as you see, from disarmament. This is a matter of selling it. We participated in a discussion of it and we have agreed on certain proposals. Then there came a proposal that we should sit in with the League of Nations for discussion, and our reply was that our position had already been made known and we would be glad to participate in an international conference, where of course we can sit in on an equality with everybody else, and ~~xxx~~ enter into any kind of an arrangement that might seem practical, and on which we thought we would be able to secure legislation to carry it into effect.

I asked Mr. Wallace about the general trend of agricultural prices, which continue to be very fair.

I don't know how soon I may get any report from my advisory committees on shipping. Mr. Mellon told me just before he went away that a part of that was on his desk, and I understood that as soon as he returned he would take up that part that he was working on. It may be that we can get a report in the immediate future, and it may run on for some weeks. I should say at the outside, a couple of months ought to cover it. Perhaps before that. What I want there is a report in adequate season, so that if it is necessary to propose any legislation I can get that out and in my mind before the opening of the Congress.

The only other speaking engagement that I have in mind, other than at the unveiling of the monument in Baltimore, is the address I am to make before the Holy Name Society, and that has already been announced. They are to have a large convention here in Washington - I have forgotten whether it is in the middle of September or October.

September, Mr. President.

It is to be down at the Washington Monument. I don't know whether I shall go to Baltimore by motor or by train. Of course I shall not stay over night. I

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shall go and speak, and return at once. I intend to get out the advance copy of my speech as early as I can. I have some of it in mind, but I haven't put any on paper yet. I think perhaps I can get it started this afternoon, and hope to get it out Thursday or Friday morning.

I haven't reached any decision on the Sugar tariff nor on the personnel of the Agricultural Fact Finding Commission. But I am working on both of them.

Mr. President, may I ask whether the Holy Name address will touch on any political collateral/issues, Mr. President?

I haven't given any thought to what I will say at that time. My offhand impression ~~is~~, and you needn't print it, is that this is a Sunday occasion for a religious body. I don't want this published at this time, but I should judge that any political discussion would be rather inappropriate at that time. There are six days in the week to talk politics, and it is well enough to take Sunday for something else.

September 5, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't given any particular attention to the appointment of a successor to Commissioner Gaskill in the Federal Trade Commission. I understand he is a very good man, and I have had several applications for the place.

I don't know that Minister Jay is expected to come to Washington, and the matter of the Roumanian Mining law has never been brought specifically to my attention. If anything has been done, it has been done through the State Department. The Department would be the natural avenue of action. It would be rather unusual to have it brought to my attention.

✕ The Firpo case hasn't been called to my attention, other than that I have seen it referred to in the newspapers. That is entirely under the jurisdiction of the Labor Department. If I were to do anything about that, it would be to direct action there. They are perfectly competent to handle cases of that kind over there.

✕ There has been nothing that I know of that has occurred in relation to the elevation of guns on American ships.

✕ I didn't know that there was any difference between the Navy Dept. and the Bureau of the Budget over naval estimates. There is a general difference, practically speaking, that way between all the departments and the Bureau of the Budget, but that is in the way of a preliminary examination of each Department's estimate, and they have an opportunity to come to me when the budget is finally made. It is my budget. I have to take the responsibility for it when I submit it to the Congress, and I am here if the departments want to talk to me about any parts of the budget.

✕ I haven't had an opportunity to examine in detail the petition that was presented to me a few days ago in relation to Liberia. I am sympathetic, of course, with the desire to build up a state there and assist Liberia in any way that we can, and encourage the colored people of this country to cooperate with the Liberians, and our Government ought to cooperate with them in every possible way.

✕ I don't think I ought to make any comment about anything that a foreign Prime Minister might say in the way of an address. I don't think it would be fitting to make any comment about it until ~~after~~ after inquiries have been made to us through our State Department.

I have done some work on the sugar report. There are a good many different

angles to it, both facts and law. The other reports that I have had before me have been unanimous reports on rather simple questions, but this involves a good many questions and they are not very easy to determine.

I haven't made up my mind about the vacancy on the Tariff Commission, though I believe I have had some applications from a good many people for appointment to that place.

I haven't any other speaking engagements that I now recall. Let me see - I think I have made some engagement to speak at a Methodist - Bishop McDowell was here about it - October 15th. What is it, Mr. Slemp?

The Francis Asbury statue, I think.

Are you going to speak there, Mr. President?

Yes, it is a dedication of a statue to Bishop Asbury. He was about 1750 and after that, I believe, the first Methodist Bishop in this country. There is, I think, considerable correspondence between him and General Washington, which makes this a kind of a national occasion.

† If I had any specific information about what Mr. Pomerene and Mr. Roberts are doing before the grand jury, I should doubt if it would be proper for me to disclose it, much as I want to help the press. Of course they have instructions from me fully to investigate the business on which they are employed and to take such action as the law and facts warrant. But I wouldn't be able to go into particulars about it.

September 12, 1924

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't had any report from the Attorney General relative to a vacancy on the federal bench at El Paso, Texas, so I can't give you any information about that. Naturally I would make an appointment there as soon as we could determine whom to appoint. There had not ought to be so much difficulty with two Senators from Texas of the same party.

I haven't reached any decision about the Sugar tariff.

Mr. President, do you think you will reach it before election?

I think so. I have been over the papers with some care and I think I can reach a decision very soon.

Here is a question - "Has it been definitely determined that the President ~~will~~ will not make any political speeches during the campaign" (laughter) and "Will there be any talks over the radio?" -

Mr. President, there have been a lot of statements that your speeches will be non-political. There is a statement in the New York Times that you are going to make a western tour.

Well, I wouldn't want to be responsible for that. I don't know whether I shall make any talks over the radio or not. Without making any definite arrangement, it is rather expected that occasions will arise where I will talk over the radio other than what I have, but nothing has developed in that connection yet. It does happen of course that I go out to speak on occasions that are not purely political more than I do on political occasions. That is rather inevitable with the Presidential office, unless the President is out on a political tour. Someone is going to have a celebration at Baltimore, or Philadelphia, and so on. These occasions are naturally of historical importance generally, and they like to have the President come.

Do you intend to go to Philadelphia, Mr. President?

I am expected to go up there. It isn't decided beyond change, but that is my present expectation. That is the 150th Anniversary of the meeting of the First Continental Congress, and of great historical importance.

I don't know whether I shall at Washington, or some other place, make what you might call a purely political speech. I haven't any plan about it. I haven't decided whether I shall or whether I shall not. It will be dictated by what circumstances arise and what the occasion may be.

I have had an invitation from the Governor of Missouri to go, I think, to St. Louis, though perhaps it is Jefferson City. But all I could say to him was that I couldn't give him very much encouragement. I have had an invitation to speak in Illinois. I don't recall now anything definite in Ohio and other places in the West. So there isn't any plan about my going out there.

The only authentic statement about my position in relation to a Conference for Limitation of Armaments is contained in the different speeches and addresses that I made.

I am expecting to reappoint Judge McMahon. I haven't decided about the Juvenile Court Judge.

I don't know as I can give you anything that hasn't already occurred to you in relation to the parade today. I thought it was a very fine demonstration of the patriotic sentiment of the District, and of course I am sure that coupled with that was the knowledge and feeling that it was in a way a compliment to General Pershing, who is just retiring from being General in Command of the Armies. I don't know as that is the right technical term, but you know what I mean. Yes, that is right, the General in Command of the Armies. I was very much pleased with the appearance of the regular troops, especially those of the Army and Marine Corps. I think there weren't any sailors in the parade. Yes, there was a small detachment from the Mayflower. I noticed that because when we have parades in Boston, of course that is right on the coast, and there are always some sailors there from the battleships that take part in the parades, and from the Navy Yard there. But here of course we don't have so many sailors at the Navy Yard at the present time.

There are several inquiries about Defense Day, but I guess I have covered that as far as I can. With what took place at the parade and so on you will be able to make up your paper for tomorrow, even though the inquiries haven't been numerous and the conference hasn't been long.

September 16, 1924.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

Here is another inquiry about the guns on the American battleships - elevation. Nothing new developed in relation to that. I think I made my position quite clear the other day. We want to maintain all the rights we have under the treaty, but as a matter of policy I doubt whether at the present time I would want to advocate any expenses that aren't absolutely necessary on battleships. An additional reason has developed in relation to that within the last week, by reason of the return of the American fliers from around the world. I have read a great many times in the course of a short life that battleships are to become extinct. They never have. And I should hesitate some to put a lot of reliance on that kind of a statement now and to adopt that policy. But it was reported to me that one result of this world flight ~~ix~~ has been a demonstration of future ability to carry on warfare through the air and that it made the position of the large battleships very much different than it has been in the past. The statement was that we couldn't go to Europe now as we went in 1917 and 1918, and that it would be impossible to pursue the policy that we had adopted of transporting troops and munitions on account of the development of aerial navigation. Now, I should have to take that into consideration before I want to authorize much of an expenditure on large battleships. Also it is to be considered that we have 6 or 8 battleships under the treaty that will come up to be scrapped in the course of a not very long time in the future, 6, 8 or 10 years. It is a question of whether we want to expend a lot of money on those battleships that will be scrapped in that time. Those are the only differences that have occurred to me in the situation between now and what it was the other day.

Mr. President, doesn't that make your position in relation to the next disarmament conference stronger by not bringing our forces up to the stipulation in the treaty?

I have seen considerable discussion to the effect that our navy was way below the treaty limit. I should want to have quite a careful inventory and analysis made of our navy before I subscribed strongly to that. You gentlemen are all familiar with the military policy. It seems to be the classic one of securing an appropriation for either the army or the navy. That policy doesn't have very much effect around this office, nor I assume on the Congress, suggesting that our army is running down in

materials and personnel, and that the navy is just ready to drop into the sea. I couldn't go into details, but my belief is that the navy at the present time is in perfect condition, pretty efficiently manned, entirely well equipped, and that it is able to shoot a little better than it was ever before. Now, I don't want anything said that will deter the Congress from making an adequate appropriation. I want to see the policy of the budget maintained. I want to maintain it and the only way that it can be broken down is through the action of the Congress. I want to try to have the Executive Department maintain that policy, and just at the present time before I should want to approve of a very enlarged appropriation for any department I should want to make a very careful survey of the department to see that every possible efficiency is being secured out of the present appropriation.

Mr. President, are we to understand that this is the reason for Mr. Wilbur's coming back to Washington so hastily?

I wouldn't say that. Some of the press, I thought, rather overemphasized that. I want to see him about matters in the navy and so I sent him a telegram asking him to return. It didn't portend any crisis, or anything of that kind.

Mr. President, could you give us any information about the estimates?

For my own information I asked the Bureau of the Budget to find out how much we were spending for aviation, and the figures are \$32,174,000 total; for the Army \$12,435,000; the Navy \$15,150,000; than the Advisory Board has \$450,000; and the Post Office Department \$2,750,000. (The President left out a figure) That doesn't, of course, in the Army and Navy, represent the pay of the personnel.

Those are figures for the current fiscal year?

Last year, I believe. I think the salary of the officers and men is all in addition. I think that is the largest amount that is expended by any government, with the possible exception of France. I rather doubt if they are making as large an expenditure as that. I wouldn't want to be too certain of that. Their expenditures on account of differences in prices and so on are somewhat different from ours.

Mr. President, do you have the figures showing the increase?

I don't know. I don't imagine there is an increase over the preceding year. The total is \$32,174,000, which is a fairly large sum to expend on aviation. It is not so very long ago that the appropriation for the Navy didn't exceed that amount.

Mr. President, what is the basis of these figures - to see whether it shall

be increased or decreased for the next year?

No, but I have seen some newspaper comment about the amounts that we were proposing to expend on aviation, and for my own information I sent out to find out what the amount was. It may be that we ought to expend more than that. It may be that that is adequate. I merely mentioned that as the only element that I thought of that would come into consideration at the present time in relation to expending a lot more money on battleships. The round-the-world flight to some minds has demonstrated that the position of the battleship has become one that is obsolete. I rather think that there would be a little lack of logic in spending a lot of money on battleships and at the same time spending a lot of money on aviation. I am not quite sure about this, but if the battleship has become obsolete because aviation has become powerful, it seems to me that we had better stop spending very much money on battleships and more on aviation.

Mr. President, will that idea be carried out in the budget?

I don't know that the idea has developed far enough yet. I wouldn't want to pass judgment on it. Of course that is a matter for the experts of the Army and the Navy. They haven't made any formal report to me, but I am just speaking about this as to what seems to me rather an inevitable result. If battleships become obsolete we wouldn't want to spend a lot of money on them, and if aviation becomes more efficient perhaps it is reasonable to spend more money on aviation.

Mr. President will you have that matter decided by the Budget experts?

Well, of course the experts of the Army and Navy have put in their estimate for the present year, last August I think. We are working on it now in the Budget Bureau. Whether that will be a matter they will take up or not I don't know. I judge it is a matter that all military establishments are considering at the present time. I don't know of any plan to bring it into the contemplation of the present Budget. There may be one.

Have you any word about when Mr. Wilbur will arrive?

I think he is expected about Friday.

I don't know as I can make any comment on the record of Walter Johnson. I wrote him a letter the other day, commending him as a very high type of sportsman and athlete; a man that put the best that was in him into perhaps the most popular American sport, and ~~giving~~ gave his thought, attention and energy to it and made a success of it.

May we have that letter?

I thought it had been published.

I haven't made any decision about Commissioner Gaskill. I understand he is a very good man. I have some other applications, I think, for the place.

I never have heard a word directly or indirectly about the decision of the British Government to use the British fleet for the purpose of enforcing sanctions ordered by the League against aggressor nations. I don't know a thing about that. I don't believe it has ever been taken up in any way with our Government, because we don't come into contact with the League.

I don't know as I can comment any on the statement that I think Chairman Butler made in relation to my making speeches in the West. I have tried to make it plain that I have no plan about it. I shouldn't want you to be surprised, or to draw any particular inference from my making speeches, or not making speeches, out there. I don't recall any candidate for President that ever injured himself very much by not talking.

I supposed that my appointment of Judge McMahon had been published. I signed the commission and sent it to him in the usual way, and undoubtedly he quietly took the oath of office and continued execution of his duties.

I haven't made up my mind about Miss Sellers. I haven't made up my mind to appoint anyone else there - otherwise I should have done so. Of course it isn't necessary to appoint anyone else, because she goes right on in her duties. It is a case where not making any appointment is virtually continuing the present incumbent in office.

I haven't ~~any plan~~ made any request of Mr. Adams - Samuel Adams - to serve on the Agricultural Commission. He came in to pay his respects, having just returned from abroad. He was there on account of his health and came in to tell me of his trip and incidentally to inquire what he could do to help in the election.

I haven't any plan or policy about the settlement of the French debt at present. That is all provided for by statute law, and I suppose that the only representation I would be entitled to make about it is that which I am ordered to make by law. That states in what way it may be settled, the rate of interest, and length of time the matter is to run. Of course, in addition to that we have a Commission. Mr. Hurley is a member of the Commission and a very efficient member.

If the Commission, after conference with representatives of another country should recommend to me that we should go to Congress and ask to make a settlement with a country on terms different from that provided by law, very likely I should undertake to secure consent from Congress. That was what was done with the British debt. It wasn't settled exactly in conformity with the terms of the law. The law had to be varied to meet the conditions. I couldn't pass any judgment before the event on anything that they might want to oppose. I should give great weight to the opinion of the Commission and undoubtedly would adopt any suggestion or recommendations that they might make to me, and make it my own recommendation, so far as it might be necessary, to present to the Congress.

If there were a modification of the terms now enjoyed by Great Britain we would have to modify their terms at the same time, wouldn't we?

