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CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME V
July 7, 1925 - December 29, 1925

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CALVIN COOLIDGE

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NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

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VOLUME 5

July 7, 1923 - December 31, 1923

Tuesday, July 7, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I guess all of you present are authorized to attend the conference, but my experience has taught me that it is going to be necessary to state at nearly every one of these conferences that the President can't be quoted, so I will reiterate that if you don't mind.

I don't think I can make any comment on the address that I made at Cambridge. It seems to me plain enough, and it couldn't be misunderstood.

As you probably know, I dislike very much to either confirm or deny any newspaper stories, but I have got several inquiries here about a New York newspaper story. So far as I know that is without any foundation whatever.

That is the rum fleet story, Mr. President?

Yes. That is any story that any action had been taken by me in relation to it. I think I read before I came up here that there had been some smuggling in this vicinity which had caused the arrest of the Chief of Police of the town of Swampscott.

Mr. President, do you contemplate any action?

I haven't in contemplation any action at the present time. Of course it is generally known that the matter of the enforcement of prohibition is looked after by the duly constituted officers that are appointed under the law for that purpose and doesn't come under my personal direction.

I haven't any specific information about the coal situation, other than what I have seen in the press. I have no doubt that the Secretary of Labor is

keeping in touch with it and undoubtedly the Department of Commerce. But they have made no report to me about it and I have made no suggestions to them.

Mrs. Rogers came in this morning and talked with me about the work that she has been doing in connection with the veterans. She has been very helpful in that connection, visiting the hospitals and talking with the veterans, and helping them wherever she could, and she spent a great deal of time at the Walter Reed Hospital, and she and I talked over the problem of whether she could continue that work, and we thought she could continue it to a certain extent, certainly until the time comes for her to go into the House when Congress assembles in Dec., and after that very likely she may visit the hospitals around Washington and perhaps once in a while take a trip. She would like to get out of Washington if she can leave the House.

It is my understanding that the Sec. of War is recovering and as I stated to the newspaper conference some time ago at Washington, expects to attend to the duties of his office about the first of September. I made that statement before the operation and the operation has resulted so favorably that I think the statement appears to have been fully warranted.

I don't expect to go to the track meet in Cambridge on Saturday.

I had a conference with the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Congressman Greene, just before I left Washington, and he is expecting to call his committee together early in the fall to go to work on a tax reduction bill. I can't give any figures because the only way to get at those is to get them from Treasury estimates, so I don't know what the Treasury figures would show

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could be done in the way of tax reductions, either of surtaxes or what you might call the regular tax. I haven't any new information, other than what I have already discussed with the conference, about inheritance taxes. The present top limit of 40% seems to me to be so high as to be practically impossible to secure any revenue under it. I should think it might in many cases result in practically confiscation, so I should presume that that ought to be reduced. Now I don't know whether it is possible for the United States Government to entirely repeal its inheritance taxes at this time, or whether we could adopt some process of ultimate extinguishment.

Mr. President, you said 40%. Do you have in mind on just what amount that applies?

That is the maximum amount.

I think the authorities in Washington are sure that they can reach some debt-funding agreement as a result of the conferences that are to be held with France, Belgium and Italy, and some of the other countries.

I haven't had brought to my attention the rent situation in Washington since I came to Swampscott, so I don't know what change has taken place there, if any.

I want to go to one of the forts down on the coast right over there (pointing). As I said the other day, I thought some day we could all get on the Mayflower and visit one of the forts. I didn't have any particular plan about going into Boston or visiting the Navy Yard. That would make necessary a considerable journey up into the harbor from the forts which lie outside at the mouth of

the harbor. I shall have to confer with the General in charge of this military division about that and make some plan about it. I will give you ample notice so that you will have time to prepare for it.

I don't expect to make any address at the Essex County Press Club next Saturday. That is an organization that has a regular outing each year I think, and they have prepared themselves at those outings I have attended with some kind of entertainment and ceremonies which I think substantially take the place of any speeches. I want to go, but I don't expect to make any speech.

Mr. President, would you permit a question as to taxes. Have you any views which you might want to express of what the normal tax might be reduced to if the surplus was large enough?

I thought that was understood - that there would be a general reduction that would reach practically to all taxpayers. But I should want to cover that with the further statement that I couldn't tell whether that would be possible or not without having the Treasury figures. That would be the plan I should take as a hypothesis, the general reduction of all taxes and perhaps see what the Treasury experts found it was possible to do with the probable surplus at hand.

Mr. President, you do favor a reduction of the surtaxes?

Oh yes.

Twenty-five percent or so?

I haven't any particular figure there. I would like to see it placed at a figure that would probably produce the most revenue. That may be 25%, or it may be less. I think 25% is the highest amount that any one thinks we could get

the most revenue at. Others think somewhere between 12 and 18%. Some experts think that is the figure at which it is probable that the most revenue could be secured. I am not an expert on those things.

Mr. President, you wouldn't object to 12%?

I wouldn't object to any percent that would produce the largest amount of revenue without the indirect bad effects on business that we get from too high a surtax. I think, for instance, that a man with two children that has an income of \$5,000 a year pays the Government between \$35 and \$40. Now in that condition the \$35 or \$40 that he pays the Government really is a negligible quantity. The thing he is interested in is getting the \$5,000 a year or more. The business conditions of the country come to be his first interest and the small amount of it that he pays the Government is a matter of very minor importance. In other words, what we have mainly in mind here is a system of taxation that will be the best that can be devised for the protection of business and the collection of the largest amount of revenue with the least dislocation of the business activity of the country.

Mr. President, was there anything of interest in Mr. Mondell's visit?

No. He was automobiling in this section and told me before he left Washington he would probably be up and I told him to drop in. He is coming in to lunch.

Friday, July 10, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about any conference between the representatives of the different powers to proclaim a new policy toward China. I doubt very much if there is going to be any such conference. There is a provision in the Washington Treaty relative to conditions in China that calls for some action, and that treaty has recently been ratified by France within two or three days. Now it is probable that whatever there is in the treaty that requires action will be carried out. Perhaps that is what this question refers to. I didn't understand that there was anything in the treaty really that required anything like a new policy toward China. It was simply a question of how to deal with the present conditions there.

Question: Mr. President, can we say anything in that connection that it is planned to go forward with the Customs Conference?

Answer: I can't say that. Undoubtedly the parties to that treaty will take up the question of what should be done to carry out its terms.

Question: Mr. President, Washington dispatches state that the State Dept. had suggested a conference of the nations to adopt a policy with reference to the present Government of China?

Answer: Well, I didn't say that that wasn't so, but I doubt if it is quite accurate. They may have made some inquiries as to what could be done under the terms of the treaty, now that it has been ratified. Perhaps something of that kind.

I expect Secretary Kellogg will come on here. It was arranged before I left Washington that he was to come up once in a while. Of course the question of

the debts was pending that I would like to talk with him about and then there is this question to which I have already referred, as to what ought to be done by this country under the treaty to which we are a party relative to pending questions in China - the tariff question there- and the question of having mixed courts and the question of extra-territorial rights. I think all three of those are mentioned in the treaty.

I am quite sure there isn't any foundation for any report that may be circulating in New York that Secretary of the Treasury Mellon has resigned.

I expect to see Ambassador Herrick while he is in this country. But that is merely a general expectation which I should entertain toward an Ambassador from any of the countries like France that might be coming home for a short vacation.

Question: Mr. President does that carry with it the understanding that he is positively going back to France?

Answer: I think so. No understanding - no reason to suppose that he isn't going back. But I haven't any arrangement at the present time to see him. Undoubtedly he will confer with me after he reaches this country to see when it will be convenient for him to come. I don't think I am going out on the Mayflower over the week-end. It is quite a task to get the Mayflower out and in.

I had a letter from Dr. Coupal I should say it was written Tuesday or Wednesday, that he expected to return very soon. I left him up there because I thought it might be necessary for me to go back to Plymouth, but father is making such good progress that I don't think it will be necessary to go back on account of his physical condition.

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I haven't any information about the candidates for Congress in the 2nd District. Of course it goes without saying that although that is my own district I should leave it to the people up thereto decide what they want to do about the choice of a candidate.

00597

Tuesday, July 14, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Here is an inquiry about Dr. Murray Nicholas Butler, which I suppose means Nicholas Murray Butler. I notice this suggestion is reported in some of the morning papers, that the United States ought to be better informed about what is being done by the League of Nations. Without desiring to be facetious at all, if Dr. Butler should visit the State Department he might be as much surprised to find out the information we have about the League of Nations as he was to find out the work that the League of Nations does. I agree with him fully that it is desirable that our Government should be informed about what the League is doing, and I therefore think his suggestion is based on a very sound conclusion. But I think his suggestion was that we ought to have a special representative there. I doubt if that is necessary, because I think we already have clear and definite information as to what is being done by the League.

I suppose it goes without saying that it is the desire of those connected with the United States Government, so far as I know, that there be some agreement made in the coal industry that will prevent having any strike.

I expect that the Congress will keep working on the plan for reorganizing the Government departments until some legislation is brought about. I have made several executive orders transferring departments, mostly I think to the Department of Commerce, but that doesn't go to the fundamental reason for the reorganization. I very much hope that Congress will work out some plan based on the proposals which are now before the Congress, or which will be before it in

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accordance with that plan which has been presented.

I suppose the Shipping Board wouldn't approve the sale that was prepared by Admiral Palmer because they had information that led them to suppose that they could secure a higher bid. Then of course there is the question of policy, which is one especially for the Shipping Board rather than for Admiral Palmer, about what it shall be permitted in the contract of sale to do with the different parts of the ships that are to be sold, whether the machinery and so on is to be used for new work or whether it is to be entirely scrapped. I think it is rather the feeling of the Shipping Board that they don't want to sell at scrap prices boilers engines and machinery that are in the ships, which are to be used in new ships for boiler and engine purposes. The bid that was submitted by Admiral Palmer left those that were to purchase the ships in entire freedom as to what disposition is to be made of the parts.

I don't know of any joint action that has been arranged in China by the United States, Great Britain and Japan. I think any such report is based on a misunderstanding. Our country is communicating with the different countries that are signatory to the Washington Agreements. That includes Great Britain and Japan. But I am quite sure that our country hasn't made any agreement with Great Britain and Japan about China.

Question: Hasn't it felt that it would be desirable to postpone action on extra-territoriality.

The President: I don't think any agreement of any kind has been made. All that has been done is to try to secure an exchange of ideas as to what can be done for the purpose of carrying out the Washington agreements on the one side

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and securing from China the protection of foreign interests on the other side. Very likely the United States, Great Britain and Japan, being particularly interested, in a sense do take the lead, though of course France and Italy, Belgium and several other Powers are interested and will of course be consulted. Now I think that is the real extent at the present time of the Chinese policy, based on those two things - carrying out the Washington Agreements on the one side and doing what we can to get China to protect foreign interests on the other side. Now that includes of course the consideration of the tariff and extra-territoriality and all other questions that were considered in the Washington Agreements.

I want to go up to Camp Devens some time. General Logan spoke to me about it. I had in mind when he spoke to me that he meant to go up to the Citizen's Military Training Camp. I expect my son will be up there at that time and I expected to go up there then. I am not certain whether I can get up to visit the 26th Division. I would like to and perhaps may be able to go.

I can't give any particular comment on the advantages of my being in New England the of the establishment of an air mail service between Boston and New York. The only information I have is that which is perfectly obvious. And before taking any settled position about it, I should want to consult the Post Office Department. Of course it is a thing that I should like to have done, but whether it ought to be done considering all the other requirements of the mail service or not, I couldn't tell.

Question: Mr. President, is the Postmaster General coming up to see you?

Answer: Not that I know of. I haven't any plan about that. I expect that substantially all the Cabinet members will be up here at one time or another.

I think I have indicated the Chinese situation.

Question: Would you care to say in connection with the Chinese situation whether there is hope for an early Customs Conference.

The President: Of course it goes without saying that we all hope for an early adjustment of our difficulties there. Now, whether conditions are such that we can have another conference or not, I can't say. I think that I am justified in saying that we are trying to promote conditions that will warrant an early conference on the tariff and on extra-territoriality.

Question: Referring to that question of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler. I don't think his suggestion was that we should send a special representative but that we should have a man at Berne who would be authorized to attend meetings. He raises the point now that the Minister at Berne isn't authorized to attend.

The President: Well, I don't know enough about the details to know whether that is necessary or not.

Question: My impression was that we were getting the information through Berne all the time.

The President: Of course it is barely possible that the report didn't give exactly what he was driving at. I thought that what he indicated was that there was very important work being done that our Government and the people over here might well be interested in and advised of. Of course if it is a matter of public interest

why I should say that that would be quite naturally attended to by the people without the intervention of our Government. I think our Government is very accurately informed as to what is taking place, though it may be that they need more assistance in getting more early and accurate information, but I don't understand that that is the case.

I haven't received any communication, so far as I recall, from Admiral Palmer or Mr. O'Connor regarding a ship sales policy, other than what I think has already been given to the press. The Board replied to my communication accepting that policy and pointing out that it had been virtually provided for in the resolution that was ~~was~~ passed by the Board about the time I suggested that they put the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the operation of the ships in the hands of one man, which was provided for by the appointment of Admiral Palmer at that time.

Question: You still want legislation on that, Mr. President?

Answer: Well, I am not certain about that. I rather think that some legislation might be helpful. My understanding with the Board was that this policy could be carried out by them without the intervention of legislation.

There isn't anything new respecting Secretary Weeks. My understanding is that he is making a good recovery and of course in time I expect to see him back at his desk in Washington.

Question: Mr. President there was a dispatch the other day that he would be out very soon.

Answer: I don't know of any foundation for that. No information has

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me to me that he was going to the Essex County Republican Convention July 26th or
7th.

00603

Tuesday, July 21, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There is little, if anything, that I can say about legislation that is likely to come before the next Congress. I haven't given that any special thought. Of course it is before me in a general way all the time.

I don't know of anything that makes it probable that there will be a special session of the Congress. I don't see any prospect of one.

I haven't any plans for any extended trip this week, and I don't know now when any Cabinet members may come here. I know that it is quite hot, as the recent arrivals inform me, in Washington, and I told members of the Cabinet that I should be glad if any of them would come up any time and stay over the week-end. I expect that they will avail themselves of that opportunity, so that their coming up here will not have any special significance. It is merely a matter of visiting me and escaping from some of the hot weather in Washington.

I rather hope that at this time we can let the country rest from thoughts about Washington activities, politics and legislation, and give the people an opportunity to devote their thought and attention to building up the industry, business and commerce of the nation.

I haven't any reports relative to the negotiations that are going on for an adjustment of wages in the coal industry. My information about that is practically all from the newspaper reports.

I haven't any further information about the situation in China, other than what has already been given out. That is being looked after of course by the State Department, and I expect that such information as they may receive that they can disclose, they will do.

Mr. President, have you heard from Secretary Kellogg as to when he is going back to St. Paul?

No. He said he is going back to Washington to stay indefinitely.

Question: Mr. President, would you elaborate upon your policy of returning the Boxer indemnity, which was reported in the paper this morning.

Answer: That was provided for by the legislature in the last session and all I did was to issue an executive order carrying out the terms of the legislation.

Question: Don't you think it is going to be helpful at this juncture, if it comes about?

Answer: Well, yes, I think so. It is an exhibition, I don't want to boast about our own country too much, but I think it is an exhibition of good faith on the part of this country. Perhaps it would be more appropriate for some one else to say that, other than myself.

The Secretary of War has not resigned. I don't expect he is going to resign, and I hope that for the sake of his peace of mind that his resignation will not be reported in the future oftener than once in two weeks. I don't want to unduly restrict the reporting, but I think that would be often enough.

I went up to call on Secretary Weeks the other day. I started out to take a little ride and got over to Salem and thought I would run over to Gloucester and I found him looking surprising well. I had heard very good reports of him, but his appearance outruns the reports that I had heard. He seems to be gaining in strength every day. He has made such a large improvement since I saw him in Washington. You will recall the day that he started up here.

Senator Hale talked with me yesterday about the Navy and I have asked him to make an intensive study of the Navy to see if we are maintaining any useless activities in it, so that there might be a possibility of saving money to the taxpayers by discontinuing them. You will recall that last year we made an authorization for some new cruisers, submarines and so on to the extent of a great many million dollars. That work will have to begin in the near future. I would like to find a place in the Navy where we can make sufficient savings to go some way towards taking up this new work. I should be very glad to consult General Mitchell about any subject that he is familiar with on which he can be helpful. I have consulted him a number of times in the past and expect to in the future.

Question: Mr. President, do you recall about how much that outlay was?

Answer:

I can't give the figures. I think there was an authorization for a number of new cruisers and they cost - I think a new cruiser costs fully as much as \$11,000,000.

I don't believe I ought to say anything about the Belgium debt. That is in process of negotiation and it is in the hands of the Debt Commission. There will be of course a good deal of publicity given out by the Belgium sources and it will be for the Debt Commission to determine what part, if any, they desire to

answer at present. But as I am not taking direct part in the negotiations, I hesitate to make any comment about it. I doubt if we can make any progress by making newspaper comment at this time.

My conversation with Senator Curtis has been almost entirely general. I saw him in Washington before I came here. He said he was coming up to Newport I think it is -

Narragansett Pier, Mr. President -

Yes Narragansett Pier, to visit his daughter. I told him to come up and spend a few days with me, which he is now doing.

I didn't discuss at great length with Secretary Davis the matter of the production of anthracite coal, but from such discussion as he and I had I gained the impression that there was no particular danger of a strike.

Question: Can you elaborate on the particulars of that picture, Mr. President?

Answer: I can't elaborate on something that doesn't exist.

Question: You have reason for believing that there wont be a strike and you must have reasons for so believing. It might be of interest to the public if you think there wont be a strike.

Answer: I didn't have an elaborate conversation with Mr. Davis about it. He didn't go into details. That was the impression I gained, as I said, from my conversation with him.

Question: Are you going to Pemberton tomorrow?

Answer: That is possible, but I haven't decided.

Question: Would you go on the Mayflower or by machine?

I don't know - can go either way.

Question: You formerly had a summer cottage there, didn't you?

Answer: Yes, we lived on Hull Hill back of Pemberton one summer, I think 1917.

Question: Would it be too much to ask if you decide this afternoon to let us know tonight?

Answer: I will let you know as soon as I decide. If it should be stormy I wouldn't go any way. If it is a nice fair day I might go.

Question: Is Ambassador Phillips coming to see you?

I had seen a report in the press that he was. He is a resident of Boston and is a Boston man. The family lives here and if he is in this country of course he would visit here. If he comes here I expect he will come up here to call on me the same as Peter Jay did the other day.

Question: Is it at all likely that a conference on the Chinese situation would include a discussion of the traffic in dope and so called drugs?

Answer: Well, if any conference is called I suppose it would be limited to those provisions that were arranged for at the Washington Conference. I don't recall any of the provisions as having relation to habit forming drugs. If we can get these other things out of the way at this time we are working on that constantly through conferences in Geneva, so I don't know of any thought anywhere of taking that up particularly and specially at a conference that might be called in relation to the things that are provided for in the Wash. Conference.

Friday, July 24, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have several inquiries here about the coal strike, or the coal situation. It has appeared to me that any action at the present time, either making a statement or taking any other action, would very likely do much more harm than

a good many exports going out. Whatever the tariff has done, it hasn't seemed to interfere greatly with our foreign commerce. I mean by that that it hasn't prevented imports. I don't want to go into any discussion of the tariff of course. The main thing that I feel about it now is that the people are being more and more adjusted to it and to undertake to make a change in it would simply throw the whole country into a state of suspense. Business wouldn't know what to expect as a result of a new tariff law. It would simply be a time of uncertainty which has always been an unfortunate condition for business to confront. I think I shall drive out to the Essex County Club. They are going to have a picnic or something of that kind on the 29th of July. I don't expect to stay very long.

I have learned from the Shipping Board that they want some opinion from the Attorney General. I have advised them to formulate their question and send it to the Attorney General, or to me recommending that it is a question that needs the opinion of the Department of Justice. The powers of the Shipping Board of course depend entirely on the wording of the statute. I haven't that before me and it is an elementary precept of the legal profession not to undertake to construe law unless you can look at it and not undertake what the effect of the written agreement will be unless you can see that. You may have observed that I have always been careful and refrained from giving opinions about written documents unless I could see them, so that my personal view here will not be of very much benefit. But I should be very much surprised to find out that the Shipping Board didn't have a perfect right to sell any vessels that it might declare to be surplusage and the persons that buy them make such use of them as they may desire

to make. As I explained the other day, I don't think it is a particularly good policy to sell the machinery in ships at a junk price to be used in competition with the manufacturers of the same kind of machinery. If it is to be used, why it ought to be sold at the using price and not at the junk price. But I should be very much surprised if there is any limitation in ~~that~~ the law that would make it illegal for the Shipping Board to dispose of surplus ships for whatever purpose the purchaser might desire. I think though there are some provisions that would prevent the ships being transferred to a foreign flag or something of that kind. I am talking now of a domestic use.

Question: Mr. President, the Board has already sold some ships?

Answer: Oh, yes. Sold a great many ships. Of course the amount of \$200,000,000 that Senator Curtis said he thought might be saved through reorganization of Government Departments is a matter of estimate and opinion. I had thought that we might make a considerable saving. I didn't want to commit myself to any particular figures, because I have never had any made for me. My first thought would be that \$200,000,000 would be rather excessive. I think it is somewhat doubtful whether we could save any such sum as that, but I think we could save quite a material sum. Since the original proposal for reorganization of course, there have been very painstaking reductions in the appropriations for the different departments. Now it may be that he got this figure from some discussion he heard or some investigation that he made when the suggestion was first made.

I haven't had any suggestion either directly or indirectly from General Andrews - I believe by the way he says he would like to have the General dropped now from his name - I think he is entitled to it - that he should come here and talk with me about his enforcement plans. I have told him and told those that communicated with me in any way in regard to appointments to be made under his plan for enforcement, that I believe he ought to be given as free as possible a hand, and that is my policy towards his effort for enforcement, to give him a very free hand in working it out in the best possible way.

I doubt if it is fair to say that there is very much politics in the present bureau - that over which Major Haynes has control. I think his effort has been to secure men that he thought he could rely on to enforce the law. I don't think I have seen much of anything in the way of political influence in relation to it. Of course I am not familiar with all the work and details of his department. There might be political influence of which I haven't been acquainted, but I thought he kept his department pretty free from it and I understand it is the desire of General Andrews to continue that policy.

Swampscott, Mass.,
Tuesday, July 28, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any particular subject that I shall discuss with Senator Pepper. I saw him in Washington some time before I came up here and he said he would be going up on the Maine coast. Quite naturally I like to keep in touch with members of the Congress, the Senate and House, and so I told him when he went by here I wished he would try to arrange to stop and stay with us. I think he will reach here on Saturday and perhaps stay over Sunday.

There isn't any change in the status of the proposed disarmament conference. One thing or another has developed in Europe that hasn't made it seem quite opportune to propose it. Just at present the matter of the security agreement is pending. Of course if that can be arranged, why it will lay a very broad foundation for further disarmament. With that undecided the question of how far disarmament could be carried would not be one that they could make an accurate decision about. Now, I am quite aware that there is never going to be any perfect condition under which disarmament conferences can be called. First, I didn't want to insert that question into an international discussion during the work that was going on on the Dawes plan when the question arose about putting the Dawes plan into operation. Then the question came up at the Geneva conference. Now it is the question of the security pact. What I have been waiting for was a time when Europe had seemed to arrive at a⁹ stable condition as we can hope to have ~~there/withxixpendingdifficultiesx~~

there, with all pending difficulties over there so that there will be a situation that would make it seem that a disarmament conference would have the largest possible promise of being successful.

I haven't had any further information from Chairman O'Connor or any information at all about sales of ships. The question arose in the Shipping Board, as I understand it, whether they had a right to sell ships for anything other than shipping purposes, and I understood they wanted to get the opinion of the Attorney General. I have undertaken to cooperate with them toward that end. I asked them to formulate their question and that I would then submit it to the Attorney General.