I don't see why.

Mr. President, you couldn't expect them to pay in harsher terms than Italy, for instance, if you should make the rate of interest lower?

Well, Great Britain now is paying, and one or two other nations are paying. Some nations are not paying any. There is a difference in conditions now, and those conditions might continue. ~~Well, you may be right about that. I didn't have it in mind that the statute~~

Isn't there something in the statute which provides that settlement must be made with all countries on the same basis?

Well, you may be right about that. I didn't have it in mind that the statute did provide that there must be the same terms between the nations. Perhaps it does. My recollection was that there was an original statute passed creating this Commission and directing them under what terms and conditions they should make settlement. When they came to make their settlement with the British they found the British couldn't comply with those terms, and therefore submitted a new proposal to the Congress who passed a special law. Now it may be that in that special law it is provided to apply the same terms to all countries.

If it didn't, Mr. President, you couldn't expect Great Britain to pay harsher terms than others.

Of course, the British are paying now. The others are not paying anything. It doesn't at all follow that because France or Italy or some other country can't

pay but \$50,000,000 a year and we have to extend their payments over 75 years, that the British are not abundantly able to pay their amount in 62 years. It is a question of the ability of each country. There is great force, though, in what you say about treating everybody alike. I should like to do that. I doubt very much if the British would make any complaint about any settlement that we might make with any others. They have made their settlement on what they thought they could do. What we have constantly kept in mind in that policy is that the debt that is due to us from one country hasn't any direct connection with the debt that might be due to us from another country. That is why we have not mixed up the German indemnity in any way with our own debt.

I don't know of any proposal that the Shenandoah should attempt a North Pole flight. That is something that the navy might like to take up. It is a most interesting suggestion, and if we are to have another ship like the Shenandoah ~~like this~~ as I understand that the one that is coming over from Germany is, so that we have two, well there might be a reason for putting this one to a test.

If such a flight were attempted now, would the same objections be made that served to postpone the flight this year?

If we have two vessels or ships, we would feel a little more like jeopardizing one of them, than if we only had one. It was rather apparent that if anything should happen to the Shenandoah, it would be very difficult to get an appropriation again for that kind of an airship.

I haven't made any final decision about an appointment in the International Joint Commission to succeed Mr. Townsley.

I don't know of any pending negotiations about the refunding of war debts, other than what is seen in the press.

I don't know as I can make any comment on the progress of the campaign, other than to say it is going on satisfactorily. I haven't any speaking engagements other than what are known. I think next month I am going to speak at Philadelphia on the 25th, and before the Holy Name Society here on the 21st. Those have no special significance. If I get cornered up by people wanting me to make speeches, and it is represented to me that on this occasion I am the only individual that can save the progress of civilization, and that unless I am to do it civilization is going to fail and I shall be responsible for it, when that proposal is made to anyone it

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is rather difficult for them to say they wont make a speech.

You have received some proposals west of the Mississippi, haven't you?

I don't remember any.

September 19, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry asking for my opinion whether there will be any diplomatic intervention in China to prevent further spreading of the civil war. Of course, the Government has been taking such action as we thought necessary to protect American lives and property. We have an Ambassador or a Minister in China?

A minister.

Minister Schurman was in the other day, Dr. Schurman, and he didn't seem to think that there was imminent danger of further spreading of the war in China at this time. He seemed to be of the opinion that the battles that had already been fought were about as decisive as those Chinese battles are. I inquired of him as to the loss of life and the destruction of property, which he said were both exceedingly meager, almost no loss of life in battle and no destruction of property as they had no heavy artillery. So that so far as I know at the present time American rights are being protected. It seems apparent that a decision in China of affairs of this kind can hardly ever be regarded as final, but as final as those things usually are. That isn't a very definite statement, but those things are quite indefinite in China. So as far as I know there isn't any occasion at the present time for any action, other than what we have already taken.

I haven't had any information about the seizure by Russia of the Island of Wrangel off the coast of Siberia, so that I am not in a position to give any information whatever about that. I assume that that is one of the islands in the Pacific supposed to come within the terms of one of the treaties that grew out of the Washington Conference.

I haven't made any new speaking engagements that I recall now. I am working on the Tariff Commission's report (meaning Sugar report). This is it - these documents here (indicating and showing some documents about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick). I have already spent considerable time on it, but as you can see it is a matter that would require some time and attention, if I am to digest it. I shall have to have the assistance of some of the other departments, in order to help me out.

Mr. President, are you to address the Red Cross on October 4th - 6th?

I think so. I think that is quite customary. The President is the President of the Red Cross. I recall making a short address to them last year. Some time ago, I think that was arranged for.

I have appointed Judge McMahon of the District of Columbia Police Court of course in the only way for which he can be appointed at the present time, and that is in the nature of a recess appointment. For a vacancy occurring during recess, no other action could be taken on it.

No, I haven't finally determined on the personnel of the Agricultural Commission. I want to confer further with Secretary Wallace and I am very sorry to say that as you probably know he is laid up in bed with an attack of Sciatic Rheumatism. When he is better I expect to see him, or if he is not able to come here perhaps I shall go up there.

September 23, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I do not think that the report of General Wood that the Philippine sugar crop is 34% greater than last year would have any particular effect on the decision in relation to sugar duties. That indicates, I assume, the greater domestic production. I do not see that it would make any difference in the decision.

There is no change as to my attitude towards Commissioner Gaskill of the Federal Trade Commission. I haven't taken that matter up. I haven't made any decision about it. I understand he is a very good man. When a man is in office you can usually consider that he will be reappointed until the contrary appears. It is always liable to appear until the appointment is made. (laughter).

I haven't made any speaking engagement and unless, as I stated I think some time ago, you have official announcement from the office here about my intention to speak anywhere, you will be pretty safe in denying any report that I am going out anywhere to speak. I have no plan about it. I think I have indicated to the conference a number of times that until you get some real information that I have changed my position on questions, changed my plan, or changed my mind, you will be safe in hazarding that it is just the same as when it was previously announced, and if you are going to make a guess you will make more correct ones by going on that theory than any other. You will miss out once in a while that way, but not so often.

I am working on this sugar report, which I have here on my desk, but there isn't anything that I can announce about it.

I don't know of any plan to increase the scope of the proposed aviation board to include not only the navy but the army, or a civilian membership. What I am particularly interested in here is the relative value between aviation, surface vessels and submarines. That is pretty purely a naval question. I haven't had a chance to talk or discuss it with the Secretary of War. I shall want to do that. My own impression is that perhaps this could be handled by the general navy board by their taking advantage of any testimony that they could secure from the army. It may be that it would be desirable to join the army as a member of the board. But my first impression is that that wouldn't be necessary;

that they could get all the information that the army might have through testimony from the army, and keep the two services separate as they are now. But I shall want to talk with the Secretary of War about that before making a decision. The aviation situation was not discussed at the Cabinet meeting this morning. None of the members of the Cabinet had anything to bring before the meeting, so it was very short.

Mr. President, is Secretary of Wallace in bed yet?

No. I had an inquiry made at his house. He is sitting up. But he has rheumatism which recurs from time to time and it is exceedingly painful. Mrs. Wallace thought he might be at the office within three or four days.

I don't know just what is going to be done about Navy Day. Of course we have just had Defense Day. Whether it is necessary to have a special Navy Day or not this year, I am not quite certain. That would be mostly determined by the Navy Department and the Navy League. I should expect to cooperate in anything they might want.

There hasn't been any development relative to the League of Nations disarmament, so that I could make any comment on it. My position on that stands until further notice.

September 26, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know of any new development relative to the survey that I am having made of aircraft, surface boats and submarines.

I haven't any comment to make on Secretary Wilbur's speech. I haven't had a chance to read it. I expect to take up the matter of filling a vacancy on the Federal Trade Commission within a day or two. I think that vacancy occurred today. That is what I had in mind, or perhaps it was yesterday.

I have referred the telegram from Mr. Nicholson to the Attorney General. That is the telegram that came from the Secretary of the Law Enforcement League, at Philadelphia.

I think that Colonel Roosevelt's nomination is a very strong nomination.

Mr. Vanderbilt who started some newspapers in California dropped in to see me. I knew him when he was one of the reporters here in Washington. There was no special significance to his visit, other than that he came back to call on me, as I hope any one of you would who came back to Washington and started some newspapers and expected to start some more.

I can't make any statement about the reported dispatch from Russia, from Tchitcherin, saying that there ought to be negotiations between Russia and the United States.

I haven't had any present plan for conferring with Mr. Butler ~~at~~ the Chairman of the National Committee. He is in Chicago. I think he is planning to come to New York next week some time. Whether he will come down to see me or not, I don't know.

I haven't any speaking engagements, except those which are announced. I expect to say a word or two of greeting to the Washington Baseball Club when it reaches town. And I think I have some engagement to speak here in Washington at some - I don't know just what it is, some matter in which Bishop MacDowell is interested -

The Asbury statue, Mr. President.

Oh yes. I think I referred to that before.

Mr. President, are you going to speak to them?

Yes, we referred to that before. I recall now.

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numerous

I wouldn't say that I had/protests about a reduction in the sugar schedule.

Two or three people have come in who are interested in the growing of sugar beets and wanted to be heard about it. I think some of them have sent in some briefs, which I have on file with the report. That seems to cover the inquiries.

Anything in the Cabinet, Mr. President?

Oh. No, there was no discussion in the Cabinet this morning, other than the report of Secretary Wallace that there had been a case of foot and mouth disease discovered in Texas. As soon as it was established, it was taken care of.

September 30, 1924.

Remarks made by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Assistant Attorney General Ottinger has tendered his resignation, which I have told him I should accept to take effect the first of October.

I haven't done anything more about an appointment to the Federal Trade Commission, the vacancy occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Mr. Gaskill. It is my expectation so far as I know that I shall reappoint him, but some people want to talk with me about the matter. I have kept it open in order that they might talk with me. They may have some information which would change my mind.

I am not expecting to make any address in New York.

I have asked the Dept. of Agriculture to make some report to me on the sugar beet situation, to see whether that will make any change in the aspect to be placed on the consideration of the sugar tariff.

I haven't arranged for any more speaking engagements.

I don't know as I can add anything to comments that I have already made about the success of the Washington Baseball Club. I am sure that those of us who live in Washington, including those that have representative newspapers published in their own cities, have a sort of pride in the Washington team.

I haven't made any arrangements or heard any suggestion about permitting Government employees to go to the World Series game on Saturday. I am inclined to think they will have to make their own arrangements about that.

There is no change in the attitude of this Government, as I have explained a good many times, about the debts due to us from abroad. They are all covered by a declaration of law made by the Congress and approved by the President. I hate to refuse to comment on a question that is asked me about that, but at the same time I do not want to put any emphasis on it that would embarrass the people of Europe in attempting to adjust their domestic affairs or international affairs there. Let them settle those up and then we can see what we can do. I am very certain that no responsible official abroad can in any way misunderstand the position of our Government.

That seems to cover the questions this morning.

October 3, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have two or three inquiries about the Geneva agreement. Now it is obvious that I can't make any comment on it at the present time. In the first place we haven't had any authoritative information relative to it. There have been some news dispatches, but nothing has reached the Department - not this morning - which gives us any authoritative report on it. And besides that it is in the nature, as I understand it, of a proposal arrived at there and which will not become effective, so far as the people who are concerned in it have to do with it, until it has been adopted and accepted by the various governments concerned. So probably there wouldn't be any chance to make any comment on it until after the various governments have acted, though it might be that when we get an authoritative report and the full text we can make some statement about it.

Of course no sum has been decided upon to allow the Navy Department for the coming year in the Budget. Very likely when a sum is decided upon it will not be known beforehand, because in making up the Budget, which is my Budget, I have to make my report to the Congress on it. I don't know whether it has been customary to publish it before it goes to them or not. I don't know that there will be anything private about it, but I wouldn't want to violate the proprieties of making my report to the Congress before I made it elsewhere. It will be sometime before the Budget is made up and printed. I presume it will be more than a month yet. I think for military purposes the last Budget give the Army and Navy combined over \$550,000,000. That is exclusive of the River and Harbor bill and so on. I think there is a request this year for something like \$600,000,000, perhaps something more than that. I don't know the figures exactly.

I haven't received any letter from a Mr. Mason relative to the operation by the Shipping Board of government tugs in the harbor of New York in competition with private owned tug boats, so I can't give you any information about that. If the letter came here, very likely it would be referred to the Shipping Board in order that I might get information from them on which to make a reply or ask them to make a reply. So that while I say I haven't seen the letter, that wouldn't necessarily indicate that the letter hadn't come to the office and in the usual routine we should first have referred it to the Shipping Board to get information on which to make a reply.

I have asked the Agricultural Department in relation to the sugar situation to report to me on the extent of the beet sugar raising industry in this country, as to the purpose which it serves for diversification, and the importance of it in the agricultural interest, in order that I might have more information with which to deal with the situation.

Here is an inquiry that I think perhaps is somewhat representative and rather a good example of a great many rumors and so on that you are likely to meet with from now until election day. I don't think I need to caution experienced newspapermen like yourselves about taking them with a grain of salt and satisfying yourselves from independent sources other than political information bureaus whether they are founded on facts or not. I imagine from some things that have already developed that there is going to be a good deal put out from political bureaus that is perhaps somewhat highly colored and through error, of course, will sometimes not be founded on fact. I think you will be warranted always in making an independent investigation before you give full credability to such reports. This wants to know about the stories that have referred to the indictment of a sheriff of Logan County, West Virginia, as a political indictment because of his friendly position to the United Mine Workers. It is reported that the indictment is due to John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers. I don't know of any recent visit to the White House of John L. Lewis. He did come in to see me, but it was months ago. I can't tell when. I should say very early in the spring, perhaps April or May. It may be earlier. He hasn't come since. I don't know ~~xxxx~~ anything about the indictment of the sheriff of Logan County. I didn't know he was indicted. I should doubt very much if he has been indicted because of his position either one way or the other in relation to the United Mine Workers. Now, I have gone into that at some length because I thought this was an example of reports of that nature that are likely to be made, and this report so far as I know, and that part about which I do refer, has no foundation in fact. I don't know whether the man has been indicted or not. I don't know anything about this being a political indictment. I certainly do know that Mr. Lewis hasn't visited me for many months. I never had any conversation with him about the sheriff. I haven't the slightest idea whether he is friendly or unfriendly to the United Mine Workers. I have said very much more than anything worthy of publication on account of the representative character of this rumor.

I haven't finally decided on any other speaking engagement. I think I am speaking tomorrow at the monument unveiling, and Monday I have a word to say and open the session of the Red Cross, and later in the month I think I am to speak at the United States Chamber of Commerce somewhere along the 23rd or 24th. Then I think sometime before that I am to speak at the unveiling of the monument to Bishop Asbury. Those are the only things that I think of at the present time.

I haven't taken any action on the sugar tariff. I can't until I get these reports from the Tariff Commission I have asked for and from the Dept. of Agriculture.

I haven't in mind making any appointment of a new Alien Property Custodian at the present time. Colonel Miller is still the Alien Property Custodian and has been chosen as President of some Allied War Organization, which he thinks will very likely take him abroad more or less and take up a good deal of his time here, so that he expects it may necessitate his resignation. But just for the present time he is able to carry on the work he is doing.

My discussion with Chairman Butler didn't reveal anything new in the campaign, other than what is already public property. He is still of a hopeful disposition as to the result. I haven't any further plans about participation in it. Of course I have to look after the Presidential office, which takes very much of my time and attention, and I haven't any comment to make relative to the action of Senator Brookhart asking for the removal of General Dawes^{or} on account of his speech which he made today. I have never received any intimation that Judge Kenyon was likely to resign. I rather judge that perhaps it is another rumor. I don't need to comment on the desirability of members of the bench refraining from political action. You may be sure that Judge Kenyon will observe that.