The officials of the Navy League came in to talk with me about having a Navy Day this fall. I expect that will be held the latter part of October.

I haven't any expectation of any visits of Cabinet members except in the most general way. I expected they would come here from time to time. There is no specific time now for any particular member of the Cabinet to come.

I am not familiar enough with the details of the work that the Federal Trade Commission does to go into any specifications in relation to it, but I should think there was a very broad field of useful activity in which they might engage which is set out in detail in the act establishing the Commission. They come upon that condition that is chronic in relation to commissions that are established to do something that the legislative

body doesn't know how to do. Now that is no criticism on the legislative body. There are matters of legislation and control that are of such an intricate and technical nature that legislation doesn't appear to fit them, and there is a belief on the part of individuals and the public - I am speaking generally now - that there are evils that ought to be remedied and the established remedy is to provide a Commission to do that. It has been my understanding and experience in public life that a commission would be established and the legislature would go home thinking that that question was never going to bother them again. Well, these evils that are complained of are more or less chronic in the carrying on of business affairs and the relationship between different individuals of the community. While the commission may help to solve the problems, it isn't able usually entirely to eliminate them. Then the legislature comes back the next year and somebody gets up on the floor and says the commission is all right but it is the personnel. He wants to abolish that commission and appoint new members, then the evils will be entirely eliminated. That is the way things of this kind work. Well now, I don't expect that commissions are going to cure entirely all the evils of our relations, whether they be industrial or social. I think they are helpful. It isn't always possible to get the members of the commission, when it comes to be tried out, to be one that functions perfectly. But I have a good deal of faith and confidence in the state commissions here in Massachusetts and in our Federal commissions. I think they serve a very useful purpose and are very helpful, and I think the Federal Trade Commission can perform a very helpful service. Now it may

be that there are practices that ought to be changed. It may not be doing some things it ought to do. As I say, I can't discuss the details of their work because I am not familiar with them. But I should be very much surprised if there wasn't a very large volume of work that would appear to be profitably performed by this Commission. It isn't very popular in the business life of the nation, but I don't regard that as a fatal criticism of it. It is in the nature of a business policeman. While perhaps it does things it ought not to do, and refrains from doing things it ought to do, I don't think it has reached that stage where it can be said it isn't any good.

I am rather busy just now trying to have my portrait painted, so that I don't know whether I can get over to the Salem Theater or not. I should like to go over there some time.

Ambassador Phillips is calling, as I suppose any of our foreign diplomats call on the President when they come to this country.

Question: Is that today, Mr. President?

Answer: He is coming, I think this morning at 11:30. He has no particular errand so far as I know, and I don't know of any particular subject that I shall discuss with him. Of course, quite naturally I will ask him about general conditions in Europe and his observation of affairs over there.

I understood that Major General Patrick is going to be reappointed as Chief of the Army Air Service. He is a man of ability, a faithful and conscientious public servant, and I think is doing a very good work in develop-

ing the Air Service. From things that I know haven't been, and perhaps ought not to be published, I am quite confident that our Air Service is constantly growing in efficiency and that it is at the present time at a very efficient state.

Question: Do you refer to the Army or Navy, or both, Mr. President?

Answer: I refer to the Air Service generally.

I suppose it would be appropriate to have a picture taken of the portrait that Mr. Tarbell is making of me. I should like to have it pretty well along, though, when that is done, and when that period is reached I shall let the newspaper picture men know. The inquiry is whether it can be done next Friday, and I don't know whether it would be ready then or not.

I don't know just what time I shall come to the Essex County Republican Club. I thought I would like to get up there about an hour before the speaking began and stay a little while and then come away. I should like to meet some of my old associates that I have known so long in the public affairs of Essex County. I don't have any intention at present - this is attending the first I have heard about it - of an outing that is being held by the Lynn policemen at Beverly. I don't think I shall go over there.

No formal statement has been made to me about my appointing a member to a board to arbitrate the building trades service controversy. I should think that is rather a local matter. The only information I have is that which I have seen in the press.

I haven't any information about the establishment of a home for

Navy dirigibles at San Diego. The first information I heard about it is that which is contained in this question. I don't think the plan has been under consideration. It hasn't been brought to my attention. Of course both the Army and Navy are constantly working on plans for more efficient national defense that never come to my attention. I wouldn't have time to consider all those details, and I don't know what plan may have been worked out in this respect. If a plan has been decided upon by the Navy Department, I haven't any doubt that there are very valid reasons for it.

I haven't specific information before me in relation to the textile industry. I think if you would look at the address that I made last April before the gathering of the Cotton Manufacturers at Washington, you would see that there are figures there that do not indicate that there is any general depression in the textiles. Now there are depressions in different localities, but I was astounded when I got the figures from the Department of Commerce, of a great increase in the amount of textiles that are turned out in this country. The increase has been perfectly tremendous. Of course during the war the textile industry, like many other industries, extended itself very greatly in order to meet war time demands, and quite naturally when the war was done those demands ceased and there is undoubtedly somewhat of a surplus of textile plants. Now, I am advised that the trouble with the textile industry in New England is two-fold. The first is the competition that comes from the making of such a large amount of coarse goods in the South and the competition that has come from the importation of such a large amount of fine

goods. The textile industry here in New England has felt those two sources of competition. That is the only specific information that I have. I haven't any specific information about the woolen industry, but I should be very much surprised if a survey of that industry wouldn't also reveal that they are making more woolen cloth in this country than they were before the War. That is somewhat a matter of fashion. I recall now that Lieut. Governor Allen was in to talk with me just before he sailed and he said the woolen industry had been fairly good but the worsted industry had not been good, and that that was a matter of fashion. Both men and women had taken to wearing the woolens and hadn't been for the past two years wearing so much worsteds. The fall styles this year, however, seem to be turning again to the worsteds. He thought that would bring the worsteds again up to their usual activities. Of course I knew something about the woolen industry here in Massachusetts before I went to Washington, and it suffered then from the general depression and the general shrinkage in values. Some of our very large woolen manufacturing concerns here in Massachusetts - one of them had to go into the hands of a receiver because of the great shrinkage in the value of wool.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the day.

Tuesday, August 4, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

No one has yet been chosen to succeed Mrs. Gardener on the Civil Service Commission.

I haven't any definite plan about another visit to Plymouth. I thought some time toward the middle of the month perhaps I could get away.

I haven't any idea when any other Cabinet officer may come here.

Question: Mr. President, you might get away, you mean, to go to Plymouth or Washington?

Answer: No, I meant to Plymouth.

I don't think I have any information about either the economic or the political situation in the middle and northwestern states that isn't known of all men. I have very little information about the political situation in that region. So far as I am informed about the economic situation, it seems to be improving. Prices of all farm products, wheat, corn and hogs especially, are very good now; \$14 for hogs, which is an increase of between \$2 and \$3.

Question: Since when, Mr. President?

Since a year ago. The only unfavorable economic condition there is certain areas where crops haven't been very good. Now that is more an impression on my part than it is definite information.

I don't know of any time that Secretary Hoover and Secretary Mellon are coming. I hope they will both be up here before I go away. I don't know

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that Mr. Hoover has returned to Washington, though I expected he was coming back the first part of August.

I haven't any figures that will give me any indication about the economic conditions of France, Belgium and Italy, and while negotiations are going on with the Debt Funding Commission I should hesitate very much to make any public comment, even if I had any information, and it happens that I haven't any. So I couldn't be of any definite opinion as to the ability of those three countries to meet their payments.

As I have already said, I don't know when I am going to Plymouth, Vt. and haven't any plan about going to Plymouth, Mass.

I don't know anything about the action taken in regard to Commissioner Haynes, other than what I saw reported in last night's paper. It had been my understanding that he would continue in his office the same as he had been doing and that Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Andrews would be in the position of an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of looking after the enforcement of prohibition. That is, instead of the Secretary of the Treasury himself undertaking to look after the details, which of course he could not do, he turned that part over to an Assistant Secretary. I don't suppose it had much of anything to do with the work that Major Haynes was doing. He worked more directly under the Secretary of the Treasury than he was working under the Asst. Secretary of the Treasury.

I haven't any one in mind for Ambassador to Japan. I want to make an appointment there very soon. Quite naturally I should want to talk with

the Secretary of State about it.

I didn't get any new information from Ambassador Sheffield about Mexico. Of course you recall that since I was at Washington he had to go to the hospital to undergo an operation. He seems to be making a good recovery, you know of course it takes some time to recover from a serious operation, and on account of his illness he didn't keep in the closest of touch with the Embassy at Mexico, although he was in communication with them. So that I don't know of any new developments in Mexico. I think our relations may be generally stated to be more satisfactory at the present time than they were a short while ago.

I didn't have a chance to discuss with Senator Pepper at any length the public questions. He came in in the evening and it happened that we had a picture to look at that evening and the next day was Sunday. He went away right after lunch. We went to church in the morning. I know in a general way that he is working on the problem of securing the advice and consent of the Senate to the adhesion by this country to the Permanent Court of International Justice. That is a question especially for the Senate to work out. The Executive Office has submitted it to the Senate and it of course is entirely in their hands. I have left it pretty much to the Senate. They have provided, as you know, for taking the question up on the 17th of December. I understood that Senator Pepper would confer with different Senators that were interested on both sides of the Chamber to see what might be the best form of a

resolution of adhesion.

I haven't given any thought to any list of what might be called achievements of the two years that I have been President. I presume the press could form a better list of those things than I could. I am so constantly giving my attention to what is going to come that I don't have a great opportunity to think of what has gone by. I think since I have been in office we have finished the negotiations on the Lausanne treaty and have come back into full relationship with Mexico. We have done a good deal to make our relations better with the South American republics. I think we have settled some of our debts with some of the countries, I can't name them; of course Great Britain was taken care of before I became President, but some of the others have been settled since that time. There developed during the last campaign some discussion as to whether the administration was entitled to any credit for the Dawes Plan. You are at liberty to express whichever view you think is correct about that. It is sufficient for my purposes and the purposes of the United States that such a plan has been adopted. I am not particularly interested in the fact as to whether we are entitled to credit for it or not. I think it is a great accomplishment. And of course there has been the effort to keep the expenses of the Government down, and there has been a law passed reducing taxation. Now there are a lot of other laws that have been passed that are important, but this question has just come in. I don't know as I could give any particular list of them at the present time.

I haven't any information about conditions in the Alien Property

Custodian's office, especially in relation to the American Metals Co., other than what has been published in the press. I haven't any idea whether there is any condition there that would seem to make it desirable to institute an inquiry or not. It is always a good plan to assume that things have been done correctly until the contrary is proven. I think that would be the attitude that I have in mind in relation to that situation.

I haven't any plans about making any addresses in the West before Congress meets.

I haven't any new information about what is going on in relation to China. I saw Mr. Castle for a short time when he was here Saturday. I understood from him that he thought the Department was making as good progress as could be expected in arriving at some practically uniform conclusions on the part of the Nine Powers that are interested which would be in substantial agreement with the policy already announced by the State Department.

I have already spoken of the World Court.

The Conference on Agriculture I suppose will reconvene, the President's Conference or whatever it is called, and finish their studies of the Agricultural situation, and I should rely very largely on them for suggestions in relation to legislation.

It would be possible to pass some laws that would be of benefit to transportation, but the main thing that it seems to me is needed in transportation is consolidations. There is one of those pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Van Sweringens, and I imagine that some of the

other transportation units are waiting to see how that comes out in order that they may get necessary information with which to proceed with consolidations. If we could get consolidations through, it would solve the problem to quite an extent of rates. We would then have sufficiently large units so that it would be possible to make a rate that would substantially take care of each unit and not give one railroad a very large income while another railroad under the same rate wouldn't get enough income to pay for its existence.

Question: Do you have in mind that consolidation might be helped by additional legislation?

Answer: Well it is possible that it might. I haven't had the details of that enough in mind to give an opinion, but what I meant was that the railroads ought to go ahead and make them in order to remove to quite an extent the necessity for legislation. They ought to proceed voluntarily. I think Senator Cummins is of the opinion that the situation could be materially advanced by legislation. He is one of the authorities on legislative problems in the Senate and has been on that Committee for a long time, and is well acquainted with what ought to be done.

Question: Is he coming to see you?

Answer: I haven't any plan for him to come up here. He is in Iowa. I suppose he is there - was there the last I heard from him. I don't know of any particular reason for taking up that question with him or Senators in general before I should return to Washington.

I don't think there is anything I can say about the possibility of a coal strike. It had been my expectation that there would be some agreement reached so that there wouldn't be any strike.

I haven't made any plans to spend the week-end in Plymouth. I rather think that there is a misunderstanding in what was reported in one of the morning papers, because Mr. Adams told me that he wanted to go down to Plymouth and that he was thinking of taking a tour through the White Mountains. I think some possible misunderstanding arose about that. He was going down to Plymouth, Mass. and also was thinking of taking a tour through the White Mountains. I haven't any thought of going to the White Mountains.

I don't think there is anything I can say about the Citizens' Military Training Camp that hasn't already been better said than I could say it.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the morning.

Friday, August 7, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not know when I can go up to Plymouth to make a visit to my father. It is possible I can get up the latter part of next week. I shall come back here after staying there a very few days.

I suppose that General Lord is coming up to talk with me about budget matters. When I am in Washington he comes in twice a week to confer with me about things in his department. He is making up the budget now undoubtedly to submit to me for my consideration and to recommend to the next Congress. Very likely he wants to confer with me about certain matters in relation to it.

I sent for the Attorney General to come up because I want to talk with him about some appointments of District Attorneys and Judges, and two or three pardon cases that I had here that I didn't quite understand about. He was going to Vermont - I got a telegram from him the day before yesterday I think, that he was going to Vermont, so I asked him to stop off here. I didn't have any other errand or any other matter to discuss with him.

I am not taking any action in relation to politics either in Illinois or Wisconsin. I don't know anything about the political situation in Illinois. Of course I know that on account of the death of Senator La Follette there is a Senator to be elected in Wisconsin. That is about the extent of my information about it.

I don't know of any statement that I can make relative to the coal situation.

I expect Secretary Hoover will be up tomorrow. He wrote to me that he had an invitation from people in San Francisco, I think, who are desirous that he should present it to me to come out there. I don't think that there is very much possibility that I can go. I don't know of any other business that he has. I haven't seen him since he went west some time before I came up here. I imagine that there are general things in relation to his Department that he may want to talk over with me. I don't imagine that he is coming to talk with me about the coal situation; neither have I discussed this with the Attorney General.

Question: When did you say General Lord is coming?

Answer: Monday. He leaves Sunday night and will be up here Monday morning.

Question: Do you think you could say anything about the fact that the negotiations ended so quickly between the operators and miners and it is now a month before the expiration of the scale?

Answer: I am not enough in touch with the situation, so that I could make any comment that would be sufficiently accurate in my own mind as to be helpful about it. I think everything has been said about it that could be in the press. That is my principal source of information.

Question: Mr. President, it appears that as it is a month before the scale ends that it would seem that these people would earnestly desire to compose their difficulties instead of fighting, and that they are still waiting for

somebody to help them out.

Answer: I knew they had adjourned. Just what the purpose of the adjournment was, I don't know, and if you want any information about it why I would look at the form of the adjournment. What was the form of it? What did they say about it? When were they going to meet again?

Question: Subject to call, Mr. President.

Answer: Well, I suppose that would mean that it was the expectation that they would be called together again. I don't think any one would suppose that negotiations had now been broken off and that therefore there wouldn't be any more negotiations, simply drift on until the end of the present contract and then all activities cease.

Question: Would it be possible to announce anything in connection with your discussion with the Attorney General - about the appointments?

Answer: I wanted to talk with the Attorney General about some District Attorney appointments and two or three, I think it is one or two appointments to be made to the Circuit Court, and one or two District Court Judges to be appointed.

Question: Any of those in New York?

Answer: I don't think so.

Question: Are the pardon cases of any prominence?

No.

Tuesday, August 11, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Most of the information that I have about the Ford people engaging in commercial aviation has come from the newspapers, though of course I know in a general way that the Ford people are now engaging in commercial aviation. I think they have a line that runs from Detroit to Chicago. There is another group with which Colonel Henderson, who has lately been an Assistant Postmaster General, would be identified. I think that is headed by Mr. Coffin, and they have many other very prominent business men. Then there is another group represented by - I think it is John Hays Hammond, Jr. It is John Hays Hammond's son, is it?

Newspaper men: Yes sir.

The President: And General Edwards I think is interested in that. I didn't know whether Mr. Satterlee was - was he a former Assistant Secretary of the Navy or War?

Newspaper men: Navy.

The President: They came here and saw me last week - Friday I think - and I told them Mr. Hoover would be here the next day, so they came and talked with him. I wasn't present at that conference and I don't know just what it amounted to. The terms of the agreement under which we took that airship provided that it was not to be used for military purposes, so that its use would be for experimental and commercial purposes. I should be guided very largely in what use could be made of it by the advice of the Navy Department and the Commerce Dept.

I think the Ford people are making airplanes and I understand the other concern is to use airplanes. The Ford people are having some lighter than air types.

This Hammond concern is making more especially the dirigible. I should be in favor of making such use of our two ships as we could to develop the lighter than air aviation. Now whether that can best be done by the Government itself or can best be done by private enterprise, or by a combination of the two, I don't know. I am not familiar with the plan of any concern. I want to help every business concern in the country that is engaged in legitimate business, as I have told the press conference some time before.

Question: Mr. President, do you mean the two ships, perhaps the Shenandoah also to be used for commercial aviation too?

The President: Did we make that ourselves?

Press: Yes.

President: Well, I don't know about that. I doubt whether the Navy Department would want to use that for anything but purely Naval purposes, though it might be that it would be available, slightly, for some commercial purpose.

Press: You are interested in seeing the expansion of commercial aviation, are you?

President: Oh yes, very much. Very much interested in that.

I haven't made any decision about District Attorney Gordon, other than that which I announced the other day that it is my present expectation to reappoint him. That is the District Attorney of the District of Columbia. Though there may information come which would lead me to change my mind. I always intend to keep

myself perfectly free and without any positive commitments about appointments until I sign the warrant or the nomination.

I don't think there is any new development in the appointments of the Circuit Court of Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia. I talked with the Attorney General about that. They are looking now after the various suggestions that have come.

I haven't made any decision about a Civil Service Commissioner.

I wouldn't say at the present time that I was in favor of a bond issue for the purpose of erecting Government buildings in Washington or elsewhere. My desire is to reduce the amount of outstanding indebtedness, rather than to increase it, though there may be some plan evolved that would have as a part of it a bond issue that might seem to be feasible. But the mere naked issue of bonds for the purpose of Government building, I wouldn't be in favor of. If it becomes a part of some other plan, it might come in in a way that I would think was desirable. I want to cut down the expenses of the Government. Now it may be that by borrowing some money and building a building somewhere we can save enough in rent so that it is a desirable financial operation.

Press: Are there any Government buildings now that are bonded that way?

President: I don't think so, though I don't know whether it has ever been the policy to borrow any money for the purpose of erecting buildings. I don't think it has been. But I am not familiar enough with the details of the financial history of the United States to tell whether that has been done.

Press: They are paying about \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 in rents about

the country, so it is said by some of the men that have been up here.

President: If we ~~could~~ rent a building for \$100,000 and find that we could build one and issue bonds that wouldn't cost us but \$50,000, why we could take the \$50,000 and use it to pay off the principal of the bonds and at the end of the operation we would have the building and not increase our present taxes. Now it is possible that some plan of that kind might be expedient.

I hadn't given any thought to the question of whether in the appointment of a Civil Service Commissioner I would get some one that had any experience, or whether I would take some one from the business profession or life of the country that might seem to fill the place in a general way. That is more easy to do where you are putting members on to a Board and there are other members of the Board who have all the traditions and training of the administration of that particular department, than it is where you are putting some one into a position to be the sole administrator of it.

I haven't any idea at all about what can be done in relation to postal rates. I suppose that is what this Commission is working on and I am waiting for their reports.

I haven't anything definite about going to Washington. I shall hold myself ready to respond to whatever requirements arise. Of course I should like to stay up here as long as I can, on account of the better temperature, but as I have been up here 6 weeks or so I should expect I could go back any time.

Representative White of Maine didn't say anything to me as I recall it about the Alaskan Fisheries. He merely spoke of general conditions in Alaska

as he found them, which he thought were encouraging.

The Press: He told us as he was leaving that whatever he had mentioned to you he preferred be given out by you.

President: I don't know what he could have referred to. I think I asked him about the Governor up there and he said he didn't happen to come in contact with him. I asked him about the other officials which he thought were doing a very good work, the Judge, District Attorney and other officials in Alaska.

I haven't done any more about an Ambassador.

I didn't get any new information other than that which General Lord apparently gave to the press. I think he gave the figures of the tentative budget.

I expect to go up to Plymouth the latter part of this week and I don't suppose I could stay more than three or four days.

Press: Return here, Mr. President?

President: Yes.

Press: Have you decided which day?

President: No. It wouldn't be any earlier than Thursday and not later than Saturday.

Press: Go by motor or train?

President: I am not sure about that. There is a train that goes up there at 1:00 o'clock I think, which is a very good train. My present disposition would be to have a car hitched on that for the accommodation of my party.

But I think the railroads don't really like to have that published.

Press: What we would like to know is not the news so much - if we could get it for our own value more than anything else.

President: We will let you know. We may go up by motor - will see how the day is. If it is a nice day a motor run up there isn't bad. If it is a wet day I should prefer to go by train.

No. I expect the Postmaster General will be up here some time this week. He went away on a vacation before I left Washington, so I haven't seen him for some time. I don't know of any special thing he is going to take up with me.

That seems to cover the requirements of the day.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

Tuesday, August 25, 1925.

I don't know whether I can get down to Plymouth or not. I wanted to get down there, but it is doubtful whether I can make it with all the things that are coming up here and the engagements that I have to confer with different people that come to visit me.

I have told them to go ahead with their preparations for dedicating the Flagstaff over in Lynn. If it is so that I can come over I will go, and if it develops that I can't get away they will have to go ahead without me.

I haven't any new information about the hard coal situation. I have noticed, as you probably have, the action taken by the New England Governors and the statement issued by Colonel John Hays Hammond, who I suppose is especially well informed about the situation, which was very reassuring as to the ability of every one to have sufficient fuel in case there was a cessation of mining of hard coal. Of course the United States Government will do anything it can to assist in providing the public with fuel in case there is any cessation of mining.

I have got two or three questions here about the Army. I don't think I would take too seriously the dispatches from Washington that purport to emanate from the General Staff. It is one of the characteristics of the reports that purport to emanate from that source that they always represent the Army as just on the point of dissolution. We are spending I think about \$300,000,000 on the Army. Before the War it is my recollection that we spent \$120,000,000. I don't want to be held too closely to those figures, and I suppose as long as we continue to spend \$300,000,000 that the General Staff would be able to provide the nation with

a fair degree of defense. I am quite sure they are competent to do that, so that any dispatches that seem to indicate that that result would be accomplished would appear to me to be so much a reflection on the ability of the General Staff that I don't place any great credit in them.

Here is another reported announcement that I think I should view in about the same way, that Chairman O'Connor of the Shipping Board fears that the Leviathan is to be withdrawn from the merchant service. Now, Admiral Palmer is conducting the operations of the merchant fleet. If he said the Leviathan was in danger of withdrawal, why that I should think might be a statement that some credence could be placed upon, but I don't understand that he has made any such statement and until he does make it I do not think there is any danger of withdrawing the Leviathan. Now of course all of this is the opposition to my policy of economy. You have got to expect that opposition to be constant. I don't think it is going to be effective. Whenever you come to the question of shipping, you have to realize that it is a highly competitive industry. Those who are competing with the United States ships can put out any statements that will cause a cancellation of reservations on U. S. ships and secure reservations on other ships, and there may be some motive for having it done. I don't say that it is done. There might be some motive for it.