October 7, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't reached any decision on the sugar tariff. As I have indicated at previous conferences I am asking for additional information from the Tariff Commission as to the present difference in cost of production here, and especially in Cuba, and also with reference to the cost of raising beets to farmers, because the whole question centers around that in my estimation. I have asked the Department of Agriculture about the desirability of doing what we can to encourage beet sugar production here, as a help to diversification in agriculture and as an insurance to the American users of sugar against a combination being formed in Cuba or some other foreign countries that would be able to control the price of sugar in this country, if it were not for the beet sugar industry.

Here is a suggestion that the delay in making public the findings of the Tariff Commission is inspired by political motives. That is a standard criticism of the present day which I can't either by confirming or denying help you to arrive at a conclusion.

I have indicated the reasons that I haven't been able to reach a decision on this matter, which seem to me rather to be mental than political.

I don't know anything about the suit filed in New Orleans relative to the qualifications of Walter Cohen holding the position as Collector of Customs. He has been appointed in due course and confirmed by the Senate in due course, and will hold office until it is decided by some competent authority that he hasn't qualified. I don't know whether the suit is inspired by political motives or what the reason for it is. I haven't read with care the newspaper reports. I rather thought from newspaper reports it was a familiar attack on those constitutional amendments which grew out of the war and which were adopted for the purpose of insuring the freedom of the colored race. He will stand as holding the office until competent authority decides otherwise.

I haven't hastened about appointing the Committee to look into the agricultural situation because, as I indicated in my speech of acceptance, the agricultural situation has seemed to be to quite an extent taking care of itself, and this Committee or Commission I was proposing to appoint not so much for relieving the situation at the present time, which has already been relieved by the rise in prices,

as for taking advantage of the present condition which follows one of relief and seeing if we can take some action to prevent a recurrence of the conditions that confronted agriculture during the period of low prices. If there had been any emergency I would have acted on that. Then I have some people that I want to consult about it that I haven't been able to get ahold of as quickly as I expected. My own thought was to find out what could be done while we have a breathing spell to prevent a recurrence of the decline and the period of the low prices of wheat, cattle, hogs and the larger staples of farm production at the present time when it is at a very fair level. I expect to appoint this Committee as soon as I can confer with two or three leaders in the farm movement, in order to see what we can do to prevent a recurrence of the bad situation that agriculture found itself in after the period of deflation.

Here is an inquiry about the transfer of a part of the immigration administration from Montreal to Newport, Vt. That is entirely in the hands of the Department of Labor, under which the administration of immigration is placed. The idea of making the transfer was in order to ~~save~~ save some rent. We had quarters in Newport that we thought might be adequate and we had to rent quarters in Montreal, not a very large sum but between \$4,000 and \$5,000. If we could save that we would like to save it. But when it was proposed to make the transfer representations were made by the transportation companies both in the United States and Canada that such transfer would make it very inconvenient to do the business of the office and perhaps might result in a good deal of a change in the lines of travel. I didn't understand that that was the case when the proposal was made. Investigation is taking place now to see whether that supposition has sufficient foundation and whether there would be sufficient public inconvenience by reason of that to warrant us keeping the headquarters in Montreal. No doubt the Department of Labor will do whatever it thinks is best for the public interest. If the public interest can be served fairly adequately in such a way that we can save a little money by making a change, well, we shall make it. If it appears to be a matter of great public inconvenience, of course the change ought not to be made.

There hasn't any report come to me from the Federal Trade Commission on aluminum, and I don't know whether any request has been received here from the

Democratic Committee, or whether that would be one of the things inspired by some political motive. I do not think the Trade Commission makes reports to this office. It is my understanding that they make findings and if their findings are not carried out the report is sent to the Department of Justice for such action as they think is desirable under the courts. So I can't give any information about that which would be very helpful.

I haven't any additional speaking engagements. I don't know but there are one or two conventions or conferences that are likely to meet here in Washington that are going to come over and have a picture taken, in which case I might take occasion to say a word or two. But I haven't any definite engagements that I know of.

I don't know as I can make any additional comment on the campaign. It is going along, as far as I can discover, and pursuing the same course that it has for some time. I think that the Committee are not oversupplied with funds. I don't want to make any comment about that which would look like an effort to solicit funds or anything. Whether that indicates that the people think that there isn't the necessity to put forth the effort that they sometimes put forth, or just what they have as a motive, I don't know. You have to realize that we don't know what the sentiment of the country may be unless it is registered at the ballot box. Of course, in order to secure that result it is necessary to organize to get out the vote and that is what the Committee is engaged in doing at the present time, and for that purpose is trying to raise funds to carry on the campaign. I think the campaign is making good progress. I haven't anything that I know of to criticize about it.

Anything in the Cabinet, Mr. President?

Nothing except a report from the Secretary of Labor saying that there is more and more opportunity for employment and at the present time there wouldn't seem to be any suffering anywhere from unemployment. There has been some slackness in parts in the textile industry in New England, but the situation in general is entirely good.

October 14, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't had any communication whatever, so far as I know, from the Mayor of Philadelphia. Sometimes if a communication comes in asking for an appointment it wouldn't come to my desk. The appointment would be made and I might not know about it. But I think very likely I should have heard of it, if there had been any request from the Mayor of Philadelphia to confer with me. I can't very well anticipate what request he might ask of me, or undertake to send him word or give information in advance of his request, or what reply ought to be made. General Butler, I think, has a leave of absence that extends up into January, so that any action in relation to an extension of that leave is not imminent. I have here several requests in relation to that same matter. I think I have answered them insofar as I can.

I haven't had any information about the withdrawal by Mr. Ford of his suggestion as to the purchase of Muscôe Shoals, other than what was in the newspapers. I didn't understand from what I saw of that hastily that he contemplated taking any action about it other than making the statement which he did. There was a little misunderstanding about the suggestion that I made in my message to the Congress last December. It was sometimes stated that I had recommended that a Commission be appointed. That wasn't what I had in mind, and I think probably a careful reading of my message would have cleared it up. I think there were several offers pending, and perhaps several more to be made at the time of my message, so what I did was to suggest that a Committee of the Congress be appointed, probably a sub-Committee, there were two Committees, to consider this problem in the House and Senate, in order that such a sub-Committee might consider all the offers that came in and negotiate with those that might be interested to consider the purchase of the property to see what was the best disposition that could be made. I didn't contemplate appointing any Commission myself. My suggestion was that the members of the Committees of Congress, the Military Committees of the House and Senate, appoint a sub-Committee. That was about what I had in mind to be done, if my suggestion was carried out. I don't know whether other offers developed so that there was any necessity for this, or whether no ~~any~~ other offers came in that the Committees cared to consider, so that they gave their attention to the offer made by Mr. Ford.

I think a letter came here from Mayor Hylan. Mr. Hughes is away and I haven't been able to confer with the State Department in relation to it. When he returns I shall do that, and take such action about an answer as the information I get from the State Department seems to indicate ought to be done.

That seems to cover all but one inquiry.

I am expecting that there will be a conference of colored clergymen in the City the latter part of the month, and if those of you who are interested in that particular work will confer with Mr. Slomp I think he can give you more particulars about it. I haven't them at hand, or I would be very glad to give them myself.

Anything in the Cabinet, Mr. President?

No, there was nothing that came up in the Cabinet.

Have you decided to go home to vote, Mr. President?

No, I haven't decided about that. I have decided to vote. But I haven't decided whether I shall go up to Massachusetts to vote or whether I shall vote by mail. I would like very much to go up and vote. I don't know whether I shall be able to get away.

Mr. President, do you have to register by mail now?

Outside of Boston one registration lasts right along. You don't have to re-register until you remove from the town.

October 17, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't know as I can add very much to the message that I have just sent Mrs. Kohlsaat of sympathy in the loss of Mr. Kohlsaat. He has been a very prominent figure in the journalistic life of America, between 30 and 40 years. My acquaintance with him wasn't very extensive. I had seen him several times since I have been in Washington. I know that he had a very wide acquaintance with prominent people in this country and abroad. He was a man of judgment and discretion and had a good deal of influence in molding public opinion here and in directing public policy.

I haven't done anything further about the sugar report of the Tariff Commission. I am awaiting further information on that.

I haven't decided when I shall call the conference on the agricultural situation. I want to do it just as soon as I can. One of the leaders of the agricultural movement is out of town, some two or three of them, and I want to see them before I make a final decision as to the appointments to be made and the conference called.

I don't know as I can make any comment about the campaign, other than to say that it is proceeding in a satisfactory way, and after making due allowances for perhaps too optimistic reports as sometimes are given a candidate, I think the outlook is encouraging. The investigation of campaign expenditures seems to me has revealed the carrying out of the policy that I outlined in my speech of acceptance, which was the making of a budget, a refraining from running into debt, and carrying on the campaign on borrowed money, and being ready at all times to make a public declaration as to what money has been received and the expenditures that have been made. I understand that the reports that are made on the campaign expenditures of the Republican National Committee are verified by the affidavit of a responsible accountant, so that there can't be any doubt about what money has been taken in and what money has been paid out, and the purposes for which it has gone. I am pleased to know that the financial part of the campaign has been conducted with so much care and such a careful regard for the law, and also a regard for the proprieties of campaign collections and expenditures.

Mr. Littlefield of Lynn, who is acquainted with the shoe industry, and is connected with it, and lives in the district that includes the City of Lawrence, which is a great textile center - - I asked him to come down here that I might confer with him about the present state of these two great industries..

The report from Hartford that I have made any communication to Governor Templeton regarding the coming election of a new Senator in Connecticut is without any foundation.

That seems to cover everything.

Mr. President, may I ask if you expect to attend the funeral of Mr. Kohlsaas?

I haven't fully decided. I understood he was to have a short service at Mr. Hoover's house tomorrow, and I am going to try to be there.

Anything in the Cabinet?

No, nothing in the Cabinet.

Has the time for the service been set?

I think it is in the afternoon, but I am not sure.

October 21, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I have an oft recurring question here about the Tariff Commission's report on sugar. They haven't finished their studies yet, and until I get before me all the information I want to have - there was a man in from the West this morning stating that the producers of sugar beets wanted to be heard,- I don't know when I can arrive at a conclusion.

Could you say who it was?

I can't think now what the man's name was.

Do you expect to hear the producers?

I hardly think so. I don't believe I can start in on holding anything much in the way of hearings or giving them a chance to file information with me. I have reached no conclusion about that, but I shall have to depend very largely on such reports as I can get from the Departments, rather than to attempt making an independent investigation myself. Though, if it seems necessary to have hearings, in order to get the necessary information, of course I shall do that.

I haven't any further plan than that which I have already announced about an agricultural conference. I don't know that I have any speeches in contemplation that would be dignified by the name of speeches, other than that which I am going to make here in Washington Thursday evening, which will be radioed, I understand, over the whole country. It is especially with that in mind that I am making this address. The gathering here of the Chamber of Commerce was simply an opportunity for making a speech that would get some circulation by radio.

I hardly expect to go to Northampton to vote, though I haven't made up my mind fully about that. I should go there by all means, if I could go without the necessary train attendants that always have to go when the President goes anywhere. I have to take so many people with me that if it takes any kind of a journey / why for myself and Mrs. Coolidge it is a good deal of an undertaking, and of course there is a considerable expense to the Government. I may go, but I haven't decided yet.

I haven't had any communication from the Mayor of Philadelphia about an extension of leave for General Butler. My disposition would be to leave such a request open for a time. I think he has an extension of leave that lasts until some time in January. I shouldn't want to give him another extension and find that within two or

three days after it was given that there was another set of difficulties arriving up there. I am more disposed to wait and see. If he is treated all right and gets on all right, if he does and is, why then I can consider that, and be guided to some extent, of course, by what he may want himself. As I say, I haven't had any communication about it, so I haven't given the matter any attention.

I don't believe I can make any comment about the proposed carrying out of the Versailles Treaty. That is a matter that is entirely in the hands of foreign governments. I don't know as it would be in good taste for me to make any comment about it.

Mr. President, have you received any reply from the Secretary of Commerce, Nagel, asking him to make some speeches in St. Louis?

Yes, I got a telegram from him yesterday I think, and I don't know of any reason why that couldn't be given out to the press here. He indicated that he was expecting to make some speeches.

Who is that, Mr. President?

Secretary Nagel, of St. Louis.

This speech on Thursday night, Mr. President, it will be a political speech pure and simple wont it?

No, I very seldom make any political speeches.

It will be your last extended speech?

I /rather think it will be my last extended speech, though about that I don't know, and there might be something arising about which I might want to say something. I am going to speak about the general business situation of the country and what we have been doing to try and improve it, and the results that we have had from such actions as we have taken.

Will you lay down a little program for the future in a way, Mr. President?

I haven't got to that part of my speech yet. But that is a good suggestion.

Can you give us any news about Mr. Prince's visit?

Mr. Prince was an old friend of mind up in Mass. He was in town and dropped in to pay his respects. I invited him to come in to lunch.

Mr. President, have you received the sugar report from the Dept. of Agriculture?

Not final. They have sent me some information and are going to send some more.

October 24, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Nothing more has been done about the disposition of Muscle Shoals.

I don't know of any plan in relation to the Z-R-3, to use it either as a commercial carrier or as an adjunct of the Army and Navy, other than the general plan to use it for military purposes the same as our other airships have been used. I am not certain whether it is technically assigned either to the Army or the Navy at the present time, but I assume it was assigned to the Navy. I think they are the ones that have charge of that kind of our aircraft.

I haven't any information whatever about the letter that was published as coming from Mrs. Willebrandt, other than what is included in the published reports. I haven't had any request for any extension of the leave of absence of General Butler. I did direct the Attorney General to investigate the situation in Philadelphia. I haven't had any report from him. That direction was made some time ago, when there was a communication from some person up there, I can't remember now what his name was -

Nicholson -

I think he was the Secretary of some civic organization, or league for law enforcement, or something of that kind. I turned over the communication to the Attorney General, directing him to investigate and take such action as he thought might be necessary. /

I haven't had any communication that has come to my desk from the real estate men regarding wholesale evictions of tenants. If anything of that kind has come in, it is still in the outer office and hasn't reached my desk yet. I suppose it is known that this office is doing everything it can to see that the law is enforced and rendering any assistance that we can render to those that are in distress, through the proper offices that are provided by law here for the assistance of distressed people. As I haven't heard anything from it for a day or two I thought whatever had been necessary had been done by the Commissioners, or the Secretary of War, or the Attorney General. I haven't any definite information about the rent situation in Washington. I have been over it once or twice with the Rent Commission, I think it was last year, because I felt that here in Washington the Government owed a somewhat peculiar duty to the residents. It is a

Federal city and such a large proportion of those who live in Washington are either directly or indirectly connected with the Government service that it is quite important from a business standpoint that the Government should provide, insofar as it can, that they are able to secure rentals at a reasonable compensation. So the Government has really a direct financial connection with the prices of rentals in Washington, as it is one element of the cost of living, and that is one element of Government wages.

Mr. President, at that time consideration was on the question of extending the Rent Board. You haven't studied it since?

No, not especially. That was not done then with the idea of ~~task~~ working out what the prices of rentals here might be, but with the idea of doing everything the Government could do to see that they were reasonable.

I don't know anything about the publishing of the tax returns, other than what appears in the papers. I didn't know that they were to be published, and I don't think there was any reason for their publication other than that which newspaper men would know better than I. I am quite certain that they had no political reason for printing the tax lists.

I haven't any special information about any difficulties with Roumania. Whatever has been done has been done entirely with the State Department, I think, and that has been a matter of insufficient moment to be brought to my special attention.