Senator Bingham spoke with me more or less about aviation and probably you recall that he was in the Air Service during the war, and I think he gave out to the press a statement in relation to it. I haven't looked at it in detail, but undoubtedly it was substantially the same as that which he conferred about with me.

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I haven't had any official communication with Colonel Harvey. He is up in this region and came down to visit with me over Sunday.

I haven't made any definite plans to return to Washington. I imagine I will get back some time around Labor Day.

I think that the portrait that Mr. Tarbell has painted of me will be finished this week.

I haven't any comment to make about reported articles in the European press.

I expect to return to Washington by train. Perhaps I should have said that.

I don't know when I can get a new Ambassador to Japan. I would like to fill that post as soon as I can, and no decisions have been made about the appointment on the Civil Service Commission. There is a rumor that came to me that one member, I don't know which of the present Civil Service Commission, was likely to retire, and I was waiting to see if that could be verified. I do not know of any basis for the rumor and it probably hasn't any.

Now here is a question about the Belgian debt settlement. Of course our law provides for a settlement on the standard that was adopted in relation to the debt of Great Britain. We have made four or five other settlements on that basis and if any one wants to have any different basis than that it will be necessary for them to show the Debt Commission, as I understand it, specific reasons why in their particular case any exception to the British standard should be made. I suppose every one recognizes that Belgium is in a somewhat different situation

in relation to the war than other countries. It was a neutral that was caught between the great conflict between the Central Powers and Allied Powers, and in a way that appealed particularly to the sympathy and consideration of the American Government and I think to the American people. It was therefore on that account that there was a desire to treat Belgium as generously as we could under the circumstances. Now of course while we speak of the standards adopted in the British settlement the basis of that standard was the ability to pay. We adopted that standard in relation to the British on account of their ability to pay and that is the fundamental standard in relation to each and every one of the debtors that owe money to the United States. That isn't varied by the Versailles Treaty or any other agreement that has been attempted to be made, and the Belgian settlement hasn't anything to do with the debt of any other country to the United States. The basis and standard, as I understand it, is established by law in relation to the British standard. Now this Government is waiting to see what any other country may propose and any reasons that it may have will be listened to as to why any different ~~definite~~ settlement should be made with them than the British standard. That is entirely outside of the Versailles Treaty or any other agreement or obligation which may have been thought to have been in effect.

Friday, August 28 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I didn't have a chance to have so long a visit with Mr. Madden as I should have been pleased to have. He made some arrangement in Washington that will necessitate his going to Washington on the night train. I believe he wasn't able to get a reservation on the Federal, so he has to take a 5:00 o'clock train over to New York and then go on to Washington, and therefore I didn't have a chance to talk things over much with him. We did talk slightly - altogether the discussion was about the national finances, as to the coming appropriations and the expectation of tax reduction, but only in the most general way. We had such a short time that we didn't arrive at any decision about anything. I did get some information from him. They are going to start, probably in September, to prepare the appropriation bills, lay a foundation for them, and be ready to present them very early in the session. I think that is about all we talked about. He mentioned the fact that his son-in-law, Colonel Henderson, is leaving the service today to engage in the airplane business, both in the manufacture and in the use of airplanes for the transmission of materials; I mean by that carrying express matter and possibly later carrying mail.

I haven't any trips in the near future that I know of. I expect to go back to Plymouth and stay two or three days with my father some time during August. I don't know just when.

I don't know of any poll of the Senate that has been made that

throws any light on how the Senate stands in relation to the World Court, other than what I have seen in the newspapers.

My boy is going to the Citizen's Military Training Camp the day after tomorrow. It is a pretty hard thing, you know, to be the son of a President. It doesn't give a boy very much chance to have the same kind of a life that an ordinary boy ought to have. So that I rather hope that the press will understand that he goes up there just as any other boy might go.

Question: Is that Camp Devens, Mr. President?

Yes. Undoubtedly a great many boys would like to go up there that don't have an opportunity to do so. I hope the press will not give him any more attention than they will give other boys. I think it will probably be a favor to him if he can be left alone up there and be made to do the work that comes to the boys in the camp without any more comment that comes to other boys.

Question: Will you go up there, Mr. President?

Answer: Yes, after they get started. I mentioned that to Mrs. Coolidge. I don't really like to speak about that, but I know there is an inclination always to write stories about the son of a President. My boy John is just as easily spoiled as a good many other boys and a good deal easier than some, so I am exercising that discretion that all parents do in trying to protect their children.

I don't think that the State Department has arrived at an under-

standing yet with all the powers interested in China, though they may have. My last information was that they hadn't all agreed on just what ought to be done in different particulars. I think there was a very substantial agreement in principle, but in details they hadn't all agreed.

Question: Mr. President, does that include the minor Powers?

Answer: Yes. But they were so close to it that possibly this Washington report that suggests they have arrived at an understanding is correct. I shouldn't be surprised if it was, but I have no information that it is. My last information I think arrived yesterday and indicated that they were making such progress that it seemed almost certain that they would arrive at a substantial agreement.

Question: Does that include an agreement on the resolution on extraterritoriality?

Answer: Well, the whole situation is what I meant to cover. The extraterritoriality and the finances and all. Now, as I say, I haven't any information and this Washington report may be correct. I wouldn't be surprised if it was correct.

I haven't made any formal decision about the reappointment of Major Peyton Gordon to be U. S. District Attorney for the District of Columbia. He is in and will continue to stay in until some one is appointed to take his place, and it is my expectation that he will be reappointed. Now I am not certain about that, because I always reserve the right to take such other action as may be necessary in the circumstances, but I expect that the Dept.

of Justice will recommend his reappointment and that I shall reappoint him.

I haven't done anything especially about appointing a successor to Ambassador Bancroft. I haven't thought of discussing that with Senator Pepper, though it would be quite natural that any one like Senator Pepper who came here I would inquire of if he had any one in mind that would seem to fill the requirements. I haven't any particular specifications. I don't know - the only desire I have is to get an outstanding man that will commend himself to the people of this country and also commend himself to the people of Japan. We have constantly rather delicate questions in the East, especially at the present time, so that I am naturally solicitous to get a first-class man to send over there. I haven't given any particular thought to whether it ought to be a man from the service or a man from outside the service. A good man that I could find from the service or outside the service will not make any particular difference. Of course Mr. Bancroft was from outside the service, though a very experienced man in legal and public affairs.

I don't think there can be any basis for the Washington dispatch - where is that dispatch that the Bureau of Mines has a plan for the Government to seize the mines in case of a coal strike?

Newspaper man: It was printed in Boston last night.

The President: Yes. Well they may have plans there that contemplate something of that kind, the same as the Army and Navy have plans for repelling all kinds of attacks and making all kinds of attacks, but I haven't heard anything about it, very likely shouldn't hear anything about it. They had a

bill that was drafted and a report that was made, which was public. Whether there was anything in that referring to the seizure of mines, I don't know. There is no authority on the part of the Government to seize coal mines, so far as I know, except that extreme authority of trying to protect the Government. I haven't been advised of any such plan and I don't expect that Mr. Hoover is coming back to discuss any such plan.

I haven't any information at all about tests with anti-aircraft guns. The only information I had about that was that the tests that were made very early in the spring or very late in the winter, I don't know which, were not satisfactory, and that they didn't reveal the full defensive force of aircraft guns and were not well carried out. I haven't had any information about that since then. I suppose those tests constantly go on like the tests of heavy artillery on armor plate. The aircraft people are trying to devise means to escape the hazard of the aircraft guns, and the guns are experimenting to become more efficient in making a defense against aircraft.

I don't know when I shall go back to Washington. I haven't in contemplation any trip to the Institute of Politics at Williamstown.

I have already spoken about going to Plymouth. That seems to cover the questions of the day.

Question: Mr. Madden said he was in favor of reducing the combined surtaxes to 20%. Mr. Winston published a letter yesterday proposing the same thing?

President: Well, I don't know what the figures will show. I can't say offhand what reductions can be made. I should have to depend in the first

instance on the Treasury to give estimates of what certain schedules will produce in the way of revenue, to see if they will produce enough revenue, and then in the second instance the Constitution provides that the House of Representatives shall originate revenue bills, rather than the President. While it would be perfectly proper for the President under that provision that requires him to keep the Congress informed as to the state of the Union to make suggestions on a matter of that kind, I wouldn't want to make any suggestion without first conferring with the men in the House that are on the Committee and have charge of the tax bills to see what their studies have indicated. They are going to work on the question of a tax bill early in September, I think Chairman Greene told me, and the only suggestion I can make is that which I have already said, that the estimates of the Treasury will show what the result of the schedules are and then find out from those who have looked into the question in the House what they think is available and wise, and then get the result of the concensus of opinion to see how much we can reduce taxes.

Question: Mr. Madden also told us that he favored the blanket provision for rebating the surplus.

Answer: Well, that is an idea that he has had in mind for some time. I don't know whether that could be worked out or not. Of course that could apply only to income taxes. Now it might be when you came to study the whole question that you think if you could reduce taxes safely \$1,000,000

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that that ought to be taken off admission taxes instead of the income. If that is the case, why if we had \$50,000,000 to spare we would want to pass a new bill and take it off somewhere else. There is a good deal in his suggestion of giving authority at the end of the year to take such an amount of surplus that you have in the Treasury and apply it in the nature of a rebate in the next year's taxes.

Tuesday, September 7, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I was reminded just as the members of the press came in that I have on my desk here an address that is to be made by Dr. David Friday before the American Association of Joint Stock Land Banks at Colorado Springs tomorrow night. I have looked the address over and as it has been given to the press to be released Thursday, September 3rd, of course I can't say anything about the details of it, but it seemed to me to be a very important contribution to the discussion of the present agricultural situation.

Press: Who is this Mr. Friday, Mr. President?

President: I think he is connected with the Department in Washington, though I am not certain about that.

Yes, I have heard that there wasn't any foundation in the suggestion that either of the present members of the Civil Service Commission were likely to retire. One rumor came to me that one of them was to retire and again that the other was to retire. No foundation to either one of them.

I am not very familiar with all the details of the Government employment, not sufficiently to give any particular comment about the proposal of the Federal Employees Association to have \$1500 as the minimum Government wage. It is my recollection though that when I was presiding over the Senate and the appropriation bills went through that there were very many places that were filled at much less sums than that. It seemed as though down to \$800 and there may be some for it, but I do not know of any reason at present that would justify increasing a salary from \$800 to \$1500. I think Government salaries have been fairly well increased. I

made some comment about that in one of my addresses, either to the Congress or else to the Government's business association. I can't give the figures now, but I know my studies at the time indicated that there had been a very generous increase in Government salaries.

I do not suppose that I shall appoint Major Gordon before I return to Washington. Of course I haven't any idea whether I shall return here next summer. I haven't any plans for next summer. Congress may keep us in Washington.

Press: That's campaign time, Mr. President?

President: Yes, but Congress is very uncertain. It might decide that it can campaign best in Washington. I haven't any thought about what I shall do next summer. I have enjoyed the stay here very much. It has been very cool and comfortable. The atmosphere and climate have been a very agreeable change. Of course Washington is a wonderful city to live in, take it all the year round, but I think it is a good idea to get out of it a short time each year. I found coming up here and going up to Vermont very agreeable and I think beneficial.

I haven't any new plan about the Shipping Board. I had an understanding with them that if they would go ahead and try out the plan that I proposed to them, that I wasn't going to press for legislation in relation to any changes in the status of the Board. They have always seemed to have more or less internal controversy in the Board. I should like to see that corrected if it could be. And the Board, if it could, be made harmonious. Of course my main desire about it has been stated several times in addresses and messages to the Congress - to maintain a merchant fleet in the first instance for national defense and the second instance,

for the benefit of our commerce, and I have always thought it ought to be under private ownership. Therefore, I have supported the policy of selling our merchant ships to private owners in order that they might carry on the business of shipping for the American people. Of course my other desire for efficiency in Government and economy has been one of the things I have had in mind in dealing with the Board. Some members of the Board haven't seemed to be very much in harmony with my desires in that direction.

Press: Did you say some, or one?

President: Some; though I think on the whole the Board has cooperated very well. The management of our shipping problem is very difficult, rather a losing problem, and when any one is engaged in trying to manage that they are always subject to criticism and the people which are associated together in a losing enterprise almost uniformly begin to quarrel with each other. Each one says that the other one is to blame for a lack of success. But I think that situation will settle itself.

There isn't any policy that I can announce about the coal strike, other than that I shall do what I can to have the Government assist in providing fuel for the people, and there is plenty of fuel I am told to meet all requirements if people will only pursue their ordinary course in purchases and not undertake to purchase large amounts of fuel because there is a possibility of a shortage. Such purchases would simply contribute to the present shortage, or bring about a shortage all the sooner. I think the dealers in coal have that in mind and will advise their customers that they will do the best they can to provide them with

fuel and deliver it to them from time to time as may be needed. I think my last message to the Congress stated my feeling about the action that the United States Government might take relative to the mining and transportation of coal. It is my recollection that I recommended substantially the findings of the United States Coal Commission, perhaps with one or two exceptions. I noticed an editorial article in the Public Ledger that set out what I did very carefully, published some weeks ago. I thought the President ought to have authority in case of a threat or cessation of mining to appoint a Commission that would have some power to investigate the facts, in order that they might be properly presented to the public. I think that was the main line on which I thought we ought to proceed.

Press: Do you think you will recommend this to the Congress?

President: I am still in favor of something of that nature.

I am not intending to make any addresses, either going to or coming from Omaha, and I shall make only one address, and that will be to the American Legion at their Omaha Convention. I am not quite certain what day I shall be there. I imagine on the 6th of October. I haven't in contemplation any trip to the Pacific Coast next summer. I have been invited to go out there, but I don't ~~know~~ see any prospect of my being able to accept an invitation.

I don't know when I shall go back to Washington. I shall be practically on call to go any time after the first of next week.

I think my ideas about the publication of income tax information was stated in my last message to the Congress. I recommended the repeal of the publicity clause, mainly on the theory I believe that it interfered with our col-

lection of revenue. It is likely to make the collection of revenue less, and perhaps more difficult.

I haven't any plan for any other trip away from Washington, except ~~at~~ the one to Omaha in October. I don't know that I may not take a trip anywhere else because I haven't any other invitation.

Secretary Weeks hasn't resigned and I don't think he intends to resign. He told me when he came down to see me that he was the best that he has been since last April, and I expect that he will be back in Washington and taking up the duties of the Secretary of War.

I haven't done anything further about the appointment of an Ambassador to Japan.

I do not think any new offer has been made to the Government for the lease of the Los Angeles for commercial purposes, but there may have been without coming to my attention.

I don't know whether Senator Bingham's suggestions of dirigibles are simply in relation to their value for trans-oceanic transportation. I think he made a suggestion of that kind to me, but I am not enough of an expert to know. I think his suggestion was that they didn't go very fast and therefore you wouldn't save much time on them, not going near as fast as the heavier-than-air machines, and their chief use would be for going over water where their speed would be much greater than the steamship, rather than over land where their speed was only about that maintained by railroad trains, taking it on the whole, allowing for wind, air and so on, though I think they do attain a speed of some 70 miles or more in

favorable circumstances. I haven't any plan about making a Labor Day address, and I have stated what I had to say about the coal situation and about the Shipping Board.

Press: Mr. President, may I ask what is the next step - Haney says he refuses to resign.

President: Well, I haven't anything to say about that. It may be that when he thinks it over he will see the impropriety of trying to remain on the Board and be willing to try and carry out the policies that I understand are required by the law.

Friday, September 4, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Men.

Before I forget it, I have just had a short conference with some people that are interested in the Department of Education. I am committed to that provision for a Department that is provided for in the general reorganization bill. I don't know that it will be impossible to satisfy me with anything else, but if there is to be anything I want the reorganization bill to go through and have a Department of Education and relief established in accordance with the provisions of that bill. That is my general feeling about that question.

Press: Who was the conference with?

President: With Mr. Smith, Commissioner of Education here in Mass., Mr. Filene and Mrs. Bagley.

Press: What Filene was that?

President: E. A. or A. Lincoln, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: A. Lincoln Filene.

Press: Do their views coincide with yours?

President: I tried to say that they didn't. In so far as I could understand, they have got a proposition for a Department of Education simply, though they told me that their bill, proposed bill, was drawn with the idea that if it seemed best to include those other things in it they wouldn't expect to oppose their inclusion. As I have said a moment ago, I don't know that I couldn't be convinced that something else would do, but so far as I have given any attention to the question it has brought me to the conclusion that if we wanted to do any-

thing about a Department of Education it ought to be a Department of Education and Relief, where the head of it would correspond somewhat to the head of a university who has under him perhaps the regular college course, and he may have a school of engineering, he may have a school of medicine, a school of theology, a school of law, school of pharmacy, and so on; but he is still the head of an educational institution, and just because he might have a school of pharmacy it doesn't make him an apothecary. The educational people seem to think if they had a Secretary of Education and Relief it would probably make a pill doctor of the Secretary. I don't share that thought about it. I think the head of such a department would partake of the nature of the head of a university that may have education in a good many lines, some of them quite analagous to the relief that would come under the provisions of the bill that is proposed. Now, I agree with these people, I think, as far as they go, but if there is anything to be done in that direction I think action should be so taken as to take in the different departments that we have that are now operated as bureaus. Take the Veterans Bureau, I think it spends more money than is spent by the Army, more than is spent by the Navy, and while we have a man there that is certainly of Cabinet size yet it is done through the agency of a bureau instead of being done through the agency of a cabinet officer.

Press: This Department would include the Public Health Service, wouldn't it?

President: Yes.

I don't know what the House will plan to do about the tax bill. That

Committee, Chairman Green told me, was going to meet very early in the fall and find out what conditions are and just what kind of a bill they could pass. I had expected that it would be made applicable to incomes earned during this year - that is the inquiry here - but of course that is for the House to decide. They originate revenue bills. I am very glad to confer with them and give them any information I have and the benefit of any judgment that I may have. I am waiting to see what they think conditions require.

I imagine that I shall go back to Washington next week, though I haven't set any time for it. It isn't set.

I don't think I can say anything new about the Shenandoah disaster. It is an appalling catastrophe on account of its loss of life. The property loss was a good deal, but not nearly so troublesome as the loss of life.

I have got quite a number of questions as to the reason why the Shenandoah was taking the trip. About that I haven't any information. Of course it is customary if there is a celebration anywhere for those who are having it to come to Washington and ask if the Los Angeles or Shenandoah can't be sent. I noticed one of these ships in the air when we were having the celebration at Cambridge on the third of July, and there have been a great many appeals from different organizations all over the country. Now what has been the practice of the Secretary of Agriculture about sending out the Shenandoah, I don't know. Whether he orders it out or whether he leaves it to the discretion of the officer in command of it, I don't know. I noticed some suggestion here that the Secretary said he left it to the discretion of the officer in command, and if Secretary

Wilbur said that I don't think there is any occasion for questioning it.

I haven't any information about any plans that may have been conceived or entered into for lightening the ship. I have no information about that at all. Never heard of it.

I haven't made any change in my plans for a Disarmament Conference. I am simply waiting for what may seem to be an appropriate time, as I have explained several times to the conference. Now, no Ambassador has yet been selected for Japan and probably won't be before I return to Washington.

To return to the Shenandoah - I suppose that would mean that I am speaking now of my general judgment and without having the benefit of any technical advice which might cause me to change my opinion - I suppose it would mean that we should build another airship. I don't see that the loss of the airship differs in principle in any way from the loss of a war vessel. When one is lost, the ordinary thing is to go about and build another. My own observation has been that those who have been in command have not only been willing but anxious to take it out at any time that they thought was appropriate. I understood they were quite disappointed because a year and a half ago I thought it would be too dangerous to take the ship out to undertake to fly over the North Pole. We only had one airship at that time. I understood that the officers were especially anxious to make that attempt and they were confident that the climatic conditions up there and the air conditions were such that it wouldn't be so dangerous as it would be flying over the United States.

I haven't read what President Lewis has said about the coal strike, and all I know about Mr. Hammond's suggestion is what is contained in the report that was made to Congress as a result of the investigation by the Coal Commission. I think Mr. Hammond was the Chairman, and I think the main part of that I recommended to Congress for their consideration, assuming that it was well considered and was the best thing that any one knew that could be done at that time.

I haven't any information about political conditions in the northwest, other than that which is common knowledge. I don't know about Mr. Butler's - Senator Butler's - western trip. I didn't know that that had been announced. I knew he was talking of going to Chicago where he thought some of those that are interested in the welfare of the Republican Party might like to come in and confer with him. That is the only trip I have heard any discussion about. I haven't any information at all about the Wisconsin Senatorial situation. There isn't any foundation in any report, if there is any such report, and I doubt if there is any, but it says here that Senator Butler will become a member of my Cabinet.

I think General Andrews is making very good progress in his effort to organize a force for the enforcement of the law.

I hadn't expected that compulsory consolidation of railroads would be necessary. All that I have ever been able to arrive at in the way of conclusion has already been stated in my messages, which was that we might pass some legislation that would be helpful in securing voluntary consolidations, with a provision perhaps that if voluntary consolidations were not brought about it then might be necessary for the Government to turn its attention to taking some steps

to enforce consolidations. Now I don't know what steps could be taken in that direction and I doubt very much if the Government should say that Railroad A must purchase and consolidate with Railroad B, but they might pass some kind of legislation that would make it to the advantage of Railroad A to consolidate with Railroad B. I have never been in to the details of that enough. I haven't worked out or seen any plan worked out for anything in the nature of compulsory consolidations, but I think it is very materially for the welfare of our transportation systems that there should be consolidations, and I think the Government ought to encourage them in every way that it can. It would simplify very much the matter of freight rates and give an opportunity to reorganize rates. If a railroad is carrying nothing but sheet iron, why it has a sort of a right to have the freight rate on sheet iron such a sum as will enable it to make a living, but if that railroad is consolidated with roads that carry a great variety of merchandise it would be perfectly possible to bring down the rate on sheet iron or any other commodity where that system would still have a very adequate income, and in that way give new encouragement to the production of sheet iron. The same would apply to agricultural products or anything of that kind.

I would say that of course I have got two members from New England in my Cabinet, and while I am very much in favor of this part of the country/^{and} I would be willing to admit that it produces men that are capable administrators of public affairs, I am President of the whole United States and can't crowd everything in here. But of course I attempted to have an Attorney General that came from Michigan and conditions were such that I couldn't accomplish that, so I had to

turn to New England because the country was in a pinch. That is some times done and is a good rule to follow, but I don't think the country would need to have three members of the Cabinet from this part of the country, and if any of them should retire, I don't think the country would expect me to have two members of the Cabinet from New England.

Tuesday, September 8, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

My attitude is the same as it has been relative to public buildings bill for the District of Columbia. Whether anything can be done about it at the next session, I don't know, and I am going to talk with some members of the House and Senate about it. It may be that that bill would go along with some other plan for public buildings. The difficulty in getting that bill through has been the thought in the heart of each Congressman that he didn't propose to have any buildings erected in the District of Columbia unless two or three were put in his district. That is constitutional with the members of the Congress. It isn't anything that I criticize in any way, but that has been the difficulty in getting some action for the bill.

Press: You said there probably would be some other plan. Would that be a general public buildings bill?

There hasn't been any general public buildings bill since before 1914, and I think I referred the other day to the fact that the Government is paying a good deal in rentals, and perhaps with the public buildings bill we might be able to make an investment that would really be profitable. There was a public buildings bill that went through the House last year that I should have been willing to approve, but it failed of passage in the Senate.

Press: About how much did it authorize?

President: I think it authorized about \$1,000,000.00.

I don't know of any communication that has been received from the

National Federation of Federal Employees making any suggestion about calling on me. Do you know of any Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No, I don't think there has.

President: So as far as I know they are now holding their annual convention in Boston, and so far as I know I am not expecting to see any of them up here.