I hope to attend the Army and Navy football game. Where is that to be held this year?

Baltimore.

It is within easy striking distance and comes about the 20th of November?

The 29th, Mr. President.

Well, I am arranging about that time to go to Chicago to attend the opening of the Cattle Show. I don't think it would necessarily interfere with my going to the game, but I am very anxious to go to that cattle show in order to be at its opening. It is a very important exhibition of cattle, perhaps one of the most important in the world, and I have already indicated that I shall try to be present. I think that starts in on Saturday, just before the opening of the Congress. I am a little uncertain on that account, but I think I can arrange it so that I can go both to the football game and also to the opening of the cattle show at

Chicago.

I haven't any plan about going to Miami, Fla. to spend two or three weeks after election. I have understood that that is a very fine place to go for a vacation. I judge that they have some capacity for advertising.

I haven't any plan about a trip out of Washington after election.

I am not certain yet about going to Northampton to vote. I am rather afraid that I shall not be able to go up there to vote. That means, of course, that I shall cast my vote by mail. I should certainly go, if I were not able to vote by mail. This is just the time when I am urging the different departments to save what money they can, and it is quite an expense to the Government for the President to go up to Northampton and back.

I don't know as I can make any comment on the campaign. It seems to be proceeding satisfactorily, and I should think the outlook is encouraging judging from the developments of the past week or ten days. The other party doesn't seem to be especially hopeful of the action it has taken.

I don't know what reaction I can report to you regarding the address that I delivered last night. I received telegrams from as far east as New York City and as far west as Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles that they had heard it perfectly. No one, so far as I know, that has communicated with me, has found any fault about it. Perhaps they wouldn't do that.

Mr. President, you haven't heard from the La Follette train yet, have you?

No. I don't think so, directly.

Mr. President, what are the reports from Minnesota. I understand the latest report is that the Republicans are going to carry Minnesota?

I haven't any specific reports about any states. My reports indicate that I shall probably carry Northampton. That is about as far as I can go into details. That is based more on experience.

October 28, 1924.

I haven't decided yet about voting by mail. As I indicated at the last conference, I rather think that I shall probably do that.

I haven't any plan at present about attending the Plymouth Congregational Church.

I don't know as I can say anything about the achievement of the Shenandoah, other than that which would occur to every one. It is an achievement on land, of course, somewhat comparable with that of the achievement of the other ship that came across the Atlantic. Perhaps it will give us some information on which we can base a decision about sending one of those airships up to the North to try and go across the pole. It was suggested last year, but as we only had one ship at that time I hesitated about exposing it to that hazard.

I haven't taken up the matter of a successor to the Secretary of Agriculture. He has not yet been laid to rest, and the people with whom I would naturally confer on that subject are almost all out of the city. I don't know just how soon I can act on it. The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Gore, has dropped his active campaign in West Virginia and gone to Iowa with Mrs. Wallace at my request, and immediately on his return will go to the office as Acting Secretary of ~~the~~ Agriculture and carry on the duties there until I may be able to appoint a successor.

I haven't any comment on the action of France in recognizing Russia.

No new speaking engagements that I can think of now. Once or twice when I said that I hadn't any new engagements, I have thought afterwards of something that I had agreed to say, but I don't think there are any at the present time.

My attitude on all the public questions that I know about has been set out in my various speeches and addresses, and I don't know of anything on which I have changed my mind. I have suggested to you once or twice before that when you are in doubt about anything, if you will take the chance on saying that I haven't changed my mind since I made a statement saying so and so, you will almost always be right. I don't mean by that that I am not going to change my mind. When the news comes in about all subjects, it quite naturally changes your attitude, but I don't think of anything on which I have changed my attitude regarding the issues of the present

campaign. I have touched on almost every one of which I can think, so that any time you want to know what my attitude is on anything, why if you will just turn to my message to the Congress, my speech of acceptance, and my address the other night, you will find what I intended to be an accurate statement of my position.

I haven't made any plans about receiving election returns. Very likely I shall receive them in the White House. Of course, they ordinarily come in here through the telegraph office. We have a radio set in the White House also. I presume the returns will be received that way. I haven't thought anything about that. The only comment I can make regarding the election and my possible action in relation to it is that every indication seems to point to the fact that I shall be elected, and I am making all my plans on that basis. I don't think of any information that would lead me to have any other expectation. Now, there are a great many charges being made by one person and another in relation to what I am doing and what other Departments of the Government are doing. I don't believe I can make any specific reply to any of those. I haven't received any report from U. S. Attorney Gordon that I know of. I am sure none has come to my desk. I know he is making an investigation to see what ~~he~~ he can do on any evidence that might help in keeping rents down here and in easing up the housing situation, and in that effort of course he has my sympathy and support.

I haven't conferred with the Attorney General specifically about the U. S. District Attorneys. I knew that some had resigned and that there had been suggestions that some others might retire. I don't mean that they are retiring under pressure, but some are going to retire.

I haven't had any communication from Mayor Kendrick. I am willing to answer that question as often as I ought to, but I don't want to answer it so often ^{through} that it might embarrass the Mayor / my position down here by making it appear that I was constantly making some comment and undertaking to criticize his actions and issue some directions about how he ought to perform the duties of his office. I want especially to avoid that. I am sure that if he wants to make any communication to me, why he will know when to make it and what the nature of the communication ought to be. He is the Mayor of that great city and responsible for the administration of affairs there, and I am not. I have no authority that I can exercise up there over the Mayor's office, and it would be rather ungracious for me to undertake to

comment on it, or say anything through the press that could be interpreted as making any criticism or comment.

No decision has been made by the Attorney General, so far as I know, about the publication of income tax returns. There is a question of law involved there, and I am sure that the Attorney General will take the attitude that the Government officials must observe the law, and if it is against other people the law ought to be enforced. That is the general and broad policy. I don't want to have Government officials exempt from having the law enforced against them. That is the Government policy of preserving the law and enforcing the law. Of course, that will have to be carried out. I don't mean by that there ought to be persecution or anything of that nature. If some error has been made, why that is always taken into consideration in determining what ought to be done. It will be here. But no decision has been made as to whether there has been any violation of the law, and until that is made of course everybody is presumed to be innocent under our institutions. Until they are proved guilty, everybody is presumed to have observed the law.

The only thing I can say about the Veteran's Bureau, and I keep in constant touch with General Hines, is that I have had a number of veterans voluntarily come in to tell me about the Bureau. Someone came in, I don't recall who it was, whether it was the head of the Disabled Veterans, came in and said he thought the Veterans Bureau was being conducted in first-rate shape and wanted to commend it. Senator Oddie came in one time last spring and I had him talk with Senator Reed. Senator Reed was on the Committee on which Senator Oddie served and had access to the same information, and Senator Reed gave me his assurance that he thought that whatever evils may have existed in the Veterans Bureau heretofore had been cleared up and that the Bureau was functioning satisfactorily. That is the only information I can give about it.

October 31, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I want to get a decision on the sugar schedules just as soon as I can. I am waiting for some further information from some members of the Tariff Board. I am hampered a little by their not being able to agree better. All of them are perfectly sincere and mean well, as the saying is, but on account of some differences in that Board I am hampered somewhat in getting the information that I desire. I do not think that I said four weeks ago that I would be able to act on the sugar report before election. I don't find in the notes that I made a statement at that time. But I want to act just as quickly as I can get the information. It is a matter of considerable importance to the Government and is the source of a good deal of revenue, and as a matter of a good deal of importance I imagine that is one of the reasons I am trying to find out more, particularly through the growers of the sugar beet. I would like to find out just what their cost is as compared to the costs abroad. But that is the cause of the delay, the difficulty in ascertaining the cost per pound of raising the sugar beets. That is the foundation of the industry in this country, and unless it is a condition under which the farmer can afford to raise sugar beet, of course the sugar industry is gone. No matter what the conditions might be in relation to the manufacturer or the refiner, if he can't get the beets there will be no making of beet sugar in this country.

I don't know anything more about the expenses of the Republican National Committee than that which has appeared in the papers. I announced in my speech of acceptance that I thought it would be a good idea to have a budget system or a budget plan. I have appreciated the difficulties of working on that line because there isn't much of any precedent and it is difficult to tell before hand what the specific needs may be. Still one was worked out that, as I understood, contemplated the raising and expenditure for National Committee purposes, and I think that includes the House Committee and Senatorial Committee, of about \$3,000,000. From the latest reports in the newspapers that I have seen that is being adhered to. The last report that I saw was that there had been, and the only information I have about this is the newspaper reports, some \$3,700,000 collected, of which \$700,000 had been sent back to the states, leaving \$3,000,000 to be carried out.

I didn't understand that the Committee would run in debt at any time or proposed to spend anything in excess of what was expected to be raised. I think they have maintained that policy consistently. I have necessarily given you more or less my impression. The information that has come to me from newspaper reports, rather than anything I have received personally. I have no first hand information about it.

I don't know as I can give any interpretation of the statement that was given out yesterday relative to my asking the counsel of different farm organizations as to a proper person to appoint to be Secretary of Agriculture. I should doubt very much if the different organizations would agree, or a majority of them agree, but they are so much better acquainted with them than I am, that I thought out of their suggestions I would be pretty certain to find someone that probably at my suggestion they would all feel fairly able to agree upon. It was for the purpose of getting their counsel and their information that I requested that they send in suggestions. Nothing has come in yet, so far as I know, from them, other than one or two acknowledgments of my telegram and the statement that they would confer with their state organizations right away and let me know the first part of the week what they had to suggest.

I haven't met President-elect Calles yet. I am to meet him at 4:30 at the White House.

I haven't any plans for receiving the news of the election. I imagine I would receive it the same as I have received reports of primary contests. It comes in here, and as it is received here anything that is thought of interest to me is sent over to the White House.

I don't know as I can give you any further comment regarding the relations of Mexico and America, other than what you already have in mind. You will recall that we sent to Mexico something over a year ago a Commission consisting of Judge Payne and Charles Warren of Michigan. They reached an agreement with the Mexican Government as to a method of settling our claims and brought back a treaty which was ratified, and as a result of that I appointed an Ambassador to Mexico. Mr. Warren was willing to go back and serve for a time and later I appointed Mr. Sheffield of New York. Two commissions I think have

been appointed for the consideration and disposition of mutual claims that exist between the Mexican Government and the American Government, and the Mexican people and the American people. The result of these activities has brought the relations between the United States and Mexico into the most friendly and best condition, I think, that has existed for a number of years, since away back, early in 1916 I think. We virtually severed relations with Mexico and since that time our relations with that country have been unsettled and unsatisfactory. At the present time they are of the most friendly nature and satisfactory. Of course I have had many comments from people who have business interests there and residence in Mexico and residence in the United States as to the great satisfaction that they feel at the good understanding that exists between our country and Mexico. I think it is a condition that America may well look at with a great deal of satisfaction.

I think that covers the inquiries for today.

November 4, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know if I have any very specific information about the proposed loan to France. That would go along in accordance with the general policy of our Government, which is to look with favor on loans made for the purpose of restoring Europe and for use in reproductive efforts. It doesn't look with favor on any loans made for the purpose of financing military activities, but loans which are made to sustain a monetary system, or install a new monetary system, which was made to Austria and which was recently made to Germany, seems to the American Government to be a wise policy to pursue. I don't know what the purpose of the proposed loan to France is. I can only comment upon it by saying that the approval or disapproval would be in accordance with whether it comes within that policy or not.

I haven't in mind any particular instructions that may have been issued relative to the International Finance Conference now meeting in Paris. Our general suggestion to those who represent us there would be that they should protect American interests and see that the moneys that are paid by Germany are used in part to repay the obligations which are due to us. Now we have two obligations. The bill for the Army of occupation. There is an arrangement for meeting that in some 20 annual payments of about \$10,000,000 a year. And then in addition to that is the bill for paying the damages that accrued to our nationals, which accrued entirely I think, I am not sure, but I think it was before the war, that is, such cases as the sinking of our ships, the loss of our lives and damages to our property. That is being adjusted by a Commission. I don't know how large that bill will be. It will be somewhere between \$200,000,000 and \$400,000,000. I can't tell. Those are the two financial interests that our country has. Those will be presented I assume at this Financial Conference, and we shall want a seat there for such payments as will take care of what is due to us.

I haven't any plans for leaving the city before I go to Chicago for the Livestock Exposition. I think you can consider the latter engagement as definite as any engagement that the President can make. I am bothered a little about how to get in the football game in Baltimore between the Army and Navy, and get to Chicago, and be present at the opening of the Congress. I haven't decided yet whether I shall appear before the Congress in person to deliver my message, or whether I shall send

it up. My first thought had been that I would go up to the last Congress and present my message in person, but as this is the same Congress with the same personnel as the last one, I am certain that this time probably I shall send my message up and let it be read, though I haven't made any definite provision about that.

I don't know that there is any comment that I can make on the election or the campaign that isn't perfectly obvious to all of you. I have conducted a campaign that I think will not leave me anything to be sorry for, whether I am elected or not. I don't know of anything in the conduct of the campaign that I have been responsible ^{for} for which I shall have to make any apology. I have been very much pleased with what has appeared to be the high plane on which my party have presented their case to the American people, the freedom from expenditure of large sums of money, and on the publicity that has been given and the care taken in relation to the collections and the expenditure of the campaign funds. They have at all times been under the supervision of chartered public accountants, so that practically on a minute's notice the National Committee were ready to have a certified oath-bound statement made in relation to the election expenditures by disinterested and chartered public accountants. I don't think a campaign was ever before conducted in that way. From all the indications that have come to this office I think the result of the efforts on our part are going to meet with success. A part of that success is due to you gentlemen who are here in the room and have done more to interpret me and my policies to the country than I could do myself.

I am going to name a Secretary of Agriculture just as soon as I can decide whom to name. I haven't yet secured reports from the different sources of information which I have sought. Some of them have begun to come in, but they are not anywhere near complete. I will be very glad to give an autographed photograph to Mr. Skinner and assist in any other way I can.

Mr. President, will you hazard a guess on the electoral vote and the situation in Congress? Everybody else has.

I haven't any information that would lead me to come to any other conclusion than that which I think Mr. Butler made public, that he felt certain of about 353 electoral votes and of some 70 others that were doubtful I probably had an even chance of getting at least half of them. But every election is an uncertain election.

Any information about the probable outcome in Congress?

I can't give you the figures there that have been submitted to me. There a small number makes a considerable difference. I think about 235. That might have been 215. I can't give you those figures. It was a majority so that the -- the estimate was that we would have a working majority of 20 odd, disre-

garding those people that have been accustomed to vote with the Democrats.

You will have a working majority of 20 --

Yes, disregarding those who during the course of this campaign have elected not to support the Republican ticket and who have been in the habit in the Congress, on divided questions, of often voting for the minority. Over and above them the best information was that we ought to have a working majority of some 20.

What are your plans for this afternoon?

None, except what I have every day - to do the work that comes to my desk here. Of course, in the evening I shall receive the returns over in the White House as they come in. I don't intend to sit up very late about it.

How late?

Well, I usually go to bed about 10 o'clock, though for the last two or three nights it has been much later. I didn't wake up until 8 o'clock this morning, so perhaps that will entitle me to stay up later tonight.

Will there be any comment tonight?

I don't know - / there may be no comment to be made. I won't make any promise about that. But I will do the best I can to serve you.

November 7, 1924.

Remarks to the Newspaper Men by the President

I haven't any legislative program that I can announce at the present time. Naturally that brings up the old question of whether I ought to deliver my message to the Congress to the newspaper men before I deliver it to the Congress. I think that you usually get the best of that. Of course, at a short session I naturally desire to get the appropriation bills through and take up any business that is urgent and pressing, but I haven't yet made up my mind just what I shall recommend.

I don't think I have any report from the Tariff Commission on the duty on barbital. I don't know just what that is. I was told it is some kind of a chemical.

I can't make much comment on the statement that is attributed to me by Henry True Wilson. I don't think I can place that gentleman. That is not the slightest reflection on him. A good many men in position of eminence shake hands with me, but I don't always get their names exactly and am not always able to identify them by their names afterward. I didn't know that I had discussed with this man the subject of prohibition enforcement. About the only comment I can make is that he is violating the proprieties if he is undertaking to quote my position relative to prohibition enforcement. My position is carefully stated in my message to the Congress and speeches that I have made. So I do not think I need to reiterate them. Briefly stated, it is in favor of the observance and enforcement of the law.

I don't know whether it is wise in a short session to undertake to do anything about further tax legislation. My offhand impression is that it wouldn't be. I may get information from members of the House or Senate that would lead me to change my mind about that.

I haven't made any decision about the sugar tariff. I haven't secured all the information I want from the Tariff Commission.

I haven't any plans for a special session of the Congress after the 4th of March.

I haven't fully determined about an Assistant Secretary of the Navy or the Alien Property Custodian. Colonel Miller is still the Alien Property Custodian, and while he has indicated he might want to retire on account of being chosen

President of some International Veterans Association, up to the present time it hasn't sufficiently interfered with his work so that he would have to retire.

I haven't been able to select a successor to Secretary Wallace. I received today some results on questions that the Farm Bureau sent out.

I haven't fully determined the personnel of the Agricultural Commission. I think I shall do that this week.

I haven't accepted any invitations that would take me out of the city, other than Chicago, which comes the latter part of November or the first of December, and possibly the football game between the Army and Navy which, I think, is at Baltimore.

I don't think I can make any statement about the report which is published in New York relative to Colonel Roosevelt having a place in the federal service. I presume he wouldn't care to appear just now as a seeker for a place in the public service.

I expect that we shall try and get through any necessary farm relief legislation at the coming session. I don't know as I would call it farm relief legislation, just at the present time my thought being to take such steps as we can to prevent a recurrence.

Mr. President, do you think the Agricultural Commission will be able to complete its work and report in time for the coming session of the Congress?

Yes, I think so.

I don't know as there is much of anything I can do about the letter that was sent to me by Commander Drain in response to the letter I sent to him. I wanted to say something about Armistice Day and the time arrived when I quite naturally thought that what I wanted to say ought to be said, and I made the letter to Commander Drain my expression about Armistice Day.

Mr. President, do you care to say anything about the proclamation and also the national holiday?

Well that is what I am saying. I don't think I have any more to say about Armistice Day. I made my statement about it in my letter to him and that having been done I don't think I should make any proclamation about it, nothing more except to observe it as had already been

observe it as had already been provided, by going over and putting a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier.

I haven't any plan about a special session of the Congress.

Dr. Coffey, Dean of the University of Minnesota is one of the names that has been suggested to me, I think for Secretary of Agriculture, certainly for service on the Agricultural Conference.

That seems to cover the questions of the day.

November 11, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't given any thought to the having of an inaugural ball and parade on March 4th. I think I have heard of one or two things that wanted to go into the parade, but I didn't give the matter any thought at all. I am not at all inclined to have an inaugural ball. I suppose if there was one I should have to go. I don't mind the parade so much.

Can we quote you on that Mr. President?

Well in the way that you always do.

I haven't given any thought to the appointment of a Police Court judge. I suppose that means in the District of Columbia.

Nor have I given any further thought about a Race Commission. That means an interracial commission. I think there is a resolution pending about that in the Congress, and if there is a rumor that William C. Malthus is to become the Register of the Treasury I don't think that the rumor had come to my attention. I think I have heard Mr. Malthus as being a very estimable man, but I don't think that anybody suggested to me, as I now recall, that he be appointed, though perhaps it may be on file.

The present increase in business activity I judge is what naturally might be expected after an election. Elections are always uncertain and people are inclined to wait and see how an election comes out before they commit themselves. I heard of one man before the election that said he had on his desk an order for \$50,000,000 worth of merchandise, but that he wouldn't be able to place the order until he knew the result of the election. I think other orders have been given to be filled pending - or in accordance with the election result. Of course those orders ~~xxx~~ now coming on the market are but the natural result of a business activity greater than that preceding the election. There were some suggestions, I think you will recall, prior to the election and during the summer that somebody that was interested in my election was putting up the price of wheat. I didn't know that anyone was doing that. I noticed that yesterday the price of wheat was \$1.60 a bu., and that it has gone up considerably since the election, which would probably indicate that either the rise in wheat was not due to the influence of the election, or else the people do not know yet that the election has been held. I judge that the result of the election, the decisive result, indicating

an attachment of the people to their Constitution and the present method of trans-acting their business, a desire that enterprise and business activities be left in the hands of private individuals rather than a transfer of ownership to the control of the Government, has undoubtedly had an effect in stimulating private enterprise. It has given an evidence of stability on which people are willing to make investments, make commitments, plans for development, and plans for the buying and selling of merchandise, which results in an increase in production.

I haven't chosen anyone to succeed Secretary Wallace or Colonel Roosevelt.yet. I haven't reached any decision on the sugar tariff. I am still waiting for some information from the Tariff Commission. I know they are preparing it as fast as they can.

I am going to try to go to the Army and Navy football game at Baltimore on the 29th of November. I understood that the Revised Statutes provided that the Acting head of an executive department couldn't be appointed for more than a period of thirty days. That would make it desirable to fill the office of Secretary of Agriculture within 30 days of the decease of Secretary Wallace, though of course if it wasn't possible at that time to find a permanent head of the Department I could appoint the present Acting head, Mr. Gore, to be the Secretary of Agriculture, and that he could hold until I found someone to take his place.

I want to get my judicial appointments out of the way as fast as I can. I don't think I shall make any of them until the Congress convenes, so that they can be submitted directly to the Senate. I know that the Attorney General is making such investigations as the Department usually makes on vacancies and proposals for appointments, but he hasn't submitted any list of recommendations to me or reports of information.

I don't know whether Dr. George Butte of Texas is a candidate for the vacancy down there or not. I assume that this means the vacancy on the Federal bench. It is rather unusual that a Dr., if this means a physician, would also be a lawyer, though it sometimes happens. I suppose it goes without saying that I wouldn't think of appointing anyone to the bench except a member of the bar. I don't know whether Dr. Butte is a member of the bar or not. That is not in derogation of him or anyone else. It would be almost absolutely necessary that a person put on the Federal bench have a legal education.

I haven't given any thought to what might happen in the Cabinet if somebody resigned.or retired. I don't know of any retirements that are in contemplation with the possible exception of Secretary of Labor Davis, who has told me during the past year that he wanted to serve until the 4th of March, when he wanted to retire. I am rather hoping that he wont insist on that, but that is the only authoritative statement that there is relative to any consideration of retirement by anyone, so far as I know. Now the rest are speculations. You are entitled to speculate about it as much as you wish, but thereisn't anything outside of that for speculation. I haven't indulged in that very much myself, so I haven't given thought about whom I would appoint. Now there aren't any retirements in contemplation, with the exception of Secretary Davis, as I said several times. He wanted to serve out a four year term and then retire. I rather hope that he will reconsider that and not feel that it is necessary for him to carry that out.

There is considerable speculation as to whether I am likely to change or not. I don't anticipate to change very much. I have tried in the conduct of my office to be natural and I don't want to change that attitude. There are two or three other people that have served with me in the conduct of the affairs of the United States that I should be pleased if they changed a little, - that I have to change from saying "no" to saying "yes".

November 14, 1924.

Remarks by the President at Correspondent's Meeting.

I don't think I can make any statement as to what I shall advise the Congress as to foreign affairs at the coming session. I have constantly outlined my position on foreign affairs in my addresses. They are the same now as they have been. And I have to make the same apply in regard to what roll the Republican Party should play in political affairs. I haven't seen any reason to change my opinion on the policies that I have outlined a good many times. The Republican Party can take up the questions as they arise and provide the best solution they can for the constantly increasing affairs of the American people. Of course I think the Party should always go forward. My position relative to the development of the St. Lawrence River I have also stated a number of times. The consideration of that matter is now in the hands, I think I might properly designate it, of a Joint Commission of Canadians and Americans. They haven't yet made their report. I am not certain, but I think that there is nothing that can be done on this side until we made a treaty arrangement with the Canadian Government. I think this Commission is working on the necessary details for a plan of that kind.

I don't know as I can say anything about the Child Labor Amendment than that which I have already said. I have favored its adoption. I have forgotten just how the Republican Platform treats it. I think that is the general meaning of the platform declaration.

General Turgeon of Buffalo came down to invite me to go to Buffalo to make a speech. I was sorry to have to tell him I couldn't give him very much encouragement.

I have received, I think, from Attorney General Stone a report on the rent situation in the District with a suggestion from him that it shouldn't be made public at this time, because it would interfere with the necessary investigation that his Department wants to make in order to see whether they can take any legal action or not.

I can't say any more about a conference on disarmament than that which I have already said.

I made all the statement I could about my Cabinet officers, I think at our last conference. You will hear constant rumors of one kind or another that someone is going to retire and somebody else is going to stay, somebody is going to be appointed. Those things are merely rumors and have no other foundation than the rumor foundation.

I don't intend to make any speeches on my way to Chicago or on my return trip. I think I am to lunch with the Commercial Club, I believe that is the name of the organization at Chicago, and very likely shall make a few remarks there, and then I am speaking in the evening at the International Cattle Show Association.

I haven't made any decision about appointing Mr. Gore the Secretary of Agriculture until his term as Governor begins on the 4th of March.

I don't think I am going to make anything in the way of an extended speech to the Agricultural Conference. They know the agricultural situation. I expect them to come here to the White House, and I thought I would meet them in the Cabinet Room Monday morning. I may have a short statement that I can give out. It will be very short, if any.

Mr. President, where will the sessions be held?

Well, they are arranging to get accommodations at the Agricultural Department.

I haven't any plan whatever about an extra session of the Congress. I don't expect to call one immediately after the 4th of March. I don't want to say that I shall never call an extra session of the Congress, but I shouldn't call one unless I thought it was very necessary. I suppose the particular question that would be expected to be taken up by an extra session would be a reduction in taxation. We can't reduce taxation much more until we have first reduced expenses. We shall not know much about the balance between our expenditures and our income until after the 30th of next June. That is

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the end of the fiscal year. Then we will know what balance there is on hand and what provision could be made for further tax reduction.

I expect that during the present session of the Congress I shall be able to transmit to them such recommendations for agricultural legislation as may be necessary.

I haven't any idea how long the conference will take to study the questions.

I haven't had any report from the Naval Board on the relative value of aircraft, surface craft and submarines.

I haven't any information about ^{the}trial of Representative Hill, so that I could make any comment on it.

I am not familiar with the speech made by Dr. Streseman concerning the American elections. If he expressed the belief that friendly relations between the two nations are growing, I think that is true. And I think it is true also of the European nations. That was demonstrated at the London Conference where after years of comment back and forth ever since the Armistice they were at last able to agree on certain indefinite action to which all of them were willing to subscribe. I think that is the very best evidence of growing friendliness among the nations over there and it reaches our relations also with the European nations.

I couldn't make any comment at all on what is said to be a news item from Brussels that Foreign Minister Theunis has invited Great Britain and France to create a new Triple Entente. That is entirely a European question, a suggestion of European action. I can't make any comment about it.

November 18, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents

I don't think any decision has been reached in the matter of appointing a Commissioner of Immigration for the Port of Philadelphia. I know there is some discussion there between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. I don't know as there is any serious disagreement about it. I think I can make an appointment there very soon.

I have received from the Tariff Commission yesterday further information on the cost of beet sugar production.. I haven't had a chance to think it over yet, but from what I know about it I assume it is adequate and will enable me to make a decision which I hope to make very soon.

I haven't any objection to making the report that came to me on the rent situation in the District of Columbia public, so far as I know. The Attorney General suggested to me that he wanted to make some investigations relative to some suggestions or facts that were in the report, and preferred not to have it made public pending the making of these investigations. I assume his reason was that it might defeat the ends of justice.

I haven't made any final selection for vacancies in the United States District Court at San Francisco or United States District Attorney for the vacancies in Hawaii. I expect that the Attorney General will be able to report to me such facts as the Department of Justice may ascertain relative to suggestions that have been made to me of different names for the appointment of various judicial officers. There are several vacancies that I quite naturally couldn't fill until the Congress convened. I could have made a recess appointment, but in case I didn't get elected, I think it has been the usual practice to refuse to confirm appointments made by a President who hasn't been reelected. It wouldn't be hardly fair to ask somebody to take a judicial appointment and take him from his judicial practice. Of course it would be very unfair to ask a man to resign from a place on the district bench in order to take a place on the circuit bench, so I had to hold these appointments off until the reconvening of the Senate. As soon as the Senators arrive in town, so that they can be consulted about various suggestions that have been made, I think the Attorney General will be

able to report to me what facts his Department finds, so that I can go right ahead with them.

I haven't given any consideration to the matter of appointing a successor to the place of Register of the Treasury. I think that is a place that formerly was held by a colored man. I think that was changed under President Roosevelt, who, according to my recollection appointed an Indian to that place. I may be wrong about that, but that is my recollection, as some of you men may perhaps recall. I haven't any policy about appointing either a white man or a colored man or an Indian to that place.

I haven't any plan about attending the Howard-Lincoln football game on Thanksgiving Day.

And I haven't any statement that I can make now about the race plan presented by Mr. William C. Matthews. If that is something that has been presented to me, I don't think it has reached me. It may possibly have come into the outer office. If it has, it hasn't come in here. I will make inquiry about that and instruct that anything that comes in relative to my message to the Congress be laid aside so that I can take them all up at once.

There is nothing that I can say in addition to what I have already said about the present members of the Cabinet, and no resignations, so far as I know, have been suggested by any of the major members of the diplomatic corps.

There isn't anything that I can say at the present time relative to a Disarmament Conference, other than what I have said in my various speeches and messages.

I don't expect to attend the football game next Saturday, but I do expect to go to the Army and Navy game a week from next Saturday at Baltimore.

That covers the questions this morning. Thank you.

November 21, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

There are no members of the Cabinet that are retiring.

I stated my position about the publicity feature of the revenue bill last spring when I signed the act. I haven't seen anything that would cause me to change my mind about some undesirable features of the bill.

I don't expect to take any part in the organization of the House and Senate. I think that is a matter that the House and Senate particularly ought to decide for themselves. They can choose what person there is in the Senate they desire to follow very much better than I can tell them. They can choose such officers as they wish to have in the House to preside over them very much better than I can assist them in that matter. If it is a matter relating to legislation, why then of course I am a party in interest and one that has to act with them, and I am very glad to give my views on that. It seems to me that the Senators themselves can pick out the persons they desire to have for their leader and the other officers of the Senate, and the same is true in respect to the House. I am sure that there are a good many men in both parties capable of filling any position that there is there, and equally confident that anyone that the Senate and House wanted to choose for officers of their respective bodies would be persons entirely acceptable to me.

I haven't finished my work on the Tariff Commission's report on sugar.

I don't expect to attend the football game tomorrow. I am busy working on my message and other things.

I am working on my message to the Congress, which I hope I can make short. We always start out with that in view, but it grows and grows. I expect to send it up rather than to carry it up in person. One of my reasons is that it is my desire to go to Chicago at that time, in order to be present at the International Stock Show.