I have got two or three questions here about my son John. I have already suggested to the press that I didn't regard his actions as necessarily to be reported in the press, but of course if the press wants to report them there is nothing I can do about it. I don't object to it especially, but I don't think it is particularly a good thing for the boy. I don't think it is a particularly good thing for the other boys of the country. There isn't the slightest foundation for the report that appeared the other day that he is going to West Point.

Press: Annapolis, Mr. President.

President: No, No. There was a report that made a categorical statement that he was going to West Point. That was followed in the course of two or three days by another that he was going to the Naval Academy. Either one of those could have been verified by simple inquiry at the office, if there was a desire to find out the truth. There was no foundation that I know of for either suggestion. He is going to Amherst College. I don't think that that is a matter of enough public importance to justify any newspaper notice. He is doing the same as some hundreds of thousands of other young men that are going to take up their studies again when their school opens.

I think I spoke the other day about the pleasant change that Mrs. Coolidge and I had in being here during the summer. My only regret has been that I haven't been able to call in many of the large host of friends that we both have here in Massachusetts, but it was necessary, if we were to have any real rest from the usual routine of Washington, that I do such work as comes to my desk and leave out the large amount of social activity that my wife has down there and much of which comes to me. So that, as I say, we regret that we haven't been able to see more of our friends up here. There was no other way of getting any rest ourselves, and I am especially grateful to the people of Lynn for the hospitality they have extended and the Lynn Chamber of Commerce. I have tried to divide up my relation to Lynn and Swampscott and Salem and Marblehead. I have lived in Swampscott, had my office in Lynn, kept the Mayflower at Marblehead and went to church in Salem, so as to be as impartial as I could in each of the four communities.

I am always in the process of getting information, either with a set purpose or incidentally, in connection with any message I want to send to Congress. My message would be based on my information relative to the state of the Union and such needs as I thought required Congressional action. Some of that of course comes to me incidentally, though the most of it comes as a result of my sending for people and inquiring of them what there is in their departments or in their bureaus that needs Congressional action. I don't expect to start in especially on that on my return to Washington, though as I say it is a part of my constant activities.

I don't know as there is anything more to say about the World Court. I judge that the suggestion that the United States should adhere to it has been gaining strength. I expect that after due consideration the Senate will pass a resolution of adherence.

I don't know enough about the suggestion that the Premier of France has made that the League of Nations call a Disarmament Conference. I can't make any comment about it. I should have to be careful about making comment on a matter of that kind, because of course our country doesn't want to put anything in the way of any action that the Europeans might take which they thought would minister to their general security.

I have forgotten whether I said anything the other day about the proposal that I have made to have the conference in Washington. I had that in mind for some time, hoping that events would shape themselves by the settlement of the reparations question over there, and perhaps by a security pact in Europe, so that we could have another conference with a practical hope of success in Washington. Of course the main thing is not where the conference is held, but the main thing is to have a conference that holds promise of securing practical results. I think there is now a proposal before the League, or some of the nations of Europe, for holding some Disarmament or Arbitration Conference in Geneva, and while that was pending was another reason why I thought it might not be quite proper for me to undertake to hold a conference here.

I understood that the Agricultural Conference would come together again this fall and finish up their studies and make such recommendations as they thought were appropriate. I have expected that I might see the Secretary of Agriculture after his return from the West, but as you know he went into Walter Reed Hospital, more to rest himself up than any particular treatment for ill health. I don't know that he has come out yet, though he was expecting to be out very soon and all my reports from him indicate that he is making all the progress that he expected and receiving all the benefits he anticipated when he went in there. He was having a little trouble with indigestion, as I understand it. When he gets one of those attacks it is necessary for him to take a very complete rest. So I don't know what his studies and investigations have resulted in. Until after I have a talk with him I don't know what the conference will do. I had a letter the other day from the Chairman of the Conference, Governor Carey, in which he made practically the same suggestions that he made this morning and suggested that he confer direct with the Secretary of Agriculture to see when they thought they could finish up their studies and make their report. My hope was that they could get their report in by Thanksgiving, so that the members of Congress would have some chance to examine it and get such reaction as they might desire from their constituents before Congress came into session, in order to expedite the work.

I am as you know expecting to return to get back to Washington Thursday or Friday morning. The railroads as I have said before don't like to have the itinerary of the President published in advance, or the exact time of

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departure. Those of you that need it for your private convenience I think will be able to get information at least tomorrow morning as to just when you can return to Washington. There will be accommodations on my train for the members of the press.

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Friday, September 11, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am glad to see you are all back. I had forgotten that we had so many in conference. The conferences at Swampscott were very much smaller than they are here.

I have got several inquiries here about aircraft. Nothing was done about that in the Cabinet. I learned from the War Department that - what was already public - that they are making an investigation. I don't know of anything I could say about it until they have completed their investigation. What I mean by that is that the War Department is undertaking to ascertain the facts. When they have the facts they will take such action as the laws regarding the government of the Army may require.

I don't know what is being done about the complaint made by a man named Lucius J. Malmin regarding the Virgin Islands. I think that has been referred to some Department for investigation. I think it went to the War Department, but it may have gone to the Navy Department. Whichever one of those Departments has jurisdiction over the Virgin Islands. My recollection is that this man has made quite violent complaints before which on investigation, as I recall, didn't develop very much.

The Cabinet took no action about the coal matter this morning. The question wasn't discussed. I took up general things with the different Departments. I inquired of every Department what they had been doing since the last Cabinet meeting and there was a general rehearsal to me of the different things that had been going on in the Departments since I have been away.

Nothing especially new about it. It took quite a little time. I think everything reported there has already been in the press.

I haven't seen the report of the action of Governor Pinchot, though I think I wont make any comment about that.

There isn't anything further that I can say about the Shipping Board at the present time. The matter of the sale of ships is one of the things that interests me most, - trying to transfer our ships to private operation and ownership, always with the understanding that they are to keep up the service for a specified time and of course keep the ships under the United States flag.

I think I saw a suggestion in a Washington paper about two bathing beaches for Washington. Now I haven't any information about that other than that which I had when I made my recommendation in the budget last year. The reason for the closing of the bathing beach that was here and failing to open another was because of the action of Congress in not making any appropriation. So far as I know I should be willing to recommend the same appropriation that I did last year. Whether I should want to go any further, I don't know. I want to see first what the plan is and whether it looks to be practical. Of course the difficulty about bathing beaches in Washington is that we have no place that is adequate. We have the basin down here, but that wasn't put in with the idea that it would be used for bathing. When you get over into the Potomac River then you run into other difficulties of current and so on. Now it is possible that they could make two bathing beaches that are satisfactory. I should want to wait and see what the plans are before making any definite determination about them.

Tuesday, September 15, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The Department of Justice hasn't laid before me any application for the pardon of former Governor McCray, of Indiana. I of course can't prejudge the case. I will try to determine it when it comes before me on the evidence, from such knowledge as I have, general knowledge. I should think it would take pretty strong evidence to show that executive clemency ought to be exercised at this time.

I haven't received acceptances from all the men that I asked to sit on the Board to investigate the Air Service, but every communication that has come up to the present time has been an acceptance. I have no doubt they will all serve. I haven't any opinion or advice to give as to how they should conduct their investigation, or as to what witnesses they ought to call. That is for them to determine and act on their own judgment in relation to it.

I haven't had any reports from the Navy Department as to the cause of the Shenandoah disaster. I think I saw in the morning paper that the Department has just appointed a Naval board to make an investigation. When that board has made its investigation, its report undoubtedly will be given to me by them.

I am having scheduled up the different suggestions that have come in relation to the appointment of an Ambassador to Japan. I expect to take that up very soon with the State Department.

I haven't taken any final action on several of the reports that I have from the Tariff Commission.

I expect to take up with the Department of Justice right away the ap-

pointment of several District Attorneys, Judges, Marshals, and so on. Very likely some of them may be made before Congress assembles, though those are cases always where the incumbent holds over and if it is expected to reappoint the present incumbent why there isn't much of any reason of doing it until I can send the appointment to the Senate. In the case of a vacancy where it is necessary for some one to go in and I can appoint them, of course appointment will be made. I shall make some others probably, but it is a matter of no particular importance whether they are made now or when the Senate comes in.

No final decision has been made about the appointment of a Civil Service Commissioner. Again I am having all the papers assembled. I want to confer with one of the members sitting to see what action ought to be taken after such conference.

It will not be possible for me to attend the University of North Carolina exercises on the 12th of October.

I don't expect to take any action on the request of Admiral Robison that he be permitted to resign.

I don't know whether all the hearings of the Air inquiry board will be public or not. Perhaps I have already answered that question by saying that I think they ought to be given the fullest latitude of deciding themselves. I should suppose that there might be some military matters affecting both the Army and Navy which could be given to them but would necessarily be held in confidence. The general conduct of their hearings I suppose would be public. But there again I am merely giving an offhand thought. The Board ought to

determine themselves what they want to do about that.

I haven't received any representations showing dissatisfaction with the administration of reclamation matters by Secretary Work. I think you will recall that there was a Fact Finding Commission set up by the Secretary last year, which had a very excellent personnel and made what I thought was a very commendable report. One of the things that it had in mind especially was relief for some of those who were on reclamation projects who weren't able to meet their payments on account of low prices of agricultural products or failure for some other reason. There was a bill introduced in Congress that I was desirous of seeing passed, and some of the Senators from the reclamation states were also desirous of its passage, but it failed of passage. It was my understanding that had it passed it would have afforded a relief that the Secretary and myself thought was warranted. The matter of reclamation of course is fixed by the statute law of the United States, and I don't know of any desire on the part of Secretary Work to make any changes in it other than those that were embodied in the bill. I suppose that all he is trying to do is to administer the law as he finds it. The work of reclamation will I assume go on under the present law. I think it is a well thought out law. I don't keep all the details of a thing of that kind in mind. I know I have conferred several times with ex-Secretary Garfield, who is especially interested in conservation and reclamation. He thought that the law was on a satisfactory basis with the changes that were proposed to be made for the purpose of relief of certain reclamation projects. I understand that the

Secretary doesn't want to hurry about putting in new reclamation work before he has proper assurances that it can be put on a paying basis and that settlers can be secured to take up the land that would be brought into production by further reclamation. I think I have made that clear. In the first instance, the policy is already established by the law of the United States. Nobody is desirous of changing that as a general policy, except in certain localities where a proposed statute would have afforded some relief for some of those that haven't been able to make their payments. Further work of reclamation will go on as is needed, and as settlers can be secured to take up the land when it is brought under production by reclamation projects. Of course during the last few years with the low prices of agricultural products there hasn't been the press or the pressure for an opportunity to take up any land that there had been in the past. It doesn't seem desirous to bring in new land until the land that is already under cultivation is assured as well as it can be of profitable production. I don't mean that reclamation is going to stop in any way, but it hasn't been speeded up as it otherwise might have been unless it afforded an opportunity for profitable production.

Friday, September 18, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I didn't happen to see Senator Frelinghuysen when he called yesterday. I think Mr. Sanders told me that he was here. He is one of the most active members of the Harding Memorial Association who has, I think, now that Dr. Sawyer is gone, more to do with it than any one else, except perhaps the local man Mr. Donithen. I understood that Mr. Frelinghuysen called to say that everything was going on very well in connection with some choice of plans and beginning some work.

I don't know what action may be taken in relation to any persons that may be proposing to come into the United States. I make that observation in response to a question here as to whether anybody else proposing to come here as a delegate to the Interparliamentary Union might be debarred from entry. I haven't heard that there was any one else that was likely to be debarred in addition to the member of the British Parliament that has already had his passport or his visa revoked. These Parliamentary Union gatherings are not official. They are not representative of any government. They are voluntary associations among members of the different legislative bodies of different countries. I think that any member of any legislative body of a country is invited to go that wishes to attend. As I say, it is voluntary and doesn't represent the governments. I suppose that action in relation to any one that wanted to come to attend an Interparliamentary Union would be the same as though they were on any other business here. Now that isn't a matter of choice with any officials of our Government. Congress has passed a law debarring from entry into the United States certain persons who hold and

express certain views. Whenever any of them shall attempt to enter here it is the business of United States officials under their oath of office to exclude them. They may like to do that and they may not like to, but have virtually no discretion about it. They are simply carrying out the act of Congress that requires such action.

Press: Mr. President will you permit a question as to whether there will be any inquiry as to whether other delegates holding such views would be debarred?

President: I suppose that if it came to the attention of our Government that there were any such, that they would take the same action. I don't know of any inquiry that is to be made. Very likely it might not come to my attention anyway. There are a great many people excluded from the country and a great many are deported because of the views they hold and the expressions they make. It is almost never that any case of that kind comes to my attention. I don't think it ever has, unless it has been a matter that I have seen in the public press.

I anticipate that the Aircraft Board will have to finance itself. Of course quite a number of the members of the Board are officials of one kind or another, either of the United States or of some other association which is interested in aircraft work, so that they are not dependent upon any compensation that they might receive for their services in this respect for their livelihood. It has been brought to their attention that there is a statute that provides that no public money is to be used for purposes of this kind except when the

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investigation is authorized by Congress. I had an idea that if they incurred any expenditures that amounted to anything, that Congress very likely would pass a law to reimburse them for those expenses. I should think they would be very small anyway, trifling, perhaps so insignificant that it wouldn't call for any appropriation. There is one Senator on the Board and two members of the House, one Chairman of a Committee of the House, and of course that Chairman can use his Committee Room for this purpose and I suppose such clerical assistance as he has if he wants to use it.

No decision has been made yet about the Ambassador to Japan. There are several names under consideration.

I am going to try to go to the American Farm Bureau Convention in Chicago, which meets early in December. Of course I can't make a final decision about that now, but I want very much to go out.

I don't wish to make any comment on the French debt problem. I think any comment on that would better come from the Debt Commission. They have all the details of it in mind and are adequately able to represent the Government, and any comments I might make might be misunderstood here and abroad, so that I think I had better not make any comments.

I haven't any information about the Shipping Board's refusal to sell some ships to the Pan American Line or Munson Line. I knew that there were negotiations pending, but I didn't know that any final decision had been reached. I suppose every one knows that I would like to sell the Government ships, or to put that in the third person that means I would like for the Government to sell its ships as fast as possible to get them into private hands, with a provision for their operation in a way that I outlined several times in conference, and I suppose that is the policy that is outlined in the act that created the Shipping Board. If this sale hasn't been made, I imagine it must be because the price hasn't seemed to be adequate. That might very well be so.

I would make one suggestion to the press in relation to its discussion of the French debt or any other foreign problem. I think that the American papers ought to assume, generally speaking, that they would look after the interests of our own country before looking after the interests of some other country, and when there is any doubt about a problem that our American papers I think ought to resolve that doubt in favor of the American Government and the American citizens. I doubt very much if you will find the Government undertaking to impose any hardship on any country that^{it}/is unable to bear. The Government and its agencies are ~~prably~~ probably very well informed about the problems with which it has to deal. It may make mistakes sometimes. They are made. But whenever there is a problem about which you do not have information I think you will usually be right if you will resolve your doubt in favor of the American Government and American people.

Tuesday, September 22, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Senator Edge talked with me somewhat yesterday about a new plan that he thought might be worked out for the consolidation of Departments and Bureaus. I am in favor of the bill that was prepared by the Committee that has been working on that for some time. I think the bill is known as the Smoot Bill. Now that doesn't mean that I am opposed to some other method of operation. I don't know whether I would be in favor of the plan of Senator Edge. I think his feeling about it, as I understood it, was that it would be easier to secure the adoption of his plan by Congress than that plan that has been pending there for some time. My position briefly I think is already stated. I am in favor of the plan that is already proposed, but I am not opposed to any practical plan. I received a line from Senator Edge this morning which said that he had been misquoted in the press. That sometimes happens (laughter). I hastened to assure him that I didn't think that was a matter of grave consequence. (laughter). I don't know the details of his plan. I suppose it was to put general authority in the hands of the President to consolidate and move about different Bureaus and Boards. I have already done some of that. Sometimes it is convenient to have authority to act and sometimes it is inconvenient to have too much authority. I would be willing to try and carry out the provisions of any law in relation to the reorganization of the Departments that Congress thought was wise, I am quite sure; but the only bill to which I wish to commit myself is that which is already pending, but I don't wish to appear as opposing any other action that seems to afford a promise of practical results.

I didn't give the Aircraft Board any personal views about the needs of aviation. I haven't any other than those that have been expressed to the press several times, of desiring to have aviation in good shape. I believe I called to their attention the amount of money that we have been spending on aviation, something like \$65,000,000 or \$75,000,000 a year. My remarks to the Board was to the effect that I wanted them to make a thorough investigation and secure an assemblance of all the facts and give me the benefit of such conclusions as their judgment would seem to warrant.

I don't think any plans have been developed for the construction or the replacement of the Shenandoah. There quite naturally wouldn't be anything done about that until after the investigation has developed what possible weaknesses there may have been in that dirigible, and also information secured as to what could be done to remedy its weaknesses in the construction of another dirigible. As I said to the conference when the accident first happened - I didn't see any reason for retiring from the use of dirigibles because of the accident, nor did I see any reason for retiring from the water because some vessels might be lost. Now it isn't beyond comprehension that the investigation may reveal that it is impossible to construct a vessel of this kind that will be airworthy, but I should be very much surprised if the investigation did reveal anything of that kind. While it is not impossible, I consider it very improbable, so that I had expected that plans would probably be made for the construction of another vessel of that kind. Some of the people around Detroit, I don't know whether I spoke of this at the last conference, have a plan of constructing a dirigible that would be

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covered instead of with a silk envelope, a metal envelope. That would give some chance for internal bracing that isn't possible to be developed with the present silk envelope. That I know is under consideration, but I don't think there is any plan under consideration just at the present time to replace the Shenandoah. Of course we already have the Los Angeles.

I don't want to make any definite statement about the attitude of this Government towards a Disarmament Conference by the League of Nations. Before we could undertake to participate in a Disarmament Conference of that kind I should think we ought to have the authority of Congress. I have been basing my recommendations for a Disarmament Conference on the clause that is annually put into the appropriation bill, I think for the Navy. I think it goes into the Army bill. I know it is in the Navy Bill, and that gives Congressional authority. I don't want to say anything on the other hand that would discourage the calling of a European Conference because I realize that they have delicate questions over there which touch their conditions particularly and in which we are not so much interested. If they can solve those problems themselves, nothing would be more agreeable to our people I believe, and I am sure nothing would be more agreeable to our Government, so that I don't want to have anything that I might say taken in any way as undertaking to discourage their attempt to solve their own problems in Europe. Of course in the general question of disarmament we are interested. The Government as at present constituted is committed to it, believes in it, and I think the country believes in it, and we ought to do everything we can to encourage it.

Nothing came out of the Cabinet meeting this morning.

I sent for Chairman O'Connor yesterday to talk with him about sales of ships. There wasn't any foundation for a rumor that was in the press to the effect that he was to be asked to retire from the Board. I consider him a valuable member of the Board. He holds the Chairmanship by my special appointment, and I haven't the slightest criticism of his discharge of the duties of his office from anything that has come to me, and the only thing I consulted him about was whether there was opportunity to speed up the sale of ships. He explained to me some of the difficulties and told me of the efforts that are being made by the Board and through the Emergency Fleet Corporation to make sales.

I haven't any opinion, personal opinion, about American aviators participating in the warfare that is going on in northern Africa. My only desire about it is to have this country and my countrymen observe the laws of Congress. Mr. Kellogg has never mentioned it to me, and I know nothing about it except what I saw in the press. I understood from the press reports that that was what he was undertaking to do, giving public notice in a way that would call the attention of our citizens to the laws, and suggesting to them that they be careful to see that they do not violate them.

I have already spoken about the League of Nations conference.

I shall try to get out my address that is to be made at Omaha so that it can have a very great deal of mail delivery. I can't tell just when it will be out. I don't expect to make a long address out ~~fix~~ there.

I have a question here as to whether communists ought to be allowed to come into this country if they come in for commercial purposes. Well, I rather think that that question would answer itself. The only thing that the Government is trying to do is to see that our laws are observed. It isn't trying to enforce its own ideas or carry out its own desires about people that can come in or stay out. The fact that a person was going to come here and spend a large sum of money I don't think would make any difference in the law. I don't know of any provision in the law that says the right to come into this country is for sale, that the principles of the United States are for sale if you want to pay enough and you don't have to live according to the laws of this country. That isn't what I understand to be the policy of our land. I think I said something to that effect in my first message to the Congress. Personally, I think it is a good policy to permit very free discussion of anything that relates to our institutions. If any one says anything about them with which I don't agree, of course I talk back and it is out of discussions of that kind that public opinion is developed and the soundness or unsoundness of institutions that prevail. But I don't know that that policy has anything to do with the duty that is incumbent upon the public officers of this country to try and enforce the law. When the law says that certain persons are excluded from the country, why then I suppose it is the duty of those who are charged with such enforcement to see that they don't come in. Of course it would be rather absurd to say that they could come if they agreed to spend considerable money after they got here, so I think that question would rather answer itself.

Friday, September 25, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't enough technical information so that I should want to pass judgment on the proposal for making artificial pools for swimming here in the city. That may be entirely practical. One of the things I should want to be certain about was the sanitary arrangements. If the pools are to be used for bathing purposes by large numbers of course it is necessary to see that the sanitary arrangements are perfect, or else ill health results, as sometimes happens in small swimming pools, and I should judge it would be much more likely to from anything of that sort which is reported in the press yesterday afternoon, as something large enough to accommodate 10,000 or 12,000 people. The suggestion is that it be filled with city water. The difficulty of using the Potomac water of course is that it is not always healthful, and then its appearance most of the time isn't one that is attractive to those that want to use it for bathing purposes. I don't know but it would be cheaper to transport bathers over to the seaside, which is only about 35 miles, I believe. I suppose the time element would come in so that that wouldn't be practical. There are a great many difficulties in establishing bathing pools here, because we don't have water that is near suitable for that purpose.

I was very much pleased to meet Minister of Finance, Mr. Caillaux, last evening. I was much impressed with his earnestness and the breadth of his information about government and economic problems.

I have had several conferences with different members of the Shipping Board to see what plan can be worked out for the best administration of the

\$350,000,000 worth of property and I haven't yet come to any conclusion. I haven't in mind at present any particular action. I am not certain just what powers reside in the Presidency to deal with the situation. It may be that this is an entirely independent board not under the jurisdiction of any one, that can act according to its own pleasure in the administration of this very large amount of government property without any supervision by the President, or any jurisdiction by any member of the President's cabinet. That is a matter of no great consequence. The real question is whether they are conducting themselves so as to promote the best interests of the shipping concerns of the United States. That I am trying to inquire into for the purpose of making any suggestions that might be helpful. I haven't proceeded very far as yet.

I shall undoubtedly try to attend the opening game of the World's Series. Whether I can go to the others or not I am not certain. I don't know that I could add anything to what I said last year about all being very glad to have the Washington team win the American League Pennant. It is a credit to the management of the team, and I think also it has resulted to a considerable extent from the fine spirit that has been manifested by the citizens of Washington in their constant support of our home team.

The French debt was not discussed at the Cabinet meeting. I haven't any information to give out about it. I think any information that is given out at the present time ought to come from the Commission itself.

Lawrence Whiting, I think his residence is, I know his place of business is in Chicago, came to Washington to talk with the Department of Agriculture relative

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to the erection of an agricultural mart at Chicago that ~~is~~ has a floor area of about 75 acres. That is analagous to the furniture mart with which some of you are probably familiar, that ministers to the furniture business of the country, providing show rooms and so on for a great many different furniture concerns, so that buyers can come in and instead of having to go from place to place, or to sellers of different concerns having travelled about the country, all meet at this one place to see the season's display of many different concerns without difficulty. Now, he is working on the same plan for agriculture that would include agricultural machinery and perhaps representatives of the agricultural press and the sale of agricultural products of all kinds. I have not had an opportunity to talk with Secretary Jardine about it, but I judged it was a project that promised to be very helpful to those who are interested in making sales of products for use on the farms, and to the farmers themselves for the purpose of marketing their own products.