I haven't fully decided upon a successor to Mr. Wallace. My present inclination leans rather toward the selection of Mr. Gore. I have hesitated about that because he has been chosen as Governor and necessarily can't

serve for a very long time, but he has been very prominently mentioned by those who have sent in suggestions and seems to have the approbation of some farm organizations.

I don't expect to go to Marion to attend the funeral of Mrs. Harding. I have sent Captain Andrews out there to extend any assistance that he can. Secretary Weeks and Secretary Work are going and perhaps Secretary Mellon. I don't know whether any other members of the Cabinet are going or not. Secretary Weeks and Secretary Work will surely go, and Secretary Mellon wasn't quite certain about whether to go or not.

I don't think there is anything I can say at the present time about a disarmament conference.

And I haven't taken any final action about filling the vacancies on the bench in California. I am naturally waiting to consult the Senators from that state and to get reports from the Department of Justice on the various suggestions that may be made.

I judge that the agricultural commission wouldn't be able entirely to finish its work until after the adjournment of Congress. I understand it is its intention to present a report early in January relative to any legislation it may think is necessary. Of course the questions of administration and so on and the work that may be done by the farm organizations themselves, the Federal Loan Board, Intermediate Credit organizations, and so on, will probably go on until after this session of the Congress.

I haven't any plan for the immediate withdrawal of the United States Marines that are now acting as a legation guard in Nicaragua. I haven't any very great detailed and precise information about that situation. I knew that there had been some trouble and it was my impression that we had sent some marines in to guard the Legation, and that the difficulty was in relation to a presidential election. As I have heard nothing about it from the State Department for some time I had taken it for granted that the situation was cleared up. I think that is the case, but I haven't any definite information.

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I have already spoken about the disarmament conference and the income tax publicity feature.

The question of a reduction of railroad wages being necessary in order that there may be a reduction in freight rates. I doubt that it will be found that it is necessary to reduce railroad wages, though of course an offhand opinion about that is of no particular value. I should think there would be more hope in expecting to find economies in operation, than in a reduction of wages. I don't think that conditions are such at the present time that reductions in wages are likely to be contemplated.

That covers the inquiries.

November 25, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I should be very glad to have the colored people consult their own wishes about having a ball on the 4th of March. This brings to my attention that it has been reported several times that my wife and I were going to some ball on that date. That is news to us, that we should be planning to go to a ball on the 4th of March. We haven't accepted any invitation, and I doubt very much if we should feel like attending.

Does that mean, Mr. President, that there probably will be no inaugural ball?

I don't think there will be any inaugural ball. I think there are some charities here in town that are promoting a ball for that evening. I think it was reported in the press that Mrs. Coolidge and I were going to attend. It was in relation to that that I desired to say that the report was without any foundation, so far as we know. I have heard that when William McKinley was in Congress he could tell what the other Congressmen would do before they knew themselves. Now I am subject to that same interpretation by people, so my statements perhaps have to be made with that in view. But I haven't intended to go to any ball on the evening of the 4th of March.

Mr. President, could you give us your idea as to what the character of the ceremonies will be - what the limits of it will be - if that is proper?

Yes, it is entirely proper. The only inauguration that I ever saw was that which I attended four years ago, and I would like to have this inauguration moderate in its proportions and moderate in its expenditures. There would have to be a small appropriation to meet the requirements, provide seats and so on for people that attend the inauguration exercises, put up the stand on the east front of the Capitol where inauguration is held and the address is delivered, provide for the amplifiers and so on and so forth. I haven't those details very fully in mind, but I called in Senator Curtis last evening. He is the Chairman of the Committee on Rules that I think has usually had rather the direct charge of that on the part of the Senate and asked him to make an investigation about what might be necessary and come and talk with me later. And I am expecting to talk with Mr. Martin, who was the Secretary to Senator Knox, who four years ago

was the Chairman and is now in the Department of Justice as Assistant to the Attorney General, I believe. No doubt he will be able to make some suggestions to me that will be helpful.

Does that mean that there will be no more elaborate parade than you had four years ago?

I haven't decided about that. I hardly think that is the case. I should like to have a little more elaborate parade than that. There is a suggestion made here about the 24th U. S. Infantry Band. If there are bands in the parade, I shall be glad to use any influence I have to have that band, which is made up of colored men, participate in it. I want the inauguration in keeping with the dignity of the office, but moderate in its dimensions and expense. I suppose people who would come to Washington at that time will come with the full knowledge that inaugurations only occur once in four years, that at that time there is generally some difficulty in securing accommodations, and that the prices of accommodations here and so on are usually somewhat high. Perhaps that ought to be borne in mind. The administration cannot help it. The Committee on Arrangements cannot help it. The people that come here will have to come with that in mind.

Now, I haven't heard anything more about General Butler up in Philadelphia. These constant inquiries are one of the reasons why it is not desirable to use men who are connected with the Regular Service for work of this kind. It constantly brings the President of the United States into the picture where, of course, he doesn't belong. I haven't any authority over the policing of the City of Philadelphia. Yet if some General in the Army or an Admiral in the Navy is granted leave to go up there, then there are certain people that assume the President has some jurisdiction over it and are constantly sending communications to me about it, which puts the Presidential office in a position that is not warranted by the facts. Now I am willing to have General Butler continue up there, if it seems to be desired, if he gets on all right and has the support of the officials and they want him up to the time when his term expires, but I want him to go up there with the full knowledge of the people of Philadelphia, both official and unofficial, and voluntary law enforcement organizations, that I can't assume any responsibility for his conduct, or any responsibility for the police of the City of Philadelphia. That is all provided for by statute law, charters, ordinances

rules and regulations made by the municipal authorities, a matter over which I have no jurisdiction and no control, can't assume any, don't propose to assume any, and wouldn't want to assume any. If they want to use a man who is a General in the Army to do that work, they will have to take him the same as any other man. The United States Government doesn't assume any responsibility in relation to it.

I haven't given any special consideration to the question of the Merchant Marine. I have indicated what I thought ought to be the policy under the present law, and which I was assured by Senator Jones, who had a very large hand in drafting it, was the policy contemplated, of having the President of the Fleet Corporation manage that end of it and the Shipping Board manage the other end of it. That work is going on.

I haven't made any plans about the inauguration than those which I have already related.

And while I have noticed newspaper comments about a special session, I am giving more thought myself to what we can do at this session. I rather think that the consideration now of a special session is rather premature. I don't like to call a special session of the Congress, though I shouldn't hesitate to do so if I thought the situation required it. But in general, when there is a session of Congress it means a season of uncertainty so that unless there is a very impelling reason for calling a special session it better be not called, in order that the usual business of the country and usual occupations may be pursued with more certainty than they could be when Congress is in session.

I haven't made any decision about having General Dawes attend Cabinet meetings. He spoke about it one time, I believe it was when he visited me at Plymouth, rather indicating that he would prefer not to come. No decision has been made about that. I shall of course consult him about his desires.

I think I leave on the afternoon of the 3rd, that is Wednesday, for Chicago and reach there the next day and attend some Commercial Club, I think that is the name of the organization, on Thursday noon, and go to the Stock Yards in the afternoon and speak before the Stock Show men in the evening.

I can't give any exact figures about the size of the surplus in the Treasury at the end of this fiscal year. It will depend to some extent on what the Congress does now between now and the 4th of March. The indications at present are that the surplus is very small.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper
Correspondents

Nov. 28, 1924.

I don't know that there are any special recommendations that I can make to the Senate regarding the ratification of the Isle of Pines treaty. I think that has been pending since 1904. The State Department is in favor of its ratification. I hope it will be ratified.

Senator Borah came in to see me this morning about the time the Cabinet was going into session, so I didn't talk much with him. I asked him to come in this afternoon. I wanted to talk with him about pending legislation, to see if he had any suggestions he wished to make to me about it. There was nothing special about the conference, just a matter of general discussion about things. I don't recall that we came to any specific conclusions. I was talking with him about the contents of my message, in part.

May we ask when you will release the message to the press?

Well, I think it is going to come out this afternoon. I don't know but what you already have it.

Yes we have.

I am going to send up this message to the Congress. I spoke to this Congress when it assembled last fall. I am not certain whether I would go up if I was planning to be here. I think it is the plan of the Senate to adjourn over for two days on account of the deaths of Senators that have occurred since the last session, and as I am planning to go away Wednesday I couldn't very well go up. Very likely when the new Congress comes in next year I may feel that I would like to go up with my message. I haven't decided about that.

I don't know as I can give you anything in the way of details about a legislative program. Mr. Snell and Mr. Longworth, the Speaker of the House, were in this morning to tell me of some of the pending bills, and to see whether I had any desire about which ones should be taken up first. I haven't any particular desire about that. They are going to confer with their associates up there to see what seems best to do. They told me that they thought they would have two or three of the appropriation bills ready for almost immediate presentation to the House.

I think I can get a decision on the sugar tariff now very soon. I have the additional information I wanted to get.

I can't give any better opinion about the probable effect of the action of the Republican Conference of the Senate than that which any one else might have. Whether it will make it easier to get a legislative program adopted at the present session, or whether it will be harder, I don't know.

My budget message is ready. I don't know whether it has been released or whether it is customary to release that it be released before it goes up to the Senate. There is always a message that goes with the budget. Of course the budget is the mere statement of the proposed appropriations. I think it has always been customary in every budget I have seen to accompany it with what might be known as the budget message. Perhaps I ought to call ^{attention} to the fact that some things might be of importance that I have left out of my regular message to the Congress because they are in the budget message. The budget message is intended to assemble substantially all of the financial program of the President. I do not mean by that that I haven't indicated in my written message that I would like to have an appropriation for this thing or that thing or the other, or that I did not include in my written message recommendations for projects that would ultimately call for the expenditure of money, but the regular financial program of the President is set out in the budget message.

December 2, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

There isn't any information that I can give you in relation to the progress or negotiations that are on about the funding of the French war debt. That is in the hands under the statute of the Commission, the Foreign Debt Commission. I knew that they had a meeting and were doing something, but you will have to get your particulars from them. You are in touch every day I think with both Secretary Hughes and Secretary Mellon. They know what the particulars are there and you can get the information from them.

I have a letter from Mayor Kendrick about General Butler which is under consideration. I have to make inquiries of course from the Department as to the convenience or inconvenience of having him away. I don't like to think of sending a U. S. officer out to perform civil duties of that kind. I think the correct policy would be not to lend them, if that is a fair statement to make of it, for anything more than to bridge over an emergency, though I know how I regret to see good men leaving the service that I am responsible for, and of course Mayor Kendrick regrets to see a good man leave the service that he is responsible for. So that I am in some difficulty to see where the General could perform the most useful public service, whether it ought to be with his command here or in Philadelphia. I haven't taken any action about the letter. Here is another inquiry about it.

I haven't any information about the action of Judge Harris at Boston. I knew there had been some complaints about the conduct of his office. Senator Lodge had had the matter under consideration for some time and was going to confer with me about it when he returned.

I understand that Comptroller of the Currency Dawes is going to resign.

The question of gun elevation has not been discussed.

I am going to act on the sugar tariff just as quick as I can.

I haven't received any report from the Navy Department on the relative merits of aircraft and sub-surface craft.

I haven't been able to determine on a successor to Mr. Corey of the Farm Loan Board. What I am anxious to find there is a man that will be helpful in the making of cattle loans. The other farm activities are very well taken care of. One of the spots in agriculture that needs special consideration is the

financing of cattle on the ranges. I want a man that would look on that with sympathy in the first place, and in the second place would be equipped from his experience and ability to take up that part of the farm loan work and extend every possible facility that the Government can extend to the financing of range cattle.

I have already spoken of the French debt.

I haven't accepted the resignation of Colonel Miller, the Alien Property Custodian. I understand he is necessarily called abroad again, and in that case he will probably think it is necessary to retire from his present office.

I don't contemplate going up to Plymouth in the winter. I don't think you would enjoy the winter up there, so that if there is a plan to keep the road open and increase the telephone service it is with something else in contemplation than a visit of Mrs. Coolidge and myself.

I don't know when I can send in the nominations for the judgeships, I think there are two, the Police Court and the Juvenile Court judgeships in the District of Columbia. I meant to have asked Attorney General Stone about the rent situation and what progress his investigation is making, but I didn't think to, and I suggest to you that you, I think most of you have, of course you all have access to his office, and several of you I suppose see him on stated occasions, perhaps every day?

Twice a week, Mr. President.

He can give you more accurate information about that situation than I can. I will be glad to tell you anything I know, but anything I know comes from him. If you keep after him you will have the original source of information.

I think that is all for the day. I am sorry I kept you waiting.

Mr. President, are you going out to inspect the submarine?

I haven't any plan about that. If I get over to the Navy Yard and go out on the Mayflower I shall look at it. I should be interested to see one. I have never seen any except to see them sailing in the harbors. But I haven't any plan about it.

December 9, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know as I can make any extended comment on the outcome of the general elections in Germany. I don't know as any comment by me would be really appropriate. I understood that it was a general indication on the part of the people of a desire to try and carry out the Dawes plan, and insofar as it is such an indication I think it is a very hopeful expression of opinion. It indicates a determination to take hold and do the necessary work to clear up the reparations situation and abide by the decision which the representatives of Germany made, which they thought was for the best interests of that country.

I haven't given any consideration to membership in the Crispus Attucks Press Association. I don't know enough about that to say much about it. I wish you would take that up with Mr. Slemp and give him the details of that. I would be glad to encourage that association in any way that I possibly can.

I haven't decided about giving David J. Lewis a full term of appointment to the Tariff Commission. At the time I gave him a recess appointment the Commission had not completed its work on the sugar report and I wanted that done by the full membership of the Commission, so I appointed him in order that they might finish up that work. I haven't decided about appointing him for a full term.

I don't think I can make any comment on my recommendation in my message relative to appropriate representation by the various parties on election boards. It is a practice that we have had in Massachusetts for a long time under our state laws, and it has worked very well. It gives a feeling of security to all parties represented, that they have representation at the elections in order that they may see that they do not suffer in any way from the conduct of the election. It is an entirely fair suggestion. It worked so well, as I say, in my home state, that I thought perhaps it might be extended to include all federal elections. It ought to be done by the states themselves.

I am expecting to extend the leave of General Butler for another year, with the understanding that that will be the limit. I took the opinion of the Committee on Naval affairs of the House and Senate. The House/Com. thought it might be well to extend the leave, the Senate Committee thought perhaps it had better not be extended any further. I am interested to read you the following quotation

from Revised Statutes No. 1222, which is an expression of policy in relation to officers in the Army. Now that doesn't apply to the Marine Corps and it doesn't apply to men in the Navy, but it applies to men in the Army. "No officer in the Army on the active list shall hold any civil office either by election or appointment, and any officer who accepts the functions of a civil office shall cease to be an officer of the Army and his commission shall be thereby vacated." There isn't any law like that in relation to members of the Navy or the Marine Corps, so that it doesn't include General Butler. But that is a sort of a statement of the policy that the Congress had adopted and enacted into statute law in regard to the Army and is an indication of what the general feeling is. But I know the difficulty of finding men to perform such services as General Butler is performing, and in case of an emergency I am desirous of helping in any way I can. I have set out more in detail my views on the question, and a copy of the letter will be provided for the use of the press.

I don't think I can make any comment on the celebration that is taking place in Peru today, other than that it is a sort of a 4th of July to Peru. and in celebrating this event they wished us to participate, so that we had sent General Pershing and one or two others in order to participate in the celebration, and especially with a desire of indicating our wish to cooperate with them in anything that celebrates an event that partook of the nature of an extension of human freedom, and also to indicate our interest in South American countries and our desire for ^{the} most intimate and friendly relations that it is possible to maintain.