Tuesday, September 29, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't recall that any report has come to me of a survey of the United States Employees Compensation Commission, and I don't know of any plan that is pending now for its absorption by the Pension Bureau or any other agency of the Government otherwise than as it might be included in the general plan that the Government is working on for consolidation of bureaus and departments, or be included in the bill for reorganization of departments that I have mentioned frequently to members of the conference. I think that is usually known as the Smoot Bill. And the same in relation to the proposals of Senator Curtis that a large number of independent agencies of the Government should be abolished or consolidated with the activities of the regular departments. I noticed that suggestion and I know that Senator Curtis had mentioned it to me, but I don't know of any plan that has yet taken such shape that I could pass judgment on it one way or the other. I like to have all the bureaus and activities of the Government come as far as they can under the supervision of some member of the Cabinet. That isn't always possible. I think that, as a principle, is desirable, though like other rules there are exceptions to it that have a great deal of merit. Undoubtedly we could administer the Government in that way at somewhat less expense, but when you say that you can make large savings I think it is well always to keep in mind that the work that these bureaus are doing is probably a desirable work and that if it is to be carried on it is going to require substantially the same amount of

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personnel as is now employed in it. Unless you are going to abolish the work entirely it is doubtful just how much could be saved. There might be something in the way of reduction of rents, overhead and so on, which perhaps in the aggregate would amount to a considerable sum. It is a problem that is worth very careful consideration, and I have never given it a great amount of thought because I had expected it would be something that would be taken up and worked out after the reorganization bill went through or some plan of that kind had been put into operation - then these details would naturally come up for consideration next.

I think I had better hold to my policy of letting the members of the Debt Commission make any public statements that they think ought to be made in relation to what they are doing. I have a general knowledge of course of the efforts that they are making, and so far as I am acquainted with them they meet with my approval.

I am not certain about going to the Chamber of Commerce at New York. That occurs some time in the middle of November I think, and it is a matter that I have under consideration. I don't recall now any other engagements to speak out of town.

There is nothing new that I know of in relation to the Shipping Board.

So far as I have information I would be of the opinion that there wasn't anything in the loss of the Shenandoah or the loss of the submarine that indicates any lack of morale on the part of the Navy. I don't know but it might point in the other direction, an effort on the part of the Navy or an inclination to take greater risks and do more development work and experimentation than is absolutely

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necessary in time of peace. I of course can't pass any final judgment about the cause of the Shenandoah or the responsibility for the sinking of the submarine until the investigations have developed all the facts. So far as I know neither one of those accidents indicates any lack of efficiency or lowering of morale on the part of the Navy. I speak now of the Navy as a whole. And I want to repeat that of course I am not undertaking to say whether any one is to blame for either of those two accidents that is connected with the Navy.

I have noticed two or three suggestions in the press about a postage stamp with a picture of ex-President Wilson. I presume I am a little prejudiced about the honors that ought to be paid to ex-Presidents, but I understand it is the intention of the Post Office Department to provide such a stamp just as soon as the occasion arises. You might be interested to know that during my administration for the first time a postage stamp has been provided with a picture of Grover Cleveland on it, so that a failure to provide one of an ex-President that happens to be of a different political party than mine is not attributable to the fact that he does happen to be of a different party, and the fact that it was some 15 years after ex-President Cleveland died before any postage stamp was made with his picture does not indicate, or perhaps it rebuts the indication, that an unusual delay is being experienced in providing a postage stamp for ex-President Wilson. I think if you will examine the records you will find it is oftentimes several years after the decease of an ex-President or the finish of his term, that a stamp with his picture is issued. Of course President Harding died in office, and there was a desire on the part of the public, which I think is perfectly legitimate, that something should

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be done right away. When the Department wanted to get out some other stamp in some haste they used that die. I am very desirous of having a stamp provided for president Wilson as soon as the opportunity arrises when it can be done.

Friday, October 2, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I asked Mr. Dalton of Cleveland to make a survey of the activities of the Shipping Board and the work of the Emergency Fleet Corporation to see whether he can make any suggestions for an improvement in the service. That broadly is the whole of the duty that I picked him to perform. I took him from the Lake Region because those people that live on that shore that have to do with shipping almost always have some interests that conflict with the interests of the United States ships. Mr. Dalton is entirely neutral so far as that is concerned. He talked without any prejudices and perhaps his work for that reason would secure more of a hearing.

I don't know that there is any special comment I can make on the action of the Board in depriving Admiral Palmer of the authority that he had there for some time. I didn't agree with the wisdom of such action, but I am not an expert on those things. I based my judgment on such information and advice as has constantly come to me from those who understand about this kind of work. Senator Jones, a member of the Committee in the Senate, who is the author I believe of the present law, represented to me that the present law contemplated having a President of the Fleet Corporation to have charge of the running of the fleet, and such other practical shipping men, two committees of my Cabinet joined with one or two members of the Shipping Board I think made similar reports to me. Apart from the Cabinet there was the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War and the

Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Commerce. It is my recollection they were joined by Chairman O'Connor and Admiral Palmer. Then there was another committee of the Cabinet. And all of the advice, as I say I have been able to secure, was to the point that it would be very much better to have the operation of the fleet under the control of a single individual than to try to have it transacted by a board composed of seven different members.

Press: Would you mind telling us whether you consider any further action in regard to Mr. Haney?

President: Well, I don't know about that. I had expected that he would see the impropriety of remaining on the Board after I had requested his resignation. I wouldn't want to say now that I would or would not take any further action.

I have here a question about the location of a monument as a memorial to President Roosevelt. I have been interested in having a memorial erected to him. I don't know where it ought to be located. I should put a good deal of reliance upon the recommendation of the Arts Commission. This question wants to know about locating it between the Washington Monument, or south of the Washington Monument, I suppose that means between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Now I don't know offhand what the plans are for the use of this area. The question has been studied by those who have helped to lay out the City of Washington and especially by the Arts Commission. My offhand opinion would be that it would be more proper to put this monument in some other location. But, as I say, I should be guided very largely so far as I am concerned, by what the Arts Com-

mission think. I am very pleased to say that I don't think of any other location that would be better. I think there has been some talk about placing the Roosevelt Memorial up near to the entrance of Rock Creek Park, taking into consideration the great interest that President Roosevelt had in outdoor recreation and having in mind those things that naturally occur to one in connection with the park, a place of horseback riding, the suggestion of game hunting, all those things. I have heard that discussed, but I haven't any finished judgment about it myself. It ought to be somewhere where it would come under the observation of a good many people.

I knew that Secretary Weeks was coming to Washington, either the latter part of this week or the latter part of next week. I wasn't certain of which. I don't know the purpose for which he is coming. I only learned from Secretary Davis that he is going from Lancaster, N.H. down to Boston and then is expected to come from Boston to Washington. I don't expect to be able to attend the Princeton-Navy football game at Baltimore on the 17th of October.

The matter of the French debt settlement has been already canvassed so completely that it is rather doubtful whether I can add any new light to it. As I understand it, the French Commission has said that they would need necessarily an interval for the purpose of restoring their currency, balancing their budget, and funding their domestic debt and finishing up the restoration of their damaged areas. They represented that during that time they might be able to pay \$40,000,000 a year as their capacity, so that as I understand it the

American Commission taking into consideration these representations from the French suggested that we make a temporary adjustment in accordance with those conditions. That would give the French a time to recover. This doesn't really constitute a break in the negotiations, but is merely a recess, so that the present negotiations can be taken up at any time. I think the French made a very sincere effort to make a settlement and no doubt regret, as I think all of us do, that we weren't able to secure a full and complete meeting of minds. There are one or two matters perhaps that might be cleared up. I think it has been represented in the press that there was a division in the American Committee or Commission, and perhaps that that included me. There hasn't been any division in the Commission, as I understand it, on any subject that the Commission has decided. I presume it is very likely that some members of the Commission would favor making a lower settlement and some a higher settlement than others, but every question that has come up for decision has been decided by the unanimous action of the American Commission. Then there is another rather fanciful story it seems to me to the effect that negotiations were broken off and failed to be successful on account of some indiscretion that it was alleged of some publicity agent on the part of the French Commission. I think if you will just look at the sequence of events you will see that that could not have been true. Just before 4:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon there was a meeting between the American Subcommittee and the French Subcommittee, the American subcommittee consisting of Secretary Mellon, Senator Smoot and Mr. Crisp. It was at that time that Mr. Caillaux made his offer, and Secretary Mellon told me that he said to Mr. Caillaux that the Americans would

submit that to their full Commission but he thought it unlikely that it would be accepted, whereat the French subcommittee withdrew, the other members of the American Commission came in, and the American subcommittee made a unanimous report to the full American Commission against accepting the offer of Mr. Caillaux, and at the same time the plan was devised and drawn up and put on paper of accepting \$40,000,000 each year for a term of five years, and it was at that time agreed that they would present to me on Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock a plan of their offer to have the American Government accept \$40,000,000 for five years. So you will see that there couldn't have been any newspaper indiscretion that had any effect at all on the Commission nor could it have had any on me. There was no disagreement on the part of the American members and no disagreement on my part with any one of them or with all of them. It was true that Secretary Mellon arrived here a few minutes before the rest of the Commission did yesterday morning, but when he arrived it was to tell me exactly what the rest of the Commission told me after they came in. They hadn't been willing to accept the French offer and proposed to make this new offer. Now, as I say, I think the French Commission made a very candid effort to try to make a settlement, and I think that policy may be said of the American Commission. I am sorry that conditions were such that they couldn't agree, but it seems to me that there is very good possibility that either during this interval of five years or at its conclusion the French economic condition may be such that a settlement may be effected at that time.

Friday, October 2, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about the proposed consolidations, I think that is what is referred to here, in the baking companies or the bread industry, other than what I happened to see in the press, so I am not qualified to express any opinion as to whether any investigation ought to be made or not. I assume that the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice keep a general lookout on actions and activities in the industrial and commercial world to inform themselves whether any proposed actions might be a possible violation of law, and when it seems that there are indications that would arouse suspicion that a violation of law might be in contemplation or some one might be about to commit a violation of law, I don't mean purposely, that they make investigations and take such remedial actions as are necessary. I assume that will be done in relation to the bread industry. I have seen some reference to disagreement on the part of members of the Federal Trade Commission about it. I don't know just what the particulars are. I suppose the Federal Trade Commission would have to act in accordance with the judgment of the majority of its members. Is this something that a Senatorial resolution asked to have investigated?

Press: LaFollette resolution.

President: Yes. Of course I don't know the particulars in relation to that. The Federal Trade Commission of course like any other Commission is established and the duties are assigned to it by law. Now those duties can either be enlarged upon or diminished by resolution of the House or resolution of the

Senate. Of course a resolution of that kind doesn't have the force of law.

I should expect that wherever the House or the Senate brought to the attention of the Federal Trade Commission or any other Executive Department the circumstances that seemed to require investigation that if the department had authority under the law to make an investigation it would go ahead and make it. Of course if the Senate happened to pass a resolution telling the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the laws in relation to the making or selling of bread, why I should expect that Commission to say, why that is something over which we have no jurisdiction. . There is a broad distinction. Now of course the distinction is narrowed down. I understood from what I had seen in the press that the Federal Trade Commission was under the opinion that under the law which established it, it hasn't any jurisdiction to make some investigation other than the Senate has requested. Now as I say a resolution of the House and Senate can either enlarge or diminish the powers of the Federal Trade Commission, or any other Commission, and they have to proceed in accordance with what they are directed to do under the law, but I should suppose if there was an indication that there was about to be a violation it would be perfectly proper to have an investigation. Now, as I say, I haven't any personal information about the circumstances in relation to the consolidation of different baking companies, and it may be perfectly obvious on its face that there isn't any violation of the law and therefore a Government agency isn't warranted in making any investigation. But if there is any uncertainty about it, I suppose an investigation would be made to find out whether the law is being observed.

I haven't asked for the resignation of D. A. Lines, the Internal Revenue Collector, State of Louisiana, and as far as I have knowledge the Treasury Department has not asked for it, and I don't know that the Treasury Department has any information that would warrant any expectation that a resignation is to be asked for. If there is any report of that kind it is hearsay, and I think it must be erroneous.

No decision has been made yet about reconvening the Agricultural Conference. That is awaiting, as I understand it, on some members of the Conference conferring with different agricultural interests to see whether they think any further action of the conference will be helpful, and then on conference with the Secretary of Agriculture who happened to be a member of the Conference to find out whether he can not make such recommendations as will be necessary in relation to agriculture without the necessity of reconvening the Conference.

Secretary Weeks didn't come in to the Cabinet today, but he will be present on Tuesday I understand, and I very much hope he will be able to continue his duties as Secretary of War.

I can't comment on any of the phases of the Security Pact Conference that is now being held at Locarno. At Cambridge on the third of July I expressed the general hope that a pact of that kind might be entered into on the part of European countries, and I am still of the opinion that that would be very helpful and I would be glad to reiterate the hope that this conference may be able to agree on the principle and form of a pact of that kind. Now, as I say, as to the

particular phases of it and the different questions involved, I haven't any information that would warrant my expressing any opinion except in the general hope of the success of the Conference. I think it is exceedingly important that some agreement of this kind be made in order that there may be a cessation of the uncertainties and the constant preparations for defense and the armaments that are going on in Europe.

I don't know of any proposal at the present time to amend the present immigration law. I think in my message to the Congress last year I suggested some amendments. They were made at the suggestion of the Secretary of Labor. I think no amendments were made last year and I don't know of any change in conditions that would indicate that I should take any different position now than I did at that time. It is quite probable that the experience of the Department in dealing with immigration and the administration of the law may have revealed some weaknesses, and may also have revealed some places where the law ought to be liberalized. I think that the suggestions I made in my message were for liberalizing the law in relation to the admission of the relatives and members of the family of people that were already in this country.

I have several inquiries here about the Shipping Board. I don't know as there is anything I can say about that at this time that will be helpful. I haven't given the matter any further consideration since I returned from Omaha. I suppose it is well known that I didn't agree with the policy that the Shipping Board adopted. I have just made a speech on toleration and perhaps that is the principle that ought to be applied by the executive in times when actions are taken

with which he does not agree. I don't know what my authority is in relation to the Shipping Board. I haven't had any advice from the Department of Justice about it. The only action that I should think of taking would be to find out what the law is and what duties are assigned to me by law and the Constitution, and try to execute those duties. It is rather strange that Mr. Crowley would take a position of that kind on the Shipping Board without first finding out whether such an appointment was agreeable to me. That is the general practice in the reappointment of Bureau chiefs and executive heads in the Departments, to find out from the President whether the proposed action was agreeable and whether the person it is proposed to appoint is acceptable to the President. I don't happen to know Mr. Crowley, and haven't any information about him, and wouldn't want anything - what I am saying - understood as criticising his ability or experience in his duties. I haven't made up my mind what action I ought to take in relation to the Shipping Board or the administration of its affairs. I had called Mr. Dalton down as an experienced man to make an examination, which I understood after a conference with Mr. O'Connor, the Chairman, and Admiral Palmer and Admiral Benson, they were agreeable to have him come. I think Mr. Dalton is going to return the first part of the week. I suppose that he will then make an investigation and perhaps will be able to advise me what can be done, if anything, to improve the service and the administration of our shipping interests.

Press: Have you asked the Dept. of Justice for an opinion as to what your powers are?

President: No.

Tuesday, October 13, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't given any particular consideration to the filling of the vacancy on the Shipping Board that will occur when Commissioner Thompson retires. I think I have had one or two letters from Senator - it seems as though Senator Harrison wrote in suggesting a name. I guess that is the extent of what has been done. I imagine that I shall fill that vacancy. As I say, I haven't given it any particular consideration and haven't any definite conclusion that I can announce in relation to it. I suppose it goes without saying that I would expect to fill the place. I don't see any reason why I shouldn't at all.

Press: Will you fill it before Congress convenes?

President: Well, I can't tell. Sometimes it takes quite a while to find a man that seems to be satisfactory. I should expect that I shall be able to find someone and fill the place very soon after the vacancy occurs.

There isn't anything new that I can say about the attitude of this Government towards foreign loans. It is the same now as it has been. We have to consider really each suggestion of a loan on its own merits, applying the general policy of a desire to help rebuild and restore the European countries in all productive ways. As I have often stated, we don't think it is good policy to lend money over there for military purposes. Of course we have been desirous of very hearty cooperation with those countries that are doing what they can to settle their debts with us. This Government hasn't any legal authority over the

making of loans, but where loans are to be floated here by public subscription it is the well established custom that the bankers that are undertaking to float such loans inquire of the State Department whether the Government knows of any objection. Sometimes loans are made to foreign banks by individuals here without a flotation and I think without making any inquiry of the Government. Now the Government doesn't undertake to pass on whether a loan is a good investment or a bad investment. That is a matter for the individuals that are participating in it to determine for themselves, and I think I may say that it is for foreign governments to determine whether the settlement of their debts here would make their credit better. It has been the belief of our Government that the liquidation of foreign debts that are due to this Government makes the credit of those governments who are making settlements better. That is one of the reasons why we think it is for the economic welfare of Europe to settle its debts with us. I think those countries that have settled with us, if you will examine the records you will find that their credit is so much better that they can secure loans in this country at a good deal less interest rate than has to be paid by countries that haven't settled.

I haven't given any particular consideration to the Shipping Board problem, other than to talk with Mr. Dalton who came this morning, and I went over the problem briefly with him. He is going to make an investigation for me to see, as I have already indicated, what can be done to improve our shipping service.

Here is a question about the interstate shipment of firearms and its

Here is a question about the interstate shipment of firearms and its relation to crime. That is so much a technical question and one for experts that I haven't any final and settled opinion about it. The sale of firearms is a question that I have heard discussed quite a good deal and it is my recollection that some time during my public service in Massachusetts some legislation was passed in relation to it. I do recall, while I am not so certain about the legislation, that there were frequent proposals for legislation. I think it was finally provided that in order to carry firearms a person must be licensed. That meant that he couldn't go and buy firearms of any regular dealer without showing his license that was secured, I think, from the Chief of Police for the privilege of carrying firearms. Now when it comes merely to the question of sale, and that is what this means here, the interstate shipment, it isn't exactly clear. The argument always ran up there that if you entirely prohibited the sale of firearms that ~~that~~ would probably mean that the law abiding citizen wouldn't have firearms but that those who are bent on the commission of crime would secure arms in one way or another, and that for that reason the law wouldn't produce the desired effect. Now how far that argument is valid it is difficult to say, and I don't know where there are any records or statistics anywhere that would show any light on it, but I should want to get the advice of Police Departments and get the facts from them before finally determining whether undertaking to decrease the sale of firearms would be very helpful in keeping them out of the hands of those that we do not wish to have them. I recollect - now it comes to my mind that some case, I think

it was in the city of Springfield, where a crime had been committed with, as I recall it, a Smith and Weston revolver, but when they went to the Smith and Weston people to find out where that revolver had been originally sold they found that their records disclosed it had been sold to the Russian Government. Probably the revolver had gone over there and fallen into other hands and been sold and brought back here. I merely mention that as an example of the difficulty of keeping fire-arms out of improper hands by an attempt to limit the sale and transportation, though it doesn't at all follow that such a limitation might not be helpful. I am not enough familiar with the records or statistics, if there are any, to say what would be the ultimate result.

You already have the information that Secretary Weeks is retiring. I am giving out a letter that he wrote to me and the letter that I wrote to him. As I looked over the letter that I had prepared to send to him, I was rather conscious that it didn't seem adequately to express the appreciation that I feel of the great service that he has rendered to his country. I have noted in the letter that one of the first times I ever saw him, I think probably the first time, was 21 years ago justabout now. He came to Northampton to make an address in the state campaign. Of course that was out of his district, but that was the first time that he was running for Congress. He was elected, I think, and was in the House for 10 years, then in the Senate for 6 years, and has been nearly 5 years a member of the Cabinet. I have had the most sincere cooperation from him in my effort to reduce expenditures and make the War Department an effective

instrument for defense. Of course since the two years that I have had ~~just~~ jurisdiction over the budget I do not think expenditures have been reduced very much in the War Department, but that was due to the fact that on account of his broad business experience he had already put the War Department on a sound economic basis. I am parting with him with the very greatest of regret, not only because he is a public official of great merit and great value to the Government, but because of my long acquaintance and great friendship with him. I am very much pleased to know that there is every indication that he will entirely recover his health, it seems to be a matter of six months more, and he didn't feel for that reason that he could continue as Secretary of War. I hoped all summer that he might, as I have often indicated at the conference. I feel a great satisfaction at having a man of the ability of Assistant Secretary of War Davis in the Department, whom I have decided to appoint as Secretary of War. I haven't yet decided to appoint as Assistant Secretary of War.

Friday, October 16, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't indicated to Secretary Jardine or any one else that I should oppose appropriations on the part of the Federal Government for aid in building roads in the states. This year the National Government has expended \$170,000,000 for that purpose and it is a very large amount to spend in one year. I don't like the policy very well of 50-50 expenditures. It has a tendency to encourage the states into expenditures that they wouldn't otherwise make and which perhaps they do not wish to make at that time on the theory that if they don't make the expenditure it will be made by some other state. I want to keep expenditures of that kind within balance, but we have adopted the policy of aiding in road building and expect it will continue. I think we ought to put our main expenditures onto the main lines of travel, rather than onto side lines, or local lines. These expenditures are made under the post road theory and the post road provision of the constitution. I think that is the only justification for them. It is somewhat a stretching of that provision to make a good many of these roads that I do not suppose were post roads at all, but nobody is raising any question. The Government is committed to this policy and I am agreeable to having the Government expend a reasonable sum, but it must be kept within bounds and used for few roads.

Press: Did you say the expenditure this year was \$170,000,000?

President: Yes. That is an accumulation of past contracts that matured this year, \$170,000,000.

Press: Wasn't that for a definite period of years?

President: Well, I say it is an accumulation.

Press: It seems to me that the law provides for a five year construction program?

President: Well, about that I don't know. I think the provision of the law is that when the state builds certain roads and pays out certain moneys that the United States Government will reimburse them, and it happened that these reimbursements all came due during the present year. They were^{not}/all for contracts made during the present year of course, but the accumulation of contracts that had been maturing and which finally did mature thisyear.

Here is a question about the merger of the Ward, Continental and other large baking companies. It says that a complaint of the Federal Trade Commission against this merger has been lodged with the Department of Justice. I haven't any specific information about that. I didn't know that the Federal Trade Commission had made such a finding. I somewhat doubt whether they have from all that I have heard, but it is possible they have. If they have made such a finding, I suppose it goes without saying that the Department of Justice will take the complaint in due course of its business and press it to a conclusion.

I have quite a number of inquiries here about the security pact. All that I know about the situation in Tacna Arica would be characterized by the statement that while they are having some difficulties in working out the holding of the plebecite, yet I think those difficulties are being dissipated. There was some trouble that arose over the Boundary Commission, but that was adjusted

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and the Boundary Commission is proceeding in the discharge of its duties, and while I know that some questions have arisen in relation to the holding of the plebescite, in which General Pershing is the American Commissioner, I think also those difficulties are being straightened out and the plebescite will go on all right. It is exceedingly important that it should, and so important to both Chile and Peru and important to the whole South American situation, because a failure would be very serious, that I can't conceive of its breaking down and failing to reach a final adjustment. I think both Chile and Peru will realize the necessity of making necessary adjustments in order that the plebescite might proceed and this question that has been pending for 40 years and which was finally left to the President of the United States as arbitrator may have a final conclusion.

I haven't any information about the situation in Indiana. Of course I know that Senator Ralston has died and that that will make necessary the appointment of a successor, which I had assumed from what I had seen in the press could be done by the Governor under the laws they have.

I haven't any new information about Russia. I have a question here from which apparently a word has been left out. "Reports from Russia say that the Soviet Government has announced that its debt to the United States" - I suppose that this has been left out "and will be adjusted" or something of that kind -

Press: "Recognized".

President: Yes, recognized. I haven't any information about that.

That was one of the conditions that we had laid down as you will recall that didn't require any action on our part, that they should revoke the order that they issued by which they had refused to recognize the debt to the United States. If they have done that, that is very interesting information. I don't know about it.

As I have said, I have several inquiries hereabout the pact that has been signed at Locarno. Quite naturally we haven't yet the official report and I don't know whether we have a very accurate report of just what the document contains. If it is what I understand it to be, the security pact between between the great nations, I regard it as one of the most important events that have occurred since the adoption of the Dawes Plan. I think the adoption of that plan was the first instance of the interested nations being able to make any agreement for a very long time previous to that. I think running back practically to the signing of the peace treaties. Now this has indicated that they can agree on other very important and material things. This ought to be what it purports to be - a real covenant of security that will relieve France and Italy, Great Britain and Belgium, and also definitely commits Germany to a peace program. I suppose it goes without saying that we understood that that had already been done before, but to have an agreement of this kind in which all those nations were able to join is an accomplishment of value that it is almost unable to estimate. I think it will have a very beneficial result on the financial situation. It ought to relieve those countries of the necessity of maintaining great armaments and I should expect it would have a very helpful effect on the proposal

to have a Disarmament Conference in this country. As I say, I can't be certain about that until I have seen the official text, but it all works in that direction. We have had the Dawes Plan. We have had the conference at Paris of the representatives of those governments over there. They were able to agree. We have had the settlement of a good many European debts to this country. We have had the putting into operation of the Reparations Plan. And all of these things are I think a most helpful and promising accomplishment. It indicates step by step a very remarkable progress that is being made, and I can't think of anything that would be of a more hopeful nature and hold out more promise of benefit to the world in general than action of this kind.

Tuesday, October 20, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have several questions here relating to an Arms Conference, rather a Limitation of Arms Conference. These are hypothetical questions and I don't want to undertake to commit the Government in any way in advance of specific questions. I think I can repeat what I said at the last conference - that it was exceedingly gratifying to have the European nations make the agreements which they made at Locarno. The Department was expecting to receive the text today - I think they are published. I have conferred with Secretary Kellogg about them and he will make, or have made, a careful analysis and study of them in the Department. At the time the Dawes plan was entered into it was thought necessary to secure the active cooperation of American citizens in order to reach an agreement, but the great outstanding fact there was that an agreement was finally made. This Locarno agreement is a step in advance of that, and aside from the details of the agreement it seems to me that the great outstanding and satisfying fact is that it is a very clear indication that public opinion in Europe has become sufficiently settled that the suspicions and hatreds that were generated by the war have been sufficiently dissipated so that the actual political representatives of the governments were able to get together and make an important agreement of this kind. I should perhaps have said when I was speaking of the Dawes agreement that one of the fundamental things about that was that it was not made by the political representatives of the governments at that time, but was made by experts that were called in that didn't have any political considerations at stake. It

seems to me the present agreement is exceedingly encouraging on account of that feature. Of course I regard it also as encouraging on account of what it has done. It has been well said that it is perhaps the most important action taken in Europe since the signing of the Armistice. Now, I had been waiting for something of that kind before taking any active steps about considering the calling of a Disarmament Conference at Washington. I think I told the newspaper conference some time ago that a very large part of the considerations that have come before a Disarmament Conference relate peculiarly and almost entirely to Europe. That would be so in relation to any land disarmament. We have reduced our land forces so that that isn't an American question, and while I would like to have an Arms Conference here because it could include both land and naval forces, yet I wouldn't want to take any step that would be construed or in effect embarrass the European nations in solving their own problems of land disarmament. I wouldn't want to make the slightest criticism of any action they were taking that pointed in that direction, or have our Government say or do anything that would in the slightest way embarrass the bringing of that proposal to a successful conclusion. Now that is about the only attitude I can express at the present time. It is possible for the European nations to hold a Disarmament Conference that to my mind would be exceedingly useful, and which might make agreements that would be of great benefit not only to the European nations but to all the world. If they can do that I hope very much that they will. If the question of naval limitations is to be considered, then I suppose it would be

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necessary to include America, and it was for that special reason that I thought there would be greater hope of reaching a successful conclusion if an Arms Conference was held in this country. But I can't answer those questions in advance of whether we are going to have a conference here, whether we would attend a conference abroad, until specific proposals have been made. When they are made, why then we will see whether it is best to accept them. Nor can I say whether we should want to call a conference here until there has been a preliminary sounding out of nations it would be proposed to invite, in order to find out whether such a proposal was agreeable to them. I might restate too the well known and what I hope is becoming the historic attitude of our Government, of desiring to do everything that we can, without jeopardizing our own interests, to help the European situation. We have realized all along that it would be useless to have any thought over there that there must be a constant reliance on us. I think I have stated in some of my addresses that we couldn't help people very much until they showed a disposition to help themselves. I think that disposition is becoming more and more apparent abroad every day, and it is a rising of a condition that is exceedingly gratifying to those that want to help and those that want to see the European situation progressively developed.

I haven't any information about any proposed action by the War Department in relation to Colonel Mitchell, and any information that is to be given out about that would come from them.

I haven't made any statement or taken any action relative to a further

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extension of leave to General Butler. I think you are all familiar with the letter that I sent to the Mayor about a year ago and its contents. I don't feel called on to make any statement about it or take any further action until the Mayor has acted.

These inquiries seem to be pretty much all in relation to the situation abroad which I have discussed, and the leave of General Butler which I think I have covered. If you want to have any more information about that why consult my letter which was made public about a year ago.

October 23, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Mr. Welliver, Judson C. Welliver, who is as you know a former newspaper man of a good many years standing has received so much better offer for his services than we can pay here that he is going to take up - I was going to say another occupation, but it is somewhat similar as I understand it. I think he is going with a Petroleum Association. I am not just sure what the legal or correct title of the Association is. He has been here ever since I have been here of course, and I think came here when President Harding did, coming in from the Press Gallery. He is a man of very wide experience in public affairs and of very broad information. We found him especially valuable here, and of course I am exceedingly sorry that he is not going to stay. He shares with me that personal feeling, although the offer he has received is so much better that I couldn't conscientiously ask him to stay here for so much less remuneration than he is to receive. We have about 2,000 letters coming into the office every day making inquiries about all sorts of conditions and things, and the wide information he has has been especially helpful, because he has had the answering of a very large amount of that mail. I found him especially helpful in getting information from the different departments on any question that I have under consideration. As I say, I am exceedingly sorry that he is going, though I think perhaps that the work he is going to undertake is quite important and has a public angle to it.

Press: Would you mind our asking if there is a successor in sight

to Mr. Welliver?

I don't know yet. I haven't finally determined on any one.

I haven't any information about the Karolyi case other than what has already been put in the press. I assume that the State Department is merely attempting to administer the law and take such action as it thinks is necessary to protect American interests.

I have here an interesting suggestion about the Unknown Soldier's tomb at Arlington. I suppose that the present monument which is there, although it is very beautiful in its simplicity, is not considered to be complete. I recall going over there at one time to look at a proposed addition to it, but that didn't prove to be a satisfactory design, though I think it had the approbation of the Fine Arts Commission. It was an addition to the present monument there that is not quite so high as this room, but nearly as high, and after careful consideration I know that Secretary Weeks didn't think it was appropriate and didn't approve that design. I don't know whether there is any appropriation that is available for any additions or not. I have often thought about it and talked about it with various people, but the real reason that nothing further has been done is because no design has ever presented ~~it~~ itself that appeared to be appropriate. Now, the suggestion in this question is that there is a lack of military guard. There is a military guard at Arlington all the time during the day, a superintendent and some guards. The gates are closed and Arlington is closed I think at 6:00 in the evening. After that, I

suppose there isn't any guard. That too has occurred to me, but as I thought it over I said to myself, what reason would there be for placing a guard there other than that would be such as to require placing a guard at the burial place of the distinguished soldiers and sailors that lie in Arlington? There are many Admirals and Generals there. While this unknown soldier is representative, I suppose the other burials that have been made there are also representative. I don't know that there is any danger of any interference with this monument or interment any more than there is with any other. I suppose the reason that there hasn't been a general guard is that the guard that is there has seemed to be sufficient, so that nothing has been done in that respect. It would make a very good appearance if a soldier and sailor and perhaps a marine were located there all the time, but aside from the appearance I don't see that it would be of any other value. The gates close at 6:00 o'clock. There are three guards there during the day, stationed at the Olympic Theatre, a superintendent and an assistant superintendent. I don't recall that there is anything that I wanted to volunteer to the conference.

Tuesday, October 27, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had brought to my attention any proposal for legislation to governmental agencies to purchase all supplies in the domestic market whenever the commodity is available. There is what I should think would be a well recognized rule of procedure in relation to that which might be put into legislation, though I scarcely see any necessity for it. The difficulty with legislation of that kind always arises when some unforeseen contingency comes up that makes it desirable to have an exception to it. This ought to be pretty much in the discretion of the purchasing agencies and the purchasing agencies ought to favor our local markets. But there are times when we might want to make an exception. Supposing there was a great scarcity so that the price of a commodity of which the Army or the Navy use a very large amount, is very high, then the purchasing agents in those departments I should think would need to give a little consideration as to whether they want to go into the domestic market here and take out a considerable supply which might raise the price of a necessary of life very considerably to those that are not very well able to meet it, or whether it wouldn't be better on an occasion of that kind to secure a supply abroad. The law as it is now, as I understand it, requires the Government to secure competitive bids. There are exceptions to that, but that is the general rule and sometimes it is a question rather hard to decide of a competitive bid, whether they shall purchase abroad because the price is a little lower or whether they shall purchase in this market, notwithstanding the price is a little higher. I rather think it ought to be possible for the heads

of our great departments to use their judgment about those things, but always on the policy of giving our own merchants the advantage, first chance. And oftentimes it has seemed desirable to purchase in the home markets even when the prices were a little higher. But I wouldn't want to put the home markets in the position where they could absolutely insist that the Government should necessarily purchase of them. I don't know as I have made that very plain. I think perhaps you can get the drift of my remarks.

I haven't any of the details of what is said to be here the resignation of the French Cabinet, so that I don't know enough about the grounds for the resignation so that I would be able to express any opinion as to whether it would have any influence on the ratification of the five year debt settlement. I should think it would be very strange if the Cabinet had gone out on that issue. If it hasn't gone out on that issue, I shouldn't suppose it would probably make very much difference.

I haven't changed my opinion about the value of the Locarno pacts. I am not expressing an opinion about the details of them. Perhaps that would be not entirely appropriate, because it is a matter affecting the governments abroad. I was only expressing my opinion as to the desirability of the broad policy and principle involved and my great satisfaction that the direct representatives of the governments that are interested have been able to make agreements of this kind. I would supplement that of course by the statement of my ~~xxx~~ belief that a security pact will be of great advantage to Europe and that this Government is very

sympathetic with every effort to secure the adoption of pacts of that kind. Now, it is well known that in negotiations there have to be compromises and concessions. It is a matter of give and take. I think it is very seldom, and almost never, that any one government, especially where as many are interested as are interested in this proposition, ever secures exactly what it would like to secure, and of course that would be the case with the Locarno negotiations, but I think it is very important that the proposals that have been made there should be ratified. From such information as has come to me, I think the prospect of ratification is most encouraging.

I hesitate to say much of anything about the Italian debt, the same as I have hesitated to discuss debts when negotiations were approaching or pending, because the law has put the negotiation in the hands of the Debt Commission and they are responsible for it and there would be danger if I began any discussion of it that it might prove an embarrassment. I don't see any harm though, in saying that I have been informed by all quarters that the personnel of the Italian Debt Commission is exceedingly high. Our Ambassador to Italy, Mr. Fletcher, was in here this morning and spoke in the highest terms of the members of the Italian Commission that have come here. As to what terms ought to be made, I couldn't express any opinion about that. The only terms that this country has any - our Commission have any right to settle on are the terms laid down by the law which established the Commission and the British settlement made.

I think progress is being made toward the holding of the Tacna-Arica plebiscite. There have been some questions of course that naturally arose as to

the best method of procedure and differences of opinion, which apparently have been gradually eliminated. I don't understand that all the details have yet been agreed to, but because of the great importance of having this settlement made I have felt that I was warranted in being encouraged to the expectation that they would reach an agreement. I speak now of the members of the Commission who are representing the United States, one representing Chile and one representing Peru. I think they will reach an agreement. Because of the great importance of this question, I can't conceive, when there is a chance to adjust a difference that has existed for between 40 and 50 years, that the governments involved would fail to make the necessary concessions and adjustments so that they might get a final decision.

I am expecting to attend the New York State Chamber of Commerce banquet on the 19th of November.

There isn't anything new that has developed in relation to the reorganization of the Federal Departments. I am committed to the bill that has been proposed, known as the Smoot Bill. I would very much like to see that taken up and passed and my desires about a Public Buildings bill are the same as they have been. I think we ought to have public buildings in Washington and that we ought to have a provision here for the beginning of a public buildings program. In the end we will save enough money in rents to very well meet the requirements and secure very much better housing of our different departments. I will be willing to approve of a general public buildings bill similar to that which was intro-

duced at the last session and which went through the House and I think failed in the Senate. I am not in favor of the kind of a bill that is usually referred to as a pork barrel bill. I use that phrase because it is well known and established and I hesitate a little to try to produce a phrase which means the same thing.

Press: Do you favor lump sum appropriation for the public buildings or would you say an item by item bill?

President: I think a lump sum bill would be better. That is the one that went through the house.

Press: Who would have charge of expending the money, the Chief Architect or the Postmaster General?

President: Well, I don't know where the handling of the money ought to be placed. I would want to think that over a little, but I rather think it was the Secretary of the Treasury.

Press: Secretary of the Treasury, yes the Chief Architect is in the Treasury Department.

President: Well any of the responsible heads of departments like that I should think would be capable of making an expenditure of \$150,000,000 which would be acceptable.

I was very much interested in seeing a number of Governors and representatives of state governments that have been coming up before the Committee on Finance -

Press: Ways and Means, Mr. President.

President: Yes, Ways and Means, to give their views about a proposed tax reduction. They seem to favor a very material reduction or perhaps an abolition of taxes on states, which we sometimes call an inheritance tax. Of course if taxes of that nature, which is a very good argument to leave to the states to employ, are left there, why then there would be the same reason for asking them to take up more fully perhaps the state responsibilities. The United States Government has taken over and off their shoulders quite a number of items and in order to meet their expenditures of course they have had to resort to sources of revenue that I rather think ought to be left to the states. I think it would be better if the states get their own sources of revenue and make their own decision about expenditures, rather than for Congress to undertake to say that the states ought to spend so much money and if they do why then the National Government ought to make quite a large contribution towards it. Of course there perhaps isn't any hard and fast rule that can be adopted in that respect and we have to do what is practical. We want to get the country employed and the business of society done, whether it happens to be done by the states or the National Government, but I want to leave as much of it as possible to the states because they are on the ground, they know the situation, their people know what they want, and in the end we are likely to get more satisfactory results by doing it that way then by undertaking to centralize too much of it in Washington.

Press: Have you in mind the matter of road construction?

President: That would be one example of it. I am not proposing that the

United States Government should attempt to withdraw entirely from helping to construct roads. I don't want to see it enlarged, and I would like to see it kept to the main paths, main arteries, of commerce, rather than take up things that are purely local. Of course those main highways that minister to interstate commerce, the interstate carting, there is quite a strong argument that can be made in favor of the United States Government helping about that, but I don't want to try to go too fast about it. I think that the example of Massachusetts which has a very good road system is a good one. They began their work in hardening the surface of the roads about 1890. They set up a state highway commission and have been 35 years putting in a system of roads up there, which is an indication that roads can be built without unduly burdening the taxpayers. Of course I am not undertaking to compare Massachusetts with sparsely settled states and there are states where we have a great deal of Federal domain, government land. Now in those states it is no more than fair that the United States Government should help to bear part of the burdens. Those states of enormous territory and enormous road mileage, the United States Government ought to assist in cases of that kind. But I don't want to see that proposition get away from us, or see the United States Government loaded up with a lot of other propositions of that kind, because it won't be so good for the people in the end as it will to try and work out their own problems as they arise in their ~~16~~ own localities.

Friday, October 30, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had a chance to see the new Chamber of Music that has just been dedicated to the Library of Congress. I was invited to go up there to a concert that was held the night before last, but I had other things to do, so I can't comment on the gift other than to make a statement of grateful acknowledgment for the generosity that has bestowed that improvement. I understood from Mr. Moore, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, that it is a very great addition to the building up there.

I have several inquiries here about the trial of Colonel Mitchell. I don't care to comment on that while it is before the Court of Inquiry. That will follow my course in relation to matters that are up before a court.

Here is an inquiry about Attorney General Sargent. Apparently the press hasn't got the great news that I received last Saturday night that he had become the grandfather of another granddaughter. If there was any mystery in the reason for his going to Vermont I think that perhaps explains it. I knew that that was the reason he went upthere. For certain personal reasons, perhaps, he didn't reveal it to the press before the event, and I think that is a complete answer to all rumors that have been afloat in relation to him. I am very certain that so long as he stays in Washington, which I trust will be a long time, he will stay in the office of Attorney General. I might say in relation to that that one of my reasons for appointing him was that he was not in politics. I think it is quite essential to the office that the Attorney General be kept out

of politics as much as possible. I appreciate that in a way it is a political office, but I think it ought to be administered without a political purpose. When I say political, perhaps I should say partisan. I don't want to make any unjust criticism of men who are engaged in politics, even to the end of writing for the newspapers as political newspaper correspondents.

I haven't selected any one to be the successor of Commissioner Thompson of the Shipping Board.

I am not familiar enough with the details of the cost of prohibition enforcement to give any opinion as to whether any part that is now borne by the Federal Government could by any rearrangement be taken over by local governments. I doubt very much whether that could be done. The Federal Government doesn't have a very large force, I think some 1500 to cover the United States, and with all the efforts that local governments could make in the way of enforcement I should think it would be necessary to maintain on the part of the National Government about that number in the field. The main cost has come in the last year or two from building up a force to cope with smuggling. That has necessitated an expenditure of a considerable amount of money for the building and purchasing and refitting of boats and the hiring of men to man them. Whether there will ever be any chance to make any reduction in that, I don't know.

I haven't decided on any particular farm legislation for the coming session of Congress. I haven't any doubt but that I shall make recommendations in my message.

I don't know just enough about the military situation here in the District to answer very intelligently the inquiry whether there ought to be included in any building scheme for the District the erection of a new Armory. My general thought about the erection of buildings here was that an appropriation should be made which would run over a series of years, a certain number of million dollars to be available each year, and then leave to some single authority to determine what buildings should be erected. I wouldn't want to give offhand any opinion as to whether a building should be built for the militia, for the Department of Justice, Commerce, or any other of the things that are going to be necessary.

I had a conference this morning with Senator Pepper and talked with him some after seeing him at lunch, - he lunched with me at the White House, - and with Mayor Kendrick and the City Solicitor of Philadelphia, relative to keeping General Butler as the head of the Police Department. I wasn't able to give them very much encouragement, though I told them I would take it under consideration. I had present as you probably know the Secretary of the Navy, Senator Swanson of the Senate Naval Committee, Mr. Vinson of the House Naval Committee, and General Lejeune and Representative Madden, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House. I didn't get very much encouragement from any of those gentlemen who heard what Mayor Kendrick had to say, but I want to advise with one or two other people and take the matter under consideration. I have a good deal of sympathy with the purpose that is expressed of course, ~~and~~ a desire to

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have a seasoned man for the head of the Police Department. Of course I have in mind the notice that I gave the Mayor and the citizens of Philadelphia a year ago, when I permitted the General to have another year's leave of absence, in which I told Mayor Kendrick that I wouldn't want to extend the leave over a year and hoped that even before that he would find some one that could adequately discharge the duties of head of the Police Department of his city.

Tuesday, November 3, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any additional information relative to another Limitation of Arms Conference. I assume that is what this means, rather than an inquiry about a Traffic in Arms Conference. This is the inquiry of the International News Service -

Press; Disarmament Conference.

President: Yes, I thought that was what was meant. There is no development since I last made quite an extended statement to the newspaper men.

I haven't made any final decision about further - additional - leave for General Butler. As I indicated Friday, I think it is very improbable that I can grant him additional leave. You are all familiar with the letter that I sent to the Mayor which I published in order that the Mayor might not only be familiar with it, but the people of Philadelphia.

I don't recall now whether I have had an invitation to go to Louisiana next year. It seems as though some one came in and spoke to me about going to New Orleans. I would like to go down into the South, especially Louisiana, to go to New Orleans, because I have never happened to be there. I have been in most of the states of the Union, as far South as South Carolina. I haven't visited Florida. I judge from the current news reports that Florida is not in need just at the present time of additional guests, but I should like to go down there very much. It is a wonderful country. I haven't been in Louisiana or Mississippi. I have been in Texas. I think those are all the states of the

Union, with the possible exception of North Dakota, Montana and Idaho. When I went West once, I went over the Santa Fe and back another way, and another time over the Union Pacific and came back over the Canadian Pacific, so I didn't get into Idaho and Montana. I don't think I have been in North Dakota. The other states I have been in. But I haven't any plan about going South. It takes a considerable time to get down there and back. I think it is very doubtful if I can pay a visit to that state during the coming winter.

I have two or three inquiries here about the court martial of Colonel Mitchell. As I said the other day, I don't want to make any comment about that. It is before the court. While it is pending there I prefer not to make any comment, and I don't see any reason for making any at this time. If any occasion should arise that might change my opinion about it, why then I will make comment, but I don't imagine that that is likely to occur.

I haven't made any final decision about the proposed reduction on the tariff on linseed oil. I am having a careful study made to see whether it might possibly have any effect on the production of linseed - flax in the northwest. I rather imagine that those interests, the farm interests, would be protected by the cost of transportation, so that a slight change at the seaboard on the tariff on linseed oil wouldn't have an effect of lowering the price of flax and its products on the farms. I think most production is in the northwest, North Dakota. That took the place two or three years ago of wheat when wheat was very low. It happened that they could raise flax and raise it profitably, and as a result of that condition under the present tariff I think that production of flax here is very

swiftly catching up with consumption, so that it looks as though in a very short time we should be producing here enough flax and flax seed to supply the nation's needs for linseed oil and other flax products - not enough probably for linen as a good deal of fine linen comes in which I suppose isn't made in this country, though I don't want to make any definite statement about that because I haven't any accurate information. But that is the matter that I have in contemplation here, to see whether some reduction could be made on the tariff duty on linseed oil without injuriously affecting the farming interests.

I hardly know what to say about this inquiry about the observance of Armistice Day. My feeling about it is rather to the effect that it ought to be left to the disposition of different localities, I was going to say different individuals. The Congress has not, as it is stated here, made that a national holiday, but its observance has been quite universal I think in past years, and I should imagine that the best rule to follow as far as any standard that I could lay out would be for each individual or each industry or each locality to make such observance of the day as they think is fitting. I believe it has been my practice to go over on that day and put a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and I am planning to carry out that practice this year. Then I think they usually have meetings of one kind or another in the usual places of assemblage. Probably there is some observance of it in the public schools, some observance in places of public worship sometimes during the day and sometimes during the evening. I think those are all appropriate.

I have already spoken about the additional leave for General Butler.

I have had two short conferences with Chairman McKenzie of the Muscle Shoals Commission and they are working to secure a unanimous report. There are some details on which the Commission has not yet reached a unanimous decision. I am of the opinion that they will and that before Congress comes in they will have worked out a plan for the use of Muscle Shoals. I think I have made quite a number of statements about it in my messages to the Congress and in several conferences with members of the press. I haven't any new information about it that would lead me to materially change my attitude toward it, but I should expect that anything that the Commission would report would be something that would receive my support, and expect it would receive the support of the Congress. There are two questions there. The production of nitrates, which I think is exceedingly important. We import all of our nitrates now. The difficulty in working this out is because the production of nitrates ~~is~~ by artificial means is in its experimental stage and no one knows just how we can best provide for it. The other of course is the question of power. But I think that production of nitrates ought to be the fundamental question. First as a question of national defense, because we need nitrates even in time of peace, to provide for the necessary production of ammunition which we keep on hand. It deteriorates so that it is necessary from time to time to dispose of some of the old stock and replenish it with the new stock. And in addition to that of course is the question of such nitrates as we use for fertilizer. That is important too.