I have a report here from one of the Committee on the Coordination of Railroad and Steamship activities. I don't know of any reason why it shouldn't be made public. I haven't yet had an opportunity to examine it so much in detail as I should like to. As you see (pointing to the document on his desk) it is quite an extensive report. There are 125 pages with a supplement and a codicil, and so on. I think that the Department of Commerce will let any member of the press have it that will agree to read it, though he has a summary here which only occupies two pages, and very likely that will give a sufficient indication of the decisions that the Committee arrived at.

I don't think I can say that a decision has been reached as to the exact character of the inaugural ceremony. I thought that we might have something in the way of a parade. The rest of it goes as a matter of course, the Vice President is sworn in in the Senate Chamber and the President is sworn in outside and delivers his address.

I haven't seen any further developments in the rent situation in the District, nor have I any further information from the Attorney General in relation to it. The Attorney General is going to talk with me this afternoon relative to the appointment of - the filling of some judicial positions. Whether he has a report to make to me on the facts that he has ascertained in relation to the Police Court and the Juvenile Court of the District of Columbia, I can't say. I dismissed him this morning in order not to delay the press. I think he is coming in at 3.00 o'clock.

I don't know about the items of the River and Harbor Bill. I thought it had been loaded up so that it carried a larger sum than I felt warranted in indicating I wished to approve. I don't know of any method to proceed in relation to it, except to try and find out what are the more important projects and provide for them and eliminate some of those that are perhaps not so important nor so pressing. If that should be done I should look on the bill with favor. I think it was all at once jumped up from somewhere around \$25,000,000 to somewhat over \$50,000,000. I don't want to indicate that all these projects are not worthy of consideration. I am very well aware that they are. I would like it if we had the means with which to provide for all of them, but I want to take the more important ones and dispose of those, and any that can wait for a little, why let those wait.

I don't think any decision has been made about a Commissioner for the United States on the Austria-Hungary Claims Commission. I can't confirm or deny the report that Judge Parker, I suppose that means Judge Parker of the Railroad Adjustment Board -

Umpire of the German-American Mixed Claims Commission, Mr. President -

That is the Judge Parker. Well, I don't know whether he could finish up his work on that Commission soon enough to take this. Both this Judge Parker and the Judge Parker that is looking after railroad claims are both very qualified to undertake anything of that kind, but I imagine that Judge Parker who is on the German Claims Commission will not finish

his work in time to take up the other. Should he finish his work I should think that he would be well qualified to undertake this other work. But that matter hadn't come to my attention.

There isn't any foundation for the suggestion that the Assistant Alien Property Custodian, Mr. Wilson, will succeed Mr. Miller, if the latter resigns.

As already indicated, I am writing to Mayor Kendrick today and haven't yet been able to get my report drawn on the sugar tariff. I am working on it.

I wasn't able to give the National Republican Club of New York much encouragement about attending the Annual Lincoln Day Banquet. I have been up to New York twice since I have been President. I went up to the banquet last year. While I recognize the great importance of the city and state of New York, necessarily the President goes to New York more frequently than other places because there are various conventions and assemblies like the Associated Press meetings there each year, and the President goes up there to meet people that assemble from all over the nation. While it is a place that is convenient of access, and I like to go there as often as I can, I recognize that other cities also have claims on the President whenever he thinks he can travel abroad. I have been to New York twice, Philadelphia once, Baltimore to speak once, and Chicago. Those are the only expeditions that I have made abroad to speak.

Nothing has come to my attention in relation to the French debt since the last conference. As I have indicated many times, that is all in the hands of the Commission, and if you get your information from them you will get it firsthand and know it's authentic.

Railroad legislation is being considered. I don't know whether they will be able to provide a bill at the present session that looks to be feasible for presentation for passage. I indicated in my message the best I could my views in that respect. I think there might be some arrangement, as indicated here, between the employees and owners, or the employees and managers rather, of the railroads in relation to some legislation along certain lines of the Howell-Barkeley bill. I should be glad to see an effort of that kind made. I mentioned that in my message of 1923. I didn't reiterate it in my message of this year, but I am still of the same opinion. I don't think there is any foundation for the rumor that Mr. Mondell is being considered for the Secretaryship of the

Interior, and I don't know of any indication that Dr. Work is going to retire.

I suppose that I must designate someone very soon as Chairman of the Inaugural Committee. I am waiting to confer with some of the Senators about that. The Congress appoints a committee always, and they have general charge of the official end of it. For that part of the inauguration that takes place on Pennsylvania Avenue and so on I think it is customary to appoint a committee or chairman or something from the District of Columbia. As soon as the Congress has indicated what they are going to do in the way of a committee, why I can take that matter up with them and work out something.

December 12, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I have just happened to notice that I have here a communication from the Secretary of the Interior relative to reclamation. I thought there was also something in it relative to conservation, and he has sent over some copies that will be given out to you when you pass out.

Here is a suggestion as to what London newspapers are saying about the debts that are due to the United States. The British funded their debt, which I suppose is some warrant for their newspapers commenting on the debts that are due to us from other nations. I don't know whether there is anything I could say about it, or whether I ought to let the London papers be answered by the American newspapers. I am inclined to think that that is probably the better course.

I do not expect to call any conference. If they will read our statutes they will save themselves from supposing that I had any authority to call a conference.

Mr. President, on the question of the debt, there have been suggestions in at least one of the London papers that the British Government was about to dispatch a note to us on that subject. Are you aware of any such communication?

No, I don't think any such communication will ever reach us. I have stated my attitude in relation to the debts a great many times. Sometimes it seems to be misunderstood. I have made it as plain as I can, and so far as I know there hasn't been any change in my attitude. It is not one of desiring to oppress any one, but it is one of opposing cancellation of debts and of desiring that each of the countries that is indebted to us should proceed to fund their debts and pay them. That is the attitude that has been stated by our Government and is embodied in the statutes of the Congress. So long as it is on the statute books I suppose it stands as the American policy.

I haven't made any more plans about the inauguration.

I don't know of any developments in the local rent emergency.

Nothing further has been done about the District of Columbia judgeships.

I haven't changed my opinion about the present Rivers and Harbors bill which authorized \$53,000,000 of new projects. I am of the opinion that that is more

than I want to authorize at the present time, and if the bill is going to go through I should think that the less pressing projects that are in the bill ought to be eliminated.

You may expect a decision on the sugar report almost any time.

There isn't any prospect of my calling a disarmament conference to meet this year. I imagine that means next year. This year, of course, ends the first of January, and about next year, I can't tell. We shall have to see what developments there are in relation to the proposals that are now pending in Europe. I had hoped that we might have a conference some time during the coming year. That was my expectation before the European developments in relation to a conference there, and we shall have to see what happens.

Different Senators came in this morning on different subjects. I spoke with some of them about the postal pay bill; some of them consulted me about other things; some of them about post offices. There wasn't anything of a specially important or public nature.

I shouldn't favor the submission of the question of any claims we have to German reparations money to the World Court. I think our position on that is perfectly plain and clear and well established by the various treaties. I don't think there is anything in it that needs adjudication by a judicial tribunal, nor do I see the slightest indication that there could be any differences of opinion that can't be adjusted by negotiation. So far as I can see it is perfectly evident that the principle that we have adopted on our part will be recognized by the other governments that are interested. I think it has already been recognized by Italy and France and Belgium. I don't know whether there has been any formal recognition of it by the British, but I am rather inclined to think there has been something of that nature.

That seems to cover the questions of the day.

December 16, 1924.

Remarks by the President at the Newspaper Conference.

Here is a question into which I am not going to enter for the purpose of making any detailed discussion, but it relates to a comparison of our Navy with that of other countries. Now, I have tried to indicate that I don't want to proceed on that theory. I don't see any hope in the future for competitive armaments. Of course the minute that you begin to say this country is building so many, and therefore we must build so many, you are right back on the old competitive theory of armaments, and I want to keep off that. I am in favor of an adequate defense for our own country. I stated my position in my first message to the Congress. If any of you care to read that, you will see what it is.

I haven't reached any further conclusion about the inauguration ceremonies, and I am going to get in touch with the Congress right away to see what they want to do about the appointment of their Committee and what provisions ought to be made.

I haven't received any report from the Attorney General relative to the filling of the vacancy of the Federal Bench at San Francisco, nor so far as I can recall about the appointment of a U. S. District Attorney for Hawaii, and I haven't received any report or an application for a pardon for a man named McDonnell, of San Francisco.

As I have said, I haven't done anything further about the inauguration, so have made no provision for the appointment of different committees or for the participation of any different organizations or any bands that are connected with the military and naval services.

I can't give an opinion that is worth anything whether the public interest would be served by a Congressional investigation of the state of the Navy. If anyone wants to see a very good statement of the present state of the Navy, if they will read the address that Senator Hale made last May in the Senate, they will get a great deal of valuable information, and so far as I know, everyone that requires information on which to act is fairly well in possession of it or can ascertain it from present and existing documents and the annual hearings before the Naval Committees of the House and Senate. Of course, every time the appropriation bill comes up there is an investigation in the first instance by

representatives of the Bureau of the Budget and I go over it in a general way. When it goes to the House a very careful investigation is made there by the House Committee on Naval Affairs. It comes up in the House for discussion and there is usually a debate there that is informing and instructive. Perhaps I would cut out that word "usually" and say "always". Then it goes to the Senate Committee and there is a further investigation. And this is an investigation by informed men. Men that serve on the House and Senate Committees on Naval Affairs, many of whom have been on it for years and made a special study of the needs and requirements of our Navy and get sufficient information so that they are able to defend their budget on the floor with a presentation of accurate facts relative to the state of the country's Navy. And then it goes to the Senate for discussion, all of which is a yearly investigation of the needs of the Navy. In addition to that, there is the General Staff, the Secretary of the Navy. They are constantly working on the problem of adequate naval defense.

We didn't take up any matters for discussion in the Cabinet today. Nobody had anything to bring before the Cabinet, so I think the session didn't last more than five minutes. Several members of the Cabinet came in to talk with me about one thing or another.

I have signed and I suppose that has gone to the Senate - the nomination of Colonel McIntosh to succeed Henry M. Dawes as Comptroller of the Currency.

I don't care to make any further statement about the elevation of guns on American battleships. I don't think that is a matter of very great importance. I shouldn't want to have it done under the implication that it was a violation of the spirit of the peace treaty, and I should want to examine it very carefully to see whether it was in harmony with my policy of economy and as to whether on account of the development of the aircraft it is wise to make further expenditures of that kind on our present battleships. Of course it is to be remembered that a number of our battleships, I think five of the 18, need no change. That brings it down to 13. There are five more who have substantially the same gun range, it may vary 200 yards to 1000, of any other battleships. That brings it down to 8. As I say, I don't think it is a matter of very grave importance.

I haven't had any report from the investigation that is being made by the Navy relative to what we should do in relation to coordinating the activities and building of the different kinds of craft - aircraft, surface craft and submarines.

There are no developments about another arms conference.

I haven't determined upon a successor to District Attorney Harris at Boston.

I think I can make some appointments to the bench this week. I think I sent up one this morning.

I can't give very much encouragement about attending the Good Roads Convention in Houston, Texas. I should like to go down there very much. That comes in April. I haven't any plan about a trip to the South or the West after the adjournment of the Congress. I have just received a letter from my father saying this morning, in response to an invitation that I sent him that I would be glad to have him come down for Christmas, that he has come down with a cold yesterday which he expects will be better tomorrow, and that he didn't think he would come down. He expects to come down March 4th.

I haven't any policy about the sale of the Hoboken, N.J. docks or about the railroads. I would like to return to private ownership any property that isn't needed for national defense. The city officials of Hoboken represent to me that the whole of this property up there, especially the docks, not the railroad but the docks, is a serious interference with their ability to collect expenses to take care of it. It is small in area. I think their present tax rate is about \$48.00 a thousand, which of course is very high.

I shall not go to New York to attend the funeral of the late Samuel Gompers.

December 19, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't know as I can make any statement relative to the designation of a new Ambassador to the United States by the Japanese Government. Mr. Matsudaira is a man of distinction, one whom we are very glad to receive here. The Secretary of State made what I thought was a very appropriate reference to his appointment.

I don't know when the first meeting of the members of my Cabinet that I have asked to look into the production of petroleum and make studies and recommendations for the conservation and continued production will be held. I can't give much idea as to their method of procedure. I set out in the letter that I sent to each one of them the matters that I had in mind, which explains better than I can in any other way the ideas that I had in relation to it. I haven't had any particular representations about it. I thought it was becoming apparent in a general way that while we have had in the past year a large production, perhaps we might say an overproduction, on account of the coming in of those great fields in southern California, yet our consumption is very large and is increasing, the uses of gasoline are constantly being extended and it is necessary for our commercial welfare and our national defense to provide ourselves with a sufficient supply. If we get a diminution in production, we shall have an increase in prices of gasoline that will be distressing, on account of the very general spread in its use. It has come to be a part of the daily life of a great many of our inhabitants and goes into all kinds of uses, the generation of power both for automobiling and farm use, uses on shipboard and in manufacturing, so that I thought it would be well to take an account of our stock and see that such measures are devised as are necessary to prevent our running low on the supply.

Mr. President, have you ever made public that letter?

Yes, it was given out here this morning.

Today?

Yes. I have directed some copies to be made and I think they were given out this morning.

I haven't given any special directions to the Department of Justice relative to some reports that have been printed about the looting of American schooners off the American seaboard. I rather think that I should want to investigate before I came to the hasty conclusion that it is any more than usual.

That is continually going on in water fronts and is in part taken care of by the Coast Guard and in part by the local police forces. If anything of that kind arises it is reported to the proper authorities on shore and they take whatever measures they can to prevent its repetition and to apprehend and punish those that have been guilty of it. I have no doubt that if anything of that kind has arisen out of the ordinary it would have been reported.

I haven't concerned myself especially with any charges in relation to the Postal Pay bill, other than to suggest to the Department of Justice that they investigate, and the Post Office Department also, and both of those agencies are at work to see if there has been any violation of the law and to try and punish it if there has been, or if there has been any violation of what ought to be the orderly procedure of those who ought to be engaged in the performance of their duties, to try to bring that matter to a close. It would be rather unusual for a Clerk of a Committee to undertake to represent to people on the outside in relation to legislation that might be pending before that Committee. I don't know whether it is a criminal offense or not. It is certainly a practice that ought not to be engaged in, and if it has been engaged in why proper action ought to be taken to stop it and prevent it in the future.

I can't say any more about the elevation of the guns on our battleships. It comes up apparently at each conference. It seems as though everybody knows all there is to know about it. I had understood that there was some note received some time ago from the British Government in relation to it. Just the nature of the note, I don't know. You can probably find out at the State Department.

Secretary Work is going to continue in the Cabinet, so far as I know, after the 4th of March.

Governor Sproul called this morning with the President of the Union League Club, Mr. Passmore, of Philadelphia, to ask me if I could come up and speak before the Club, sometime. I wasn't able to make any positive engagement about it, though I would like to speak before that Club, and I may be able to do that sometime in the Spring.

I haven't received any report from the special board that is investigating the relative merits of battleships, airplanes and submarines.

I have been invited to come to the City of Quincy, in Mass., to attend

the 300th anniversary of the founding of that town. I haven't been able to give them much encouragement about going.

I have also been invited to attend at Lexington and Concord, Mass., the 150th anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord. That comes on the 19th of April. I haven't any positive commitments about that. It is a very attractive invitation. I should like very much to accept it.

No one has been chosen to succeed District Attorney Harris, of Mass.