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I think those are the main features of the problem, and I think from what Chairman McKenzie told me that they will be able to work out something that will be acceptable.

I don't know of any advice that the administration has given to American bankers relative to loans to municipalities of foreign nations which have failed to fund their war debts to the United States. Each one of these requests for loans is taken up on its own merits and disposed of on its own merits.

I haven't taken any action on the resignation of Arnold J. Hellmich of St. Louis as Collector of Internal Revenue. I received a telegram from him placing his resignation in my hands, which I sent over to the Treasury Department for their advice concerning it.

I have talked with two members of my Cabinet - I forgot to state that - about leaving General Butler at Philadelphia.

I have somewhat expected that my father, Colonel John C. Coolidge - he likes to have the C put in. I don't know whether he thinks he might become confused with his grandson. He likes to have it put in, and it doesn't take up much more type. I have asked him to come and stay during the winter at the White House. I spoke to him about it when I was up there last summer and have been in communication with him relative to it, and I received a letter this morning from the Attorney General saying that my father was yesterday at the bank meeting at Ludlow and seemed to be in good spirits and was getting on

comfortably. But the winters up there are very cold. The house is heated by wood. I thought it would be much more comfortable for him if he could come and stay at the White House. I rather think that he will come. That is for him to decide. I want him to consult his own wishes about it, of course, and stay wherever he thinks he will feel most comfortable and have the greatest peace of mind.

I haven't seen Mr. Dalton who is making a survey of our shipping interests for me since the morning that he came down here and had breakfast with me and then went over to the Shipping Board to begin his investigation. I inquired for him one day last week and found he wasn't in town, so I haven't any idea about how he is getting along other than what would be indicated by my general confidence in the man and his ability and experience.

I don't expect to go to the Army and Navy football game in New York. I am going up there on the 19th and wouldn't be able to get up there again.

I haven't any additional information but what has already been made public as to what surplus is probable for the next fiscal year, nor as to the maximum of appropriations. The work is now going on. The Budget Bureau and the different departments are investigating what the needs are. Of course we shall try to hold the appropriations down as low as we can commensurate with the needs of the service. It is helpful in making the budget and helpful to the departments if we set some limit and try to work toward it, but there isn't any hard and fast limit. We have to make such appropriations as we find the occasion requires. I can't give any exact amount that I would say could be cut off from

the present tax revenue. Roughly I supposed it was about \$300,000,000. I think the figures that have been mentioned were \$290,000,000. Now, correct information about that would be secured at the Treasury. They not only have the figures of what is coming in, but they are in touch with the business situation throughout the country, so that they can make some estimates about the coming year. It may be that it would be perfectly safe to have a larger tax reduction than that. It may be when we get the budget completed it will appear that there are charges necessary to be made against revenue so that it couldn't be increased above \$290,000,000. I should say that would be the minimum, but those details and figures are all being worked out by the Treasury Department and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Friday, November 7, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I keep having inquiries about the coal strike. I don't know just why I keep having them. I suppose the press would like something to write about. There isn't anything that I can say about that, and I don't know of anything at the present time that I can do about it. Now, if you will just keep that in mind perhaps it will be an indication of what slant you ought to take when you hear rumors.

I don't know of anything about Commissioner Haynes' connection with the Government other than what I have seen in the press. I have indicated, I think a good many times, to the conference, that I had a very high regard for Major Haynes. I think he was a very good officer holding a very difficult situation. I am sure that he can be very helpful by continuing. Now whether it is going to be thought best by General Andrews and Secretary Mellon and Mr. Blair to continue him in office, I don't know. From all I know, I suppose they are going to do so and receive the benefit of the very vast knowledge he has of the situation and use him in a great many ways.

I haven't in contemplation any action in regard to Commissioner of Immigration, Curran, of New York. I don't know what his views are about immigration. I know that he has extensive views that he has voiced in the press, but if there is a difference between him and the Immigration Department, I don't know just what the nature of the difference is. The only rumor that has ever come to me that seemed in any way a reflection on Mr. Curran, and I don't know that that was warranted, was

the fact that he seemed to be making a good deal of criticism of his superior officers. He may have a very good plan of running his office over there that is better than the Department has. Of course, it is always unfortunate when a subordinate starts out publicly to criticise his superiors. I have understood that Mr. Curran was a first-rate public officer. He is a man of intelligence. I think he is a graduate of Yale some time back. It looks as though he was well trained to administer that office. Now I imagine that there have ~~ya~~ been rumors about it, but that the facts are rather inconsequential.

Press: The matter hasn't been referred to you by the Labor Department?

President: Not that I know of. I heard something to the effect that a letter of reference had come over here, but I have never seen it and don't think it has come.

Here is another veteran rumor about my position on the World Court. If you want to know what my position is in relation to it, read the two or three statements that I have made. The first one in my message of 1923, next in my message of 1924, and in an address I made at Arlington ~~the~~ 30th of May, 1924. I haven't changed my position at all. Nobody has suggested that there should be any compromise. What I want is some practical resolution that will carry out the necessary purpose.

Senator Borah didn't mention and I didn't mention the Italian debt or the foreign debts, when he was in here. I sent for him to consult with him as I am consulting with a great many now, to find out if anything had occurred to him in

his experience or his studies that would be something that I ought to touch on in my message. I learned from Senator Smoot and Secretary Mellon, who was in here just now, that they seemed to be making very good progress. I haven't any details. If I did have them, I wouldn't want to disclose them. But they are making progress. There is every indication I think that an agreement can be reached. That is the general impression I get from my conference with those who are on the debt commission. There seems to be a disposition on both sides to try to make a settlement and I think from such information that comes to me that both sides are approaching the problem with the utmost candor. When that is the case we usually expect that candid minds can meet and agree.

I think that is all for the day.

(newspaper men called back within a few minutes)

* * * * * between the depression of the franc and the debt settlement failure. The suggestion is that the so-called Morgan credits to France have been held up at the instance of the Government. I don't think there is any foundation whatever for any rumor of that kind. I don't know of any proposal by France to get credits here, and I am sure that our Government has not put anything in the way of any credit of that kind. I am very certain that no suggestion has been made for an additional credit.

Press: That was made a long time ago, Mr. President.

President: Yes. A credit of I think \$100,000,000 was extended in the late spring.

Press: Has the administration any plans for a possible debt conference in Europe?
 president; no.

Tuesday, November 10, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any change in the attitude of the Government towards the celebration that it is proposed to hold at Philadelphia commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The provisions of the resolution are being carried out and the committee that I was to appoint from the various states has been appointed, I think every one of them, it is possible that there are two or three states where for some reason recommendations have not yet come in, but I think they have all been appointed, and of course the Government is going to cooperate up there in any way it can. I have several inquiries about that, I see.

I don't know whether any telegram has been received here from an American Legion Post in New York. If it has, it hasn't come to my desk, and when it comes I will deal with it in such a way as seems appropriate. As it is in relation to Colonel Mitchell, I should expect that I would refer it to the War Department for such action as they thought was proper.

I don't know any particular inference that is to be drawn from my appointment of Mr. Walsh to the Shipping Board, other than what is perfectly apparent on the surface. I understood that he was an experienced and practical shipping man, so I have appointed him to the Board. I haven't had any report yet from Mr. Dalton. I thought it might be in by the latter part of this week. I should be guided to a good deal of an extent by what he might say and the United States Chamber of Commerce is also making a study. Their conclusions and their reasons

for arriving at them I assume will also be set out, and of course will have a good deal of influence on me.

I haven't any Armistice Day plans, other than to carry a wreath to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and I expect to be there at 11:00 o'clock, leaving here a few minutes before 11:00. It developed in conference in the Cabinet this morning that it was rather the opinion of the members that a very proper way of observing Armistice Day would be for some cessation of activities at 11:00 o'clock, that being the time of the day that the Armistice went into operation. I suppose that was 11:00 o'clock European time, but there is no reason for trying to translate that in time that corresponds over here. That I imagine is the reason of my going to Arlington at 11:00. It is suggested that if there would be a cessation of business activities for one or two minutes at that time, it would be a very appropriate way for those that haven't made other arrangements for observing Armistice Day. That shouldn't be taken as a suggestion to discontinue anything else that is being done, but simply as a suggestion that those who haven't made any plan and would like to do something to observe the Day it was thought could very properly adopt that method.

Will that be done in the Government in any way, Mr. President?

President: Well, I understood so -

Press: In all the Government Departments?

President: that there might be a cessation of activities for a minute or so at 11:00 o'clock tomorrow. It is of course a purely voluntary thing and the

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suggestion is not an order to any department or any one in the employ of the Government, but a suggestion of what one may do if nothing else has occurred to them to do and they very properly want to make some observance of Armistice Day.

Of course no suggestion has come to this Government about an Arms Conference at any place, and I doubt if the situation would be helped in any way for me to comment on newspaper suggestions. The only thing I could say about any suggestion would be that when it was presented through the proper channels so that it has back of it the requisite authority, why then that our Government of course would give consideration to any proposal and try to determine it on whatever merit it seems to have. I make that in reply to a question about some suggestions that are being made in some of the Japanese newspapers that a conference should be held in Japan.

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in resources between the British Empire or the British Isles and the resources of Italy, it is quite apparent that the small country of Italy can not meet any such payments as could be met by Great Britain. That occurred to me as perhaps the most significant comparison that could be made. But the great thing is the agreement on what may I think be regarded as a fair basis for both of the Governments upon which to .

Tuesday, November 17, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know that I can say anything about the forthcoming evacuation of Cologne, except the most obvious thing. It is another step in winding up the problem that arose as a result of the war and in the difficulty that they had in reaching a solution as to reparations. Of course in so far as it is that, it is a significant move for peace and an example and indication of the desire of the countries interested to make agreements rather than to try to settle their difficulties by force.

I don't know of any change in the attitude of the United States Government in relation to submarines from the position that was taken at the time of the Washington Conference. I don't want to say that the United States Government wouldn't be willing to change the policy that it announced at that time, but the policy then announced is the policy that we have at the present time, a limitation of submarines, with an open mind to hear and consider any other suggestions that might be made in relation to the use or abolition of submarines.

I don't know that there is any use to discuss a form of ship subsidy. So far as I know now I am not proposing to submit one to Congress. I have in the past thought something of that kind might be, but it has never seemed to be practical.

I have already spoken of submarines.

I am going to make the report of Mr. Dalton public. I don't know but what it has gone out already. Has it?

Press: No, sir.

President: Well, it has been mimeographed and will be given out within a short time, two or three days.

I am going to send my message up to Congress. My present expectation is that I am not going up to read it.

And the report on Muscle Shoals - I rather expect to make that public very soon. I haven't had a chance to look it over, but it lay in my mind that it should be public, and of course if it was a report that was to go to Congress it ought to be submitted to them before it goes to the press. But I don't understand that is the case.

Press: Mr. President, you indicated I believe at one of the last conferences that you expected a unanimous report. Would you say whether it was unanimous or not?

President: I don't think it is.

There isn't anything further that can be said at this time about any conference to advance the work of the Arms Conference that we had here in 1921.

I don't think it is at all likely that our Government will call the attention of France to the fact that the treaty for restriction in the use of submarines and poison gas entered into at Washington has not been made effective because France has not ratified it. That is before the French Government for their action and I shouldn't think it would be appropriate for our Government to make any suggestion about it.

I have already spoken of the attitude in relation to submarines.

Representative Underhill spoke to me about a large purchase of real estate on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, at a cost that he estimated of \$15,000,000. I haven't the slightest doubt that that is a very candid estimate on his part, but of course all experience is that these estimates, when they are put into effect, are greatly exceeded. I do not look with favor on a proposal of that kind at the present time. I have approved the building of a memorial bridge here that is going to cost considerable money, and we are all the time making outlays in the city of Washington. I would like to have something done here, as you well know, in relation to public buildings, and perhaps something in the rest of the country. I have quite a sympathy with the suggestion that ultimately that land there ought to belong to the Government, but I don't think it is an appropriate time to purchase it now. It would cost more in the future of course, but aside from that there is no other element of danger in leaving it there. The land will be there. If it wasn't there when the time comes, we shall not want it.

I have already expressed my interest and what I think is the interest of the American people in the agreements that were made at Locarno, that they were likely to improve the situation of the world, so I don't think it would be correct to say that they were lacking interest in the United States. The United States is very much interested in any action that can be taken anywhere that there is a movement toward peace, a reconciliation and conciliation, better understanding and good-will, whether it be made in Europe or in the Far East.

There is a great deal of promise in those pacts, and of course we are very much interested to ~~xxx~~ see that they are approved for that reason, while they don't directly affect us.

Friday, November 20, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't recall that anything has come to me relative to the transfer of jurisdiction over the Virgin Islands from the Navy to Porto Rico. Porto Rico of course is under the Insular Bureau of the War Department. I assume that is what this question would mean. There may be something in contemplation in the Navy Department about that. If so, I haven't had any information about that.

I don't recall having received any protest from Mr. Frame, of Alaska against the conduct of two Federal judges there. It may be that some protest of that kind has been sent to this office. If it was sent here it would be referred in due course of business to the Department of Justice for investigation and report to me. That leads me to remark about Alaska, that I think protests that originate up there against those who are holding office perhaps would need considerable investigation in order to determine just how much merit they have. It is my information that one person in every 11 of the white people that live in Alaska are on the ^{Federal} payroll. Business is not brisk up there. There are some fisheries there and some mining, but we are spending \$11,000,000 a year so that I think the best line of endeavor that there is in Alaska is to get on to the Federal payroll. Now I presume it is unconscious, but a condition of that kind would stimulate an activity on the part of those that aren't on the payroll to a criticism of those that are, in order that a change might be made to their advantage, so that whenever there are protests against Federal officers up there they have to be viewed with that in mind.

I haven't had any word from Major Coupal, who went to Plymouth to see if father would like to come down here. He wouldn't arrive at Ludlow until about 2:00 o'clock. It would be nearly an hour after that before he would reach Plymouth. There isn't any very good telephone there and I don't believe he would try to telephone. So it is hardly time for him to report yet.

I have had an invitation to go to New York to attend the annual gathering of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. I told the gentlemen that invited me that I couldn't give them very much encouragement at this time, and that if they would communicate with me later I would give them a final decision. I would like very much to go, but I have just been up to New York. I don't want the other parts of the country to be jealous of my attention to that city. I have been there three times since I have been President.

I don't have in mind any specific action in relation to giving pardons on Thanksgiving. It was my recollection that pardons were given at Christmas rather than Thanksgiving. I may be wrong about my recollection, but I think it has been usual to ask the wardens of the federal prisons to recommend some especially meritorious cases for special consideration at Christmastime. I think that refers entirely to Christmas rather than to Thanksgiving.

It is the policy of the Federal Government, so far as any information has ever come to me, to prosecute all violations of the prohibition laws or any other laws as fast as we can with the instrumentalities that we have at hand. It would be my opinion that it would be the better policy to put the greater emphasis on the sources of supply, in order that if those were remedied there

wouldn't be any opportunity for further small violations. But you can make it as plain as you want to, that so far as I know it is the policy of the National Government to prosecute all violations.

I haven't seen the bill that it is said here that Colonel Sherrill is considering for the erection of a stadium at Washington, and in which he is proposing to legalize the investment of national banks in a million dollars of bonds that are to be issued to build that stadium. I couldn't give an offhand opinion as to whether an investment of that kind would be sound banking. I should want to get the opinion of the Federal Reserve Board about it before I approved it. My offhand thought would be that if it is going to require legislation, that very likely it hasn't been considered as the kind of an investment that national banks ought to make.

I don't know of any class of Federal employees here in the District that it is now proposed to reduce. There are changes all the time going on, temporary work in one Department or another, but when those changes occur we always try to do the best we can to take care of those who are discharged from temporary employment in some other Department, either permanently or on temporary work. Of course there was a great deal of work going on in relation to the bonus bill, which I think is now very much decreased, and that undoubtedly has been the reason for a discharge of some employees there, but as I have indicated several times at the Conference, we always try to take care of those people so far as we can.

Friday,
November 24, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have two or three inquiries about the Gerald Chapman case. That is pending in the courts, I think of both the United States and the State of Connecticut, so that in accordance with my custom I don't think I had better comment about it other than to say that of course I shall be disposed to follow any advice that the Department of Justice gave me. Such statements as can be made in relation to it ought to be made by the Department.

I haven't received the reports of the two minority members of the Muscle Shoals Commission. I rather expect when I do receive them that I shall make public the majority and the minority reports. In fact, I am holding the majority report so that if the minority want to make any report to me it can be made public at the same time. And that would be prior to their transmission to the Congress. I have forgotten the form of the resolution, whether it directed me to transmit to the Congress, but I shall transmit them.

I haven't under consideration any out of town speaking engagements except my trip to the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau at Chicago. I don't like to go out of town speaking. I have to some, but when Congress is in session I especially find a good deal of difficulty in getting time to prepare an address and go away and deliver it.

I haven't any reports from my father other than those which have already been made public. I understand that he has sometimes a momentary spasm that Dr.

Coupal thought comes from the arteries or veins of the brain. He didn't think it was primarily trouble with the heart, because they are only momentary and their recovery is complete and immediate, without seeming to be followed by that exhaustion and shortness of breath that usually follows any heart difficulty that produces the same effect. I am in hopes that he will come down to Washington. I thought from what he said that he had that in mind. He has never been able to conclude that his work is in such condition up there that he is quite ready to come. Of course he has always lived in that locality, all his life, and is very much attached to it and very likely ^{the} ^{of} /thought/staying away from it for any great length of time is not one that fills him with content. Of course I want him to come down here if he can, because I think we can make him more comfortable here, but I don't want him to come unless he would feel contented.

I have several inquiries about John L. Lewis' communication to me. I had Mr. Lewis notified that I received his letter and that I would take under consideration the contents of it and make some reply about it as soon as I can arrive at a conclusion.

Mr. President: May I ask in that connection if the matter was discussed at the Cabinet meeting this morning?

President: No.

I think the Tacna-Arica situation is proceeding in a fairly promising way. There have been difficulties of one kind or another, as I understand it, but I think they will all be met and a plebecite be taken.

I haven't any special plans for Thanksgiving Day. I have three or four

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live turkeys in reserve, and one or two that have been dressed. This is not an advertisement for further contributions. Whether there are any others in the offing, I am not quite certain. The public is always very generous with their efforts to supply the President's table at Thanksgiving and Christmas, so that my embarrassment usually is one of riches and knowing what to do to dispose of what is sent in, and not of how to get in more.

I will give out as soon as I can my message and my address at Chicago. My thought is that the message will probably come out first, as that would be more desirable to have a general distribution. The Chicago address would not be printed in full, I anticipate, in very many of the papers, while practically all the papers I think carry the annual message. I will get it to you as soon as I can. I think it will be five or six days before its delivery.

I don't know that it would be quite correct to say I have accepted the recommendations of the Dalton report. What I would say about it is that they are in harmony with all of the views that have been expressed to me since I have been President in such investigations as I have had made, and I have had several made in relation to the proper method of transacting our shipping business.

I have three or four inquiries here that I shall probably touch on in my message. Here is one about waterways. I suppose any one would know that in all probability I will say something about that, and I do expect to say something about that. I don't care to make any publication ~~of~~ about what is going to be in my message.

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I hardly know how to comment in a way that would give you anything of interest about the request made by Senator Norris for a list of the Americans that have been decorated abroad. I don't know whether the State Department has any such list. It doesn't occur to me offhand that they would have, though it is possible that they might secure it from French authorities. Those decorations were made substantially all of them as friendly gestures of appreciation during the War and immediately after its conclusion. I could hardly expect that any one who had received one would consider himself as beholden on any future question in any way, but that it was merely a recognition of what was thought to be past appropriate services.

Friday, November 27, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know about any plan to reorganize the government personnel agencies, except the general plan for departmental reorganizations.

I didn't know that Senator Smoot had made any recommendation for moving the Labor Department into the Interior Building. It is possible that he has. Senator Smoot is Chairman, I think, of some Building Commission on the part of the Senate, and I don't know just what the name of that Committee or Commission is. I think Secretary Work spoke to me about a survey that has been made of the available space in the Interior Building and told me that they could house quite a good many more people there.

Here is an inquiry about the published forecasts for my forthcoming message. I may be wrong in my recollection, but I think it was Mr. Field that published a direct statement about two years ago that I was opposed to the World Court.

I haven't entirely determined on my reply to Mr. Lewis' letter.

I haven't any specific information about Tacna and Arica plebecite. As I am the Arbitrator there, naturally I would have to use some care in making any statement about it, but I can only reiterate the condition as I understand it there, that while there have been questions and problems to decide, the matter is going on.

There isn't any basis, so far as I know, of the rumor that is current

in New York that Secretary Wilbur is going to resign.

I don't know just when the Morrow Aircraft Board are going to report. I though I understood something like a week ago that - when was it I went up to New York; a week ago yesterday wasn't it? - that they had substantially agreed on all the questions and it was merely a matter of getting their report into shape. I haven't seen anything since then that would lead me to suppose they would make their report very soon. Of course my guess is no better than the expert guesses of the press.

Mr. Crawford is coming to take the place of Mr. Welliver.

Press: Speaking about Lewis, Mr. President, you said you hadn't entirely determined on a reply or the ~~chxxx~~ character of the reply?

President: Haven't entirely determined on the form.

Tuesday, December 1, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The reports of the Muscle Shoals Commission are in. The majority report was made some time ago, but the minority report didn't come in I think until yesterday, perhaps the latter part of last week, and mimeographed copies have been made of the majority report and of the recommendations of the minority report, which I think is practically all that the press would care for. Of course there are quite a large number of exhibits that couldn't be mimeographed, maps and things of that nature which there would be no expectation of having printed. Those will not be given out, but the report of the majority will be given out in full and the recommendations of the minority. I think those are ready for distribution and will be given out any time now.

I haven't made any final determination about the tariff on linseed oil. Here is a suggestion that the Minneapolis Tribune today printed the story that I contemplated issuing a proclamation reducing the tariff on linseed oil. My recollection is that a telegram was sent to them yesterday that that is not a fact, so I somewhat doubt whether in view of receiving that telegram they would print a report of that kind. All that that means is as I stated to the conference once or twice before, that I haven't decided what ought to be done. My difficulty is to find out what the effect would be on the production of flax in the northwest. My offhand opinion is that such a reduction on oil as can be made would be on imported oil and would take effect of course on the Atlantic Seaboard, and as

the flax is reduced to oil out there in that region they would have a practical protection by reason of freight rates, so that such reduction as could be made would have little or no effect on the production of flax in that region. That is what I am undertaking to find out before I make my decision.

There isn't anything I can add to what I have already said about the Locarno agreements. I have expressed my approbation of them several times. The fact that they were signed this morning or yesterday doesn't alter my opinion as to the benefits that I think are likely to flow from them.

I haven't any information other than that which is in the press as to the intention of the new French Cabinet in relation to the debts. I don't think that any action has been taken in France on the offer that was taken back by the French Commission when they were over here to have a temporary adjustment which would extend over a five year period.

I haven't any information at all about any plan to replace Ambassador Daeschner with Senator Beranger. I rather think it would be better not to comment on that at all. It might be misunderstood.

I was waiting to see what might be the outcome of the efforts that Governor Pinchot is making before finally making my own decision as to what answer I could make to Mr. Lewis. Of course it requires some investigation on my part, but I think I shall have the letter within a day or two. Quite naturally, I wouldn't want to inject anything that might make the effort for settlement less effective.

I haven't received the report from the special aircraft board. I had

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understood that it would be signed and handed to me this afternoon. That is just a suggestion that has come to me and can't be taken as final and definite.

Press: Do you plan to make it public, Mr. President?

President: Oh yes.

Press: You would make it public immediately?

President: I think so. I understood they were going to report in print, so that I wouldn't have to go to the trouble of having to take the time of having copies made here in this office, so I imagine if they report this afternoon that there will be printed copies which will be immediately available for the press.

I haven't any information about what the plan of the Republicans of the Senate are - is, in relation to the management of their party conference or whom they expect to invite to attend it. That is a matter that is entirely for them to decide and one in which I wouldn't want to interfere in any way. And that is also true about representations that they want to determine on the Senatorial Committees. They will have to make their own decision about what ought to be done.

I have already spoken about Muscle Shoals.

Friday, December 4, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't examined with enough care the proposal of Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. for a Secretary of Aviation, so that I can comment on it very intelligently. I received a telegram from him yesterday, I think, or the day before, making a suggestion of that kind which I thought I would consider when I had time to look at it in connection with the report that has been made by the Air Board. I thought from a hasty examination of it that it went considerably beyond what the Air Board had proposed and my first inclination is to accept the proposals that have been made by the Air Board, that is the strengthening of the Departments of War and Navy and Commerce by the appointment of Assistant Secretaries, and perhaps strengthening the General Staff of the Army and the Operations I think it is and Navigation Bureaus of the Navy by additional airmen.

I haven't any information about the use of funds in Texas in relation to the building of roads, about which there is a controversy down there, other than that which I have gleaned from a hasty glance at the headlines. I don't know whether it has any connection or not with the expenditure of Federal funds. I didn't suppose it had, it may have - I didn't know that it did.

There is nothing new that I can give you in relation to the developments in Tacna-Arica. There are difficulties there in arranging for the holding of a plebiscite, but as I have indicated before it is a matter of such importance to the welfare of Peru and Chile, and the general welfare of South American countries, that

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I assume the difficulties will be solved and the plebecite held in accordance with my finding as Arbitrator.

I haven't any information about the proposal that has been made by the Disarmament Council of the League of Nations to invite the United States to become a member of a Special Commission that is to be created to prepare for an International Conference for reduction of Armaments, other than that which is contained in the question here, which indicates that that is an A. P. dispatch. I wouldn't want to make any definite commitment of course until such a proposal as that reaches us. It will then be examined and given careful consideration. Of course our country has been perhaps foremost in trying to advance the policy for a reduction, I suppose this means a limitation of armaments, and that policy we want to advance in the future.

I think there is some statute in relation to the power of the President to send representatives abroad to partake of the function of Special Commissions, and there is also some provision that was made at the time of the adoption of our treaty with Germany in relation to our cooperation or taking part in the activities of the League. Those two considerations would have to be given due weight in order to determine what powers the President may have. It may be that there is a statutory provision against accepting an invitation of this kind, or taking part in the functions of a Commission such as this is proposed to be. That is why I say it is difficult to comment on it until the actual text reaches here, so that it may be examined in detail. I do want to make it plain though,

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that our country has great sympathy with any effort that is to be made in this direction and hopes that it may be successful.

Tuesday, December 8, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The entire Muscle Shoals report will be sent up to the Congress. The appendix, as I have glanced it over, consists mostly of charts and things of that kind. They will all be available for the press up there, I am sure. It didn't seem to be feasible to undertake to make copies of it here, so that it could be given out.

I haven't taken up the question of a successor to Colonel Sherrill. He hasn't resigned yet. The only thing I know about his proposed resignation is what I have seen in the press, though I think he did telephone to Mr. Sanders to make inquiry and I told Mr. Sanders to tell him to go ahead and make any arrangement he would like to make.

The Department of Justice is taking up the matter of considering the various suggestions that have been made for appointment to the Federal bench for the Eastern District of New York. Now that the Senators are here, they very likely will make some suggestion about it. I think that will be taken up and disposed of very quickly.

There isn't anything further that I can say about the press reports that come from Geneva relative to an invitation to be issued by the League of Nations to have this Government participate in a Commission to consider calling another Disarmament Conference. All I can say is that when it comes we will consider it then.

Friday, December 11, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had any report on some inquiries that were going to be made of the Canadian authorities relative to the relation between the United States and Canada on our fisheries. There are certain restrictions that are put on by the Canadians that it was thought might be taken off, and inquiries are going to be made to see whether that could be done. I have had no report on it.

I have two or three inquiries here about the return of the alien property. I do not think any full plan has been matured about that, but there is a hypothesis on which the Treasury Department and the interested parties are working to see if it can be put into effect and to ascertain whether it would be satisfactory to the parties interested. Of course this is all a part of our general creditor position. I think the amount that is due to us from Germany is about the same as the amount that is due to us from Belgium, and very likely it might be proper to consider the fact that Germany is a debtor to us and is also a debtor to substantially all of our debtors, so that anything that we might release would in a way be so much more that would go to those that are to pay us money and those that have already made an agreement with us and those that we expect will make an agreement in the future. So it might be, so far as we are concerned, about as broad as it is long. What we secured from Germany wouldn't go to others and if we released anything it would go to others and they would be the better able to pay us. I don't know that that element would be very large in this situation, but it would be worth considering. Then there are some difficulties about the agreements that we have already entered

into to see where they might affect other nations. But I am hopeful that a method can be worked out, so that the property can be returned and the whole matter adjusted.

I haven't any information about the possible appeal in the Tacna-Arica matter, other than that which has already been in the press.

There have been no developments, so far as I know, about another disarmament conference.

There isn't anything new that has come to my attention in the coal situation.

Colonel Sherrill, as has already been publicly noted, has given me his resignation as Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds. I haven't fully made up my mind about his successor, but I expect to appoint Major Grant, who is now in the office with Colonel Sherrill, who has had some experience before in that kind of work.

I have already spoken about the return of the German property.

I haven't any information about - other than what has come to me here - a movement to tie together the Colorado River development and the Mississippi River and St. Lawrence River and other projects. I should doubt very much if that would be practical. I think very little, if any, legislation is necessary so far as the Mississippi River is concerned. No action can be taken on the St. Lawrence River except by way of treaty. That is, there would have to be a treaty as a preliminary. And that would take those out and leave nothing but the Colorado River. Then I think each of these projects ought to stand on its own merits. I am in favor of development of all these projects as fast as we can, but the Colorado River is a

very intricate and technical proposition. It involves the rights of seven different states out there, and I don't see any way that it could properly be included in a bill that related to other projects.

I haven't any specific information about the making up of the committees of the Senate, and I haven't enough information about it to enable me to pass judgment on it. I think that is a matter that ought to be attended to by the Senate itself, and I wouldn't want to interfere in it.

I have already spoken about disarmament. There hasn't been any invitation issued by the League yet. When it is issued I shall take it and consider it and see what we can do under it. I can scarcely imagine that it would necessitate anything like a repeal of any present legislation. The question here refers to that, but it might necessitate, as I indicated at the last conference, the approval or permission of the Congress to take part - it certainly would as far as securing the necessary funds by having an appropriation.

Press: Do you refer in that to service on the committee to prepare the preliminaries for the conference or the conference itself?

President: Well, both. It would require an appropriation of money to send any one over to confer. I am not certain about the wording of the statute and it would depend on the nature of the invitation as to how it should be applied.

I have issued an order today indicating that it is experimental and not to be taken as a precedent, for a whole holiday on the 26th of December, rather than to have a half holiday on the 24th and then a half holiday on the 31st. It has been the practice in the past, I think, of having a half holiday oftentimes before

a full holiday, in order that those that might want to travel or something can do so. As Christmas comes here one day, or two days, whichever you want to phrase it, before Sunday, I thought if we had a holiday of a full day on ~~Sat~~ Saturday, that those who wanted to go away Thursday night would not have to return until Monday morning.

I was speaking also about waterways. A delegation came in to see me this morning, and as I indicated a moment ago I am solicitous about the development of all our waterways. I indicated my general attitude about it in my message. The budget has made a recommendation of an appropriation of \$50,000,000, and that of course is my recommendation and I stand by it. I have also had some conversation this morning with General Taylor, who is the Chief of the Bureau of Engineering that has charge of the waterways works, and he tells me that it may be necessary to have a deficiency appropriation for the end of the present year. I mean by that the year that ends the 30th of next June. So that if it is necessary to consider any further appropriation above the \$50,000,000 that I have already indicated, that could be taken up at that time. My general thought about our waterway development would be that it would be best to get such legislation as is necessary this year, which would be an authorization for an appropriation, and then we would come in with the appropriation next year. Of course this is all complicated somewhat with the tax reduction bill. There will be a necessity of seeing what was done there, in order to see what funds we have available for this purpose or any other purpose. The tax reduction bill, as I have indicated, is a little larger in amount than I should have made it. It may turn out that it is no larger than we ought to have, but the figures seem to indicate

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\$290,000,000 or \$300,000,000, and the tax bill runs considerable above \$300,000,000, I have forgotten the amount, some statements are as high as \$330,000,000 and others \$315,000,000 or \$320,000,000. So that what we can do in the way of waterways - in the expenditure of money for waterways, public buildings, or anything of that kind, is going to be predicated to quite an extent on the tax bill. Then, also, on any possible debt settlements that we may make in the immediate future. So all of those things come in as necessary to be considered and decided upon before we can tell whether there is additional money to use for this most desirable purpose.

Tuesday, December 15, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had any word from my father lately about coming to Washington, so I don't know what he is going to do. He seems to have been fairly comfortable in the last week or two.

There isn't anything that I can say about river development other than what is in my message. I have an inquiry here about the Colorado River. I discussed that in my Message, and I am very anxious to get that development along as fast as we can. I haven't any new light on it, other than what I said when I addressed the Congress.

I had a telegram last night from Mr. Lissner of the Shipping Board saying that he had sent me yesterday or Saturday his resignation to take effect on the 31st. His written communication hasn't reached me yet.

I haven't any new information about the Roosevelt Memorial. I have received the plans which I presume have been distributed to the press, or rather the book for the proposed Memorial opposite the White House over near where the bridge crosses the Potomac - that part where there is a rose garden.

I can't make any further statement about the invitation of the League to an arms conference until that invitation reaches here and we have full opportunity to examine it. to see what it includes so far as we are concerned and what it may include so far as other nations are concerned. I haven't any new information about what Congress is likely to do in relation to shipping. I want the shipping business put on the best possible business basis that we can put it. My recommendations

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about it are included in my message.

I am very much pleased with the progress the tax bill is making in the House, and from such information as I have it would appear that there is a prospect now of its early passage in the Senate, though one never knows what may happen in relation to legislation.

Friday, December 18, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't decided about further nominations to the Shipping Board.

Mr. Lissner's time doesn't expire until the first of January. And some conferences are going on among the Senators about a successor to Commissioner Haney.

There isn't anything very definite that I can say about the Sesqui-centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. I suppose I am booked for exhibition and that will probably be on the 4th of July. The matter of an appropriation is being considered. Mr. Hoover is in some way officially or semi-officially connected with the effort to have the exposition, and he is working out the details. I understand that he has canvassed the different departments to see what exhibit they would make and how much room it will take, and when he finds out about that why he will be able to make some recommendation about an appropriation. I think the State of Pennsylvania has appropriated \$750,000,000 and the City of Philadelphia -- how much is it that the City of Philadelphia is appropriating? Some way it lay in my mind \$3,000,000. But what we are working on is to see how much it would take to put on the exhibition that the different departments are willing to furnish. Then there is some suggestion about an Army and Navy exhibition. The Navy Yard is right next to the fair grounds, so that wouldn't be particularly difficult. There would be much more difficulty about using troops up there and having an exhibition of artillery, and things of that nature. Now what all that will cost, I don't know. I tried to find out what it will cost, what the local authorities, state and

municipal, are planning to expend and make our expenditures accordingly. The Secretary of War has had a man up there, but he said his representation to the people in charge of the exhibition was that the War Department would incur no expenditure. They might furnish some troops and artillery, and so on, but without expenditure. And I think there is some plan to have a C.M.T.C. there for boys.

Press: Does that mean that if you carried troops there the exposition would have to bear the transportation expense?

President: Well, not necessarily. But what the Secretary of War told them was that he had no authority to incur any expenditure. The matter of expenditures and the matter of exhibition is being taken up in detail by Mr. Hoover.

I have indicated that as conditions now are I would be willing to approve a bill creating another member for the Interstate Commerce Commission, another office for it, and that I would expect to make that appointment from the South. There is a suggestion for regional appointments. I doubt very much if that is expedient, but I would be glad to appoint a member from the South as I have several times indicated, and would be glad to approve a bill appointing - designating or increasing the number, so that I could appoint someone from the South. I think it has also been suggested that perhaps there should be two more members. I hardly think that would be necessary. Vacancies are occurring all the time by one way or another. Nobody expected Mr. Potter would resign. He did. There are always vacancies occurring on a board as large as that.

Press: Would the member be a democrat?

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President: I don't think that would make any difference one way or the other. I should imagine that he would be a Democrat, but that is a matter of small consequence on a judicial board of that kind.

I have two or three inquiries about western waterway development. I covered that pretty well in my message. I of course didn't mention all the rivers, but I mentioned the main lines and that of course includes their tributaries. I think I probably said nothing about - the Missouri would be included in Kansas City - but I said nothing I think about the Illinois River. That would be included in the Great Lakes to the Gulf waterways, and of course the upper Mississippi would come in. The fact is that the Secretary of War is now having investigated the question of what legal authority he has to provide for a like line or a similar line of boats on the upper Mississippi, running from somewhere, St. Paul, Minneapolis or beyond, down to St. Louis, to correspond with those that run from St. Louis to the Gulf. That was an experimental project, but of course - from St. Louis to the Gulf - with the idea that if it proved profitable, which it has - I don't mean by that that it has made very much money, but it showed that it was commercially feasible, that it would then be disposed of. It has been proven I think to be commercially feasible and can be disposed of at any time, and the Secretary of War is investigating the project of having similar lines run from St. Paul down to St. Louis and beyond. Now, this is largely, as I indicated, the other day, a matter of money. The present budget carries I think at least \$10,000,000 that could be devoted to this purpose. I am quite naturally waiting to see what happens to the tax bill to see if any more

money can be made available for the present year. Now of course I stand by the budget, as I have submitted it, for the present, but I understand that we have to have a supplementary budget probably for the river and harbor work for the present year, and when that comes up then there will be an opportunity to consider the needs here. I understand that it is probable that \$10,000,000 more could be profitably spent in a year. That is \$20,000,000 a year. Now that all depends on whether the tax bill is increased, so that it entirely exhausts any probable excess of income over outgo.

Press: Would that be spent on the Mississippi system?

President: Well, on that general system. The Ohio I think is to be increased in two or three years. I think we have about 30,000 men working on that. It is completed from Pittsburgh well down toward the Mississippi.

I haven't any specific information about the amount carried in the budget for the prevention of tuberculosis. I would have to say about that and about all these things that so far as I know the amount carried in the budget seems to be wise. Now the budget is made up in this way. Departments make their recommendations. It is for the Department to show that the money it has asked for in the preliminary budget is needed. The Bureau of the Budget doesn't undertake to show that it isn't, but on the other hand all the Bureau recommends is what the Department proves is needed. That would be what was done here or with any other item. Now, that isn't the end of the budget. It goes up to the Congress and as I pointed out in my Message they have the right to increase or diminish it, and oftentimes it happens there is an arrival of new evidence after the budget goes to the Congress. I think

the disposition in the House is rather to enlarge it then reduce it on the whole, but our experience under the budget I think has shown that the appropriations on the whole are within one or two percent of what the budget has recommended. Now this may be too small, or too large. I haven't any information. If this inquiry is instigated by some one that is interested and thinks it is too small, why they have an opportunity to appear before the House Committee ~~of~~ and give their testimony about it, or before the Department of Agriculture for a supplementary budget.

I expect to appoint Mr. Woodlock. I am waiting to see what can be done about the other member.

I think there has been a Tacna-Arica appeal. It will be taken up and considered right away and disposed of as well as I can on its merits.

The invitation from the League of Nations has been received and it is being considered both here and at the State Department, and in the Senate, to see what reply we can make and to study the probable effect of it, and it will be disposed of in accordance with the principles laid down in my message.

There isn't any comment I can make on the courtmartial of Colonel Mitchell. That will come before me for decision.

I don't know enough about the workings of the school board of the District to know whether it is feasible to have them elected or not. I recall about that what was an interesting incident to myself. When I studied geography I was very certain that it said in the geography that there were certain elections held by the people of the District, and when I was candidate for Vice President I came through Washington and some of the local newspaper men here inquired of me whether

I was in favor of elections in the District, and I told them that I thought they had local elections here now. I didn't happen to be correct, but it came about by reason of what I had remembered of my geography days. It seemed very curious to some of the newspaper men who were considerably younger than I, that I must be very much mistaken about it. I don't know what could be done. I want to have the schools of the District up to the very best condition. Whether they could be improved by having an elective school board - that is the direct question - or not, I do not know. And I haven't any mature views about the matter of general suffrage in the District. I can see a great many difficulties. Of course I am pretty well committed to local self-government, and having people elect their own officers. But of course I have also had it brought to my attention, though not in any discussion of what ought to be done here in the District, the rather sorry plight of the national government of one of the countries abroad. It has no jurisdiction whatever over the local police. It is never certain whether it is going to have police protection. It is in a certain city and it is there rather as a matter of suffrance. Now, the United States Government couldn't submit to anything of that kind. It has to have absolute authority to protect itself and pretty nearly absolute authority over local police, and in order to have authority over local police it has to have pretty general authority over the government of a locality. This of course is a Federal city set apart for the carrying on of the business of the United States Government. Pennsylvania is interested in it, the States of Washington and Oregon are interested in the Government here in the District of Columbia no less than Maryland and Virginia. And those states are interested in it no less than persons that live here. So it makes a

difficult and complicated question, and unless there appear to be very serious abuses of some kind or another I should be rather inclined to let the present method of government go on. They tried local government here one time with an elective Mayor, I think, and then they went back to the present system.

I haven't done anything further about reappointing District Attorney Gordon. He is in office and of course stays there. There is no haste about it.

I expect to appoint Major Graham to succeed Colonel Sherrill. I spoke to him about it. He is glad to take the position, but as I always say I can never promise what I am going to do because something may come up about which I have no information at present.

I have signed one or two pardons that are to take effect I noticed on Christmas eve, or the 23rd of December. I hadn't in mind any specific number.

Tuesday, December 22, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

We are still working on the questions involved in the invitation from the League of Nations, in order to see what proper response can be made.

General Butler hasn't resigned from the Marine Corps, so far as I know. The resignation wouldn't come to me. I suppose he would be the proper person to interrogate about that. But I have no information about it.

I haven't any information about the Noyes plan for farm relief that isn't public property. All proposals for farm relief will be taken up by Secretary Jardine and carefully considered. We are working on that problem all the time. Some of the best minds in the United States are constantly engaged on it.

I have already spoken about the League of Nations invitation.

Chairman O'Connor came in this morning to confer with me about possible competition that might arise in rates between American lines and foreign lines, to see what steps could be taken by our country to support our own ships. I mean those that are privately owned.

I think one or two Christmas pardons have been granted. I don't know just how many. I signed several pardons the other day and I noticed some of them were to go into effect about Christmas time.

Here is a question that says that Premier Mussolini said "that the parliamentary system is in a state of obvious decadence in all countries which have followed it." I haven't any information about that. We don't have the

parliamentary system in this country. I would assume that he was referring to the parliamentary form of government that is in use on the continent. And of course the British Parliament is the great example of it.

The matter of protecting our people as well as we can from the high price of rubber is being taken up by the Secretary of Commerce. I think it has also been considered by the Secretary of State. I don't think that this is any recent beginning of such activity. It has been going on for a long time.

When the Tacna-Arica appeal has been considered, I imagine that the first step will be to notify the countries interested to file briefs. Now, it is possible that I may arrive at some conclusion in relation to that, with the advice of course, of the State Department some time today. I want to expedite it in every possible way.

I have already spoken about the activities in the rubber situation.

I don't know anything about father's Christmas plans, except in the most general way. I don't know of any activities that he is likely to engage in on that day that are different from those that he usually pursues.

I have already referred to General Butler.

Perhaps I should say that what we are working on in relation to the invitation from the League of Nations is what method we can best pursue in working out some way to accept the invitation. The studies that are being made are of a constructive and affirmative nature.

About the appointment of Mr. Taylor. There seems to be a little misapprehension about that. I arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Taylor would

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be a good man to appoint, and after reaching that conclusion, as I usually do I sent for the Senators from that state. One of them was here and the other one was away where he couldn't be reached. I sent for Senator Underwood to inquire if he had any personal objections. He said he had not, and he undertook to make inquiries of his colleague and I understood he had no objection to the appointment. I make that statement in order that it may not be thought that Senator Underwood or any one else dictated the appointment. They were inquired of because the appointment lay in their state. I think the Democratic ranking member on the committee was away and so I wasn't able to inquire of him, which I possibly might have done.

F Tuesday, December 29, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Report has been made to me by the Federal Trade Commission on its investigation of the tobacco growers and merchandisers. It is a very voluminous report. I don't know that there is anything in it that indicates wrongdoing on the part of anyone, so I have sent it to the Attorney General to analyze for the purpose of discovering whether it reveals any situation that requires any action. Now I don't want any inference to be drawn that it has revealed any such situation. The only thing that I have done is to send it there for analysis.

I have a number of inquiries about farm legislation. I have stated my position as best I could in my message to the Congress and in the somewhat more extended statement that I made in the address at Chicago. I have noticed what I thought was some confusion in the past in relation to my position, and if any one wants to know just what it is he can best find out by reading the message and the address. I think the confusion has arisen by reason of the fact that some times more emphasis is put on one portion of my address and some times more emphasis is put on another portion of it. They all go together and state as best I could my position.

I haven't any idea now that I shall consult General Pershing relative to the appeal that has been made by Chile from, I think it is, technically, from a decision that I made or a resolution that was passed by the Committee. I should expect that the only people that it would be

appropriate to consult would be the interested parties, which would be done in the usual formal way of having briefs filed.

The matter of attending the conference at Geneva seems to be progressing favorably. Such inquiries as I have made of members of the Senate and House indicate that they look on it favorably, and I haven't found any one there yet whom I have consulted that has any objection to make to an appropriation. Nothing has been done about the personnel that may be used, as to those that may be sent over from here or those that are already in the service there and would be available, and any reports in the press here, and especially abroad, of course are merely speculation. I can't prevent those - I am not making any criticism of them, but of course I don't want to be held responsible for them.

There will not be any withdrawal of the President as arbitrator in the Tacna-Arica matter. The arbitration is proceeding, and so far as I have any information will continue to proceed.

Senator Robinson and Governor Jackson of Indiana came in to pay respects. The Governor and I talked sympathetically with each other of some of the troubles that executives have, and quite naturally I reminisced some of my experiences when I was holding the office of Governor of a state.

I haven't any speaking engagements that I know of.

I judge that my father's condition is about what can be expected. His years and his troubles come on about as we had expected they might come.

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He has had some trouble with his leg. That is nothing new. It is sometimes more acute than at others. That may clear up as it has before.

I don't know of anything I can say about the coal strike other than to express gratification that there seems to be a prospect of adjustment between the interested parties. I noticed that President Green of the American Federation spoke very hopefully, and I have no doubt that he spoke from more accurate information than I have relative to the bright prospects of a settlement.

The reports that we receive relative to general business conditions are the same as those which have already been noted in the past. The immediate prospect seems to be good, ~~xxx~~ underlying conditions seem to be sound, speaking in a general way. There are certain areas and certain lines of business that are not so good, due to drought, failure to readjust, but in the industrial world readjustments seem to be proceeding most hopefully.

I expect that the report of the Federal Trade Commission on tobacco will be made public in due time. But I don't want to speak authoritatively on that. I haven't in mind just what was in the resolution that directed the report to be made to me. That might govern in some way what ought to be done with it in the way of publicity.