I expect we shall observe Christmas at the White House about as usual. My boy John is coming home from college. I think he will be home on Sunday morning. I expect the observance of the holidays will be about the same as usual. The only difference, which will be apparent to all of you, is that three of us will be present rather than four, as in the past. I expect Mr. and Mrs. Stearns will be at the White House at that time, and on Christmas eve I am expecting that the Choir of the First Congregational Church will sing at the north portico of the White House the same as they did last year.

That seems to cover the questions.

December 23, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I want to extend to all of you the greetings of the season. A most Merry Christmas.

I haven't done anything further about a parade, nor about choosing anyone as a successor to Mr. Speelman as Register of the Treasury. I don't know when his term expires. I am not indicating that he wont be reappointed, just an inquiry as to whether I have done anything about it. I haven't done anything about it.

There hasn't been anything done about the unofficial side of the inauguration, or as to a parade or a reception. Some of the people that came in to see me yesterday did tell me that they had seen and known of many inaugurations here in Washington, and that it was the general concensus of opinion that that which was held four years ago was on the whole the most satisfactory of any that have been held. Of course sometimes we suffer badly on account of bad weather, trying to have a parade under very adverse circumstances, so I am going to make further inquiries before anything is done about a parade or a reception. I haven't felt very favorably about having a reception. If they want to have anything of that kind it will be better to call it a ball. That as you know has not been very attractive to me, though I approve of people that like to dance dancing as much as they wish.

Mr. President, does that mean that if the people express a preference for the ball it will meet with no objection on your part?

No. But if they are going to have a reception or a ball, I should judge it would be more agreeable to those that want to go to have a ball.

Mr. President, do you mean by that a charity ball or something of that kind outside the White House.

Well, you can't have a ball in the White House. You couldn't get anybody in there, not even the newspaper men. Those who had the picking out of the people that should be invited to a ball in the East Room would have some trouble.

Would you attend the ball, Mr. President?

You mean if they have one? I don't think so. I am expecting to attend the charity ball which is almost a matter of official action. It comes on the

second of January, I think, or about that time. It has been customary for the President to go to that ball for some time. As I say, that is practically an official act. My wife and I shall drop in to that and stay a while, this coming January.

I can't give you any information about the District rent situation. I talked the matter over somewhat with Mr. Whaley yesterday. That is, I mean I can't give you anything that is not already known. You know that they have an adverse court decision on the question of the emergency end of the law. And then I discussed with him the question of whether the law is so drawn that it rested upon nothing but an alleged emergency and didn't rest at all on the general police powers. He thought the decision that was rendered by Judge Holmes in the first case that came up placed it also on the Police Department and justified the law on that ground. I mean by that the protection of the health, morals and general well-being of the community, as distinct from a purely economic question of whether someone is forced to pay more for something they want to purchase than is warranted. I thought that Judge Holmes' opinion had stated that on the general police powers there was authority for enactment of a law of that kind. I am having Mr. Whaley consider and take up with me and the committees of the Congress the possibility of amending the law and placing it squarely on the police powers, so that it may have all the possible sanction that the Constitution can give it. His opinion is that there is a good deal of need for a law of that kind and that the high prices that are being charged for rent here, which he thinks are disproportionate to what is just and fair, result in bad housing conditions, and congestion, and a situation that is detrimental to the health and morals of the District.

Nothing has been done and nothing further has come to me about the police and juvenile court judgeships of the city. There are some investigations being made there by the Attorney General's Office. I hope to have reports on those very soon.

I haven't any plan about taking a trip on the Mayflower this week. I go down on that sometimes at the end of the week. It gives us a little relaxation, a little change of view, and presents a diversion. But there are so many other diversions this week that perhaps I shall not feel so much in need of that.

There isn't anything that I can say about the suggestion of the French Ambassador. The policy of this country has been stated by the Congress and embodied in the law, and that is our policy in relation to the foreign debts. It had to be modified some in order to get a settlement with the British. It was thought wise to do so, and it would be for the Commission to hear any suggestions that would come from France. You know that this suggestion of the Ambassador of France was not made to the Commission. It was made to the people out in the country. If the French wished to do anything about the debt, the Commission I have no doubt would have been glad to hear suggestions from the Ambassador. But they were not made there, they were made in the country, and that is the reason, perhaps, why I shouldn't make any comment on it. If the representative of the French Government wanted to make suggestions to the Commission, why then I should be in a position where I could make some response and some comment on his suggestions, and indicate whether I wanted to transmit such suggestions to the Congress.

I am glad that you asked me about this proper recognition of the world flyers. It was brought to my attention that there was such a multiplicity of suggestions before the Congress, different bills and different ideas, that there was grave danger that with the multiplicity of counsel no decision would be arrived at. So I have asked the Secretary of War to have the General Board take this up and make a recommendation as to what they think would be proper recognition and embody their recommendation in a bill which I will immediately take up with the Committees of Military Affairs of the two Houses. I think in that way that we can get a bill that will seem fair and just and attempt to do what I know the nation is very anxious to do to give these men proper recognition of their great achievement, and get something done at once. I am sorry that that didn't occur to me a little earlier, in order that we might have made an effort to get something of that kind done by Christmas.

I can't give you any information about what ought to be done in relation to the charge for carrying newspaper publications. That is all embodied in that report which cost a number of hundred thousand dollars, and a good deal of time,

and has been transmitted on request I think to the Senate by the Post Office Department. That would undoubtedly contain a discussion of the reasons that led to its conclusions.

No successor has been decided upon for Judge Anderson, and of course Judge Anderson is still judge of the District Court out there. It has been suggested that he should be promoted, and I look on that suggestion with a good deal of favor. I think very likely I shall decide to do that. It seems to meet with general approval.

I haven't decided on any successor to the Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Gore will stay, of course, until he begins to be Governor on the 4th of March. I should like to get someone very soon. I am keeping the position of Assistant Secretary open in order that perhaps if I found someone I might appoint them as Assistant Secretary and they could go in and get the advantage of Mr. Gore's knowledge and experience before ^{they} ~~he~~ became Secretary.

December 26, 1924.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

Thank you sir.

I am giving my personal attention to the Tacna-Rica boundary case between Chile and Peru, of course with the assistance of the State Department.

There haven't been any further developments in relation to an extra session of the Congress. We shall have to wait, of course, and see what is done at this Congress, and no final decision has been made about that. Of course, in the nature of the circumstances, no final decision could be made. I shall have to keep an open mind on it constantly. It goes without saying that there would be no extra session unless it was considered a matter of very great importance.

There will be some estimates for beginning the work that is contemplated by the passage of the bill increasing, or rather for the purpose of building some new cruisers and gunboats, and so on, for the Navy. The bill went through. Final passage was the other day, although it was substantially completed, if you will recall, at the session which ended last June. The Budget Bureau is investigating that for me, in order to advise me as to how much it will be necessary to appropriate for work that will be done during the coming year.

Mr. President, do you mind going back for a moment to the Chile matter and telling us when you expect to be able to announce a decision.

Naturally I can't tell. I should say - I don't know as I ought to give a date. I should hope to get it out in a couple of months.

I have two or three suggestions here about the evacuation of the Cologne zone. Now, that is a matter that is entirely in the hands of the European governments. It is one in which we have no legal interest. We have a general interest in anything that affects the well-being of Europe, but that is distinct and apart from the legal interest, so that I don't know of anything that would require any formal or official action. Official interest would be better than legal interest. We have no official interest in it. And the only comment that I can make about it is that I have every confidence that the European governments will reach an amicable solution of it. I think we are

warranted in that conclusion on account of the ability to agree on matters of this kind that has been prevalent over there for the last six or eight months beginning at the time when they agreed to refer their financial differences to a Commission of experts which was headed by Mr. Dawes, the carrying out of the plans which that Commission recommended, putting it into execution, and beginning payments under it.

I have heard indirectly from the Department of Justice that such investigations as they have made lead them to the conclusion that Harold P. Williams of Dedham, Mass., is a suitable person to appoint as U. S. Attorney for the Massachusetts district. I haven't had sent over to me the formal recommendation that I might make to the Senate, or a formal appointment, but I expect that that will be sent over so that I can send the appointment to the Senate when the Senate reconvenes.

Here are some interesting speculations about resignations and appointments. I haven't any official notice about those. I have heard some rumors, but as they are only rumors that have come to me I don't think I will make any comment about them.

No further preparations have been made in relation to the inauguration. The Legislative Committee is working on that and I expect to get a decision as soon as the Congress reconvenes.

The Department of Interior has brought to my attention the fact that a subdivision of that Department does what it can to promote safety in the mining industry. While there is very little that the Federal Government can do in the way of legislation in that direction, it does do what it can in the way of administration and through counsel and advice. The mines are for the most part entirely under the control of the various state legislatures. That makes it desirable, if anything is to be accomplished, that we should have a conference, probably of the Governors of the different states that are producing coal in mines. The Department of Interior is working on that program, and I think that they have worked out a program for such a conference. I am expecting that it may be called in the near future, in order that, should any legislation be decided upon, it might be submitted to the legislatures of the states that are about to assemble.

Now, I can't give you any more information about what the Cabinet officers will do in relation to petroleum than that which was embodied in the letter that I sent to each one of them. The general desire is to make certain a sufficient production of petroleum to take care of the needs of this country and it is for the whole of the members of the Cabinet to work out some plan. If they need legislation, why they will let me know about that and we will try and provide it. If they need cooperation with the states, we will try and work that out. I don't know just what method they will adopt for finding out the needs. Of course, there is a good deal of information in the Department of the Interior and in the Commerce Department. I have another Commission looking especially after the interests of the Army and Navy, particularly of the Navy. I am expecting a report from them almost any time. They made a preliminary report and very likely that may be of some assistance to the members of the Cabinet that are working on this larger problem. Some of the members of the naval inquiry brought to my attention that there was need of a consideration of the larger problem of furnishing petroleum not only for naval defense but for commercial and domestic use.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the day.

*News paper Conference
Tuesday, December 30/24*

There isn't anything further I can say about a Naval Conference other than what I have already said. I want to have a conference whenever the time seems propitious and I hope such time will come within the year. I am not certain that it will but very much hope that it may. I do not think I have made any comment about it other than what I have made to the press and in my speeches and so on -- which is all public property.

I haven't any plan about the Register of the Treasury.

I ^{would} ~~am~~ be glad if I ^{had} ~~can find~~ the time to prepare a statement on the unveiling of the painting of Crispus Attucks.

I have no plan, of course, as to what I will ~~do~~ in relation to the appointment of additional Judges of the Police Court of the District of Columbia in case the bill should pass.

I do not believe I want to make any comment on statements that were made in the French Chamber of Deputies which were to the effect that there will be a discussion of Inter-Allied debts at the coming Dawes plan meeting of Finance Ministers in Paris, January sixth. I know of no plan on the part of America to make any discussion of our debts at that time, nor do I know of the authorization of any American representatives to participate in such discussions.

I think Secretary Hughes made clear the position of the American

government in relation to the French debt. It seems to come up at every meeting that I have with the press. I do not know how I can make my position any more clear than I have already made it. We hold the written obligations of the different European governments for money that was advanced to them, and Congress has passed a law giving directions as to how a settlement can be made, and that is the present position of the American government in relation to the debts that are due to it from the governments abroad.

I asked, as I told the press I think either last Tuesday or last Friday, the General Staff to prepare some plan for rewarding the World Fliers, and I think they have prepared such a plan and sent it up to the Department. It is not quite so generous as I had thought would probably be desirable, but the General Staff are well qualified to pass on questions of that kind, and I am told it is the most generous reward that has ever been given to men in the military service for what they have performed in time of peace. And it is thought by the Secretary of War to be appropriate, and if that is the case it has my approval.

I did not have any chance to talk with Secretary Davis about his wish to retire on March fourth.

I do not know just what budget estimates will be made for beginning work on the additional cruisers or for work that is contemplated on our battleships. My general directions to the Bureau of the Budget were to investigate the needs that arise on account of the passage of the legislation, which include a number of things, and to recommend appropriations that will put them into effect. I did not imagine that it would be thought best to lay down all of the eight cruisers during the present fiscal year - which is the one that ends June 30th, ^{or not} ~~but~~ whether all of the eight cruisers ought to be provided for sometime during the next fiscal year after this, I would not be in a position to state at the present time.

There was nothing especially significant in the calls made by Senators Bruce and Norbeck, -- merely some routine matters that they were interested in in relation to some of the departments, and bringing me some information I had requested in relation to some possible appointments.

I haven't received any report from the Naval Board studying the merits of submarines and aircraft.

I am not familiar enough with the present situation in relation to Muscle Shoals to pass any judgment as to whether the situation would be improved by the substitution of legislation for a commission rather than by the passage of the Underwood Bill. Broadly speaking, the situation is this: The House has passed the so-called Ford Bill. Mr. Ford has indi-

cated that he does not now desire to make a bid for Muscle Shoals and has withdrawn the suggestion that he has made, so that the Senate is not undertaking to pass this bill, as I understand it. They are undertaking to pass entirely new legislation, which would bring the House and the Senate into disagreement on all the provisions of the legislation. If that is so, it may not make a great deal of difference what the Senate does pass. Whatever it does pass would ^{go to the Committee} ~~come to it~~ on conference, and then there would be an opportunity in the Committee on Conference to provide for such legislation as they thought might be acceptable to the House and the Senate. So the only advantage to be gained is to find out what the sentiment of the Senate is in relation to the different proposals for the guidance of the Committee on Conference.

No decision has been reached about the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I think that is the Circuit that is in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. I am in conference with different people ~~xxx~~ with the expectation that it will ultimately go to Kentucky, because both Michigan and Ohio have Judges on that Circuit and Kentucky has none. I think that Judge Moorman is at the present time the most probable appointment but no decision has been reached about it, and no decision has been reached concerning the selection of a successor to Judge Moorman in case he should be promoted.

Here is an inquiry about the extension of private credit to France by American concerns in view of the recent report of the French Ministry of Finance. That leads me to a further statement that perhaps might be helpful. Reports that are made by the French Ministry are supposed to be made to the legislative body over there, and there are discussions through-
judicial
out the country. The things that we take ~~official~~ notice of over here are official communications to this government. It often happens that some person in America - perhaps a member of the Debt Commission, makes a statement that might not be in harmony with what the rest of the Commission might feel were the requirements of the situation. We should not want them taken too seriously in France. Now it may be that ^{it is} some officer of the French government who does not seem to be in harmony with the situation. Perhaps we ought not to take that too seriously over here. We shall have to wait and see what develops out of this situation before we can make any final determination about it. I think that would be a good idea to keep in mind about the French debt or any other debt over there, both in relation to statements that might be made over here and statements made over there, which, while they come from official sources in a way, are to quite a large extent unofficial in that they are not made to this government, and the statements made here are not official communications from the duly authorized representatives of this government to the governments abroad.

Before I could decide whether I ~~wxx~~ should want to favor further ex-

tension of private credit, I should have to find out what all the conditions are and, in general, for what the credit is going to be used.

Whether I favored it or not is not always for me to decide personally.

Our private citizens have a perfect right to make loans abroad either to governments or private parties. It is the usual procedure to ask whether our government has any objection. We have no legal right to interfere. They have a legal right to make loans. And we should only interfere if the loan was to be used for some purpose that would be contrary to the policy of the United States.

So I could not answer this question at the present time either one way or the other.

No decision has been finally reached about the appointment of a Judge in Indiana. I have expected to promote Judge Anderson. Several people have been under consideration for appointment to take his place on the District Court. One of them is Judge Robert C. Baltzell, and there are others. No final decision has been reached. Judge Baltzell is very well recommended by the bench and the bar and the public.

I do not know very much about the British embargo on potatoes from the United States. I have, however, requested the Dept. of Commerce to investigate and see if there is anything that the Govt. can do that might be beneficial to our citizens.