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CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPERS CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME VIII
January 3, 1927 - June 28, 1927

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NEWSPAPERS CORRESPONDENTS

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VOLUME VIII

January 2, 1927 - June 28, 1927

Tuesday, January 3, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

All the information that has come to me, and I think all that has come to the War Department or State or the Navy, relative to the situation in Nicaragua, has already been published in the press.

We are not burdened this morning with any multiplicity of newspaper questions. Perhaps I might take this occasion to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

(The same was wished for the President by the members of the press).

The various departments that I have consulted with are looking forward to the prospect of a fairly good year in the business of the country. There has apparently been quite an increase in opportunities for employment in the past few weeks. The railroads are showing a disposition to purchase equipment. The automobile trade is starting up. There is a plentiful supply of credit, which means that rates of interest are reasonably low, so that industry and commerce have no difficulty in financing themselves. The general rate of wages throughout the country appears to be at its highest peacetime record. It has been suggested to me that on account of the improvements in machinery and the advanced methods of production that the country may be entering upon a new era, somewhat similar to that which was produced by the adoption of the factory system several generations ago, as distinguished from what had before that been the old method of hand and household production. You will readily see the significance that would attach to that and the difference in the policy in our economic development that would be involved. It would mean a very large production of goods and merchandise at decreased cost, bringing a wider distribution to the people and giving all of us an opportunity to enjoy and use many things that in the past have been impossible to secure.

The War Dept. is still working on the question of methods of financing the Mississippi flood problem, with the idea of relieving any possible inequalities that might arise from a general application of the principle of contribution by the localities, trying to work out some method of applying different rules to the different elements of the problem. It doesn't know yet just how that can be done, but hopes it can be worked out. Now, the elements of the problem that have to do with local contributions are the raising of the level of the present levees, the securing of new spillways, and the erection of new levees along the borders of the new spillways. It was estimated that that work would cost about \$180,000,000, and there is \$110,000,000 or \$120,000,000 that is to be used for the improvement of the river - broadly speaking we can call it the improvement - the whole cost being about \$300,000,000. That \$110,000,000 was to be borne in the plan presented by the Board of Engineers entirely by the U. S. Government, so that the contribution was not anticipated in the first instance on anything of the \$180,000,000, which at 20% would have been \$36,000,000, with some additions for rights of way. Those are the elements they are trying to readjust in some way.

Tuesday, January 4, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Here is a request for an autographed book that I found on the newspaper questions. I attended to that yesterday. I don't know whether it was properly left on the questions or not. Mrs. Pearson of Connecticut. I autographed a book for her yesterday.

I haven't any plan at the present time relative to the report of the St. Lawrence Commission, other than as I stated in my message to submit it to the Congress for their information. Congress is dealing with the question of waterways and their improvement and development, and as this was a material contribution of facts and evidence relative to that situation I submitted that report to them.

Press: Does that mean that you concur in the Hoover report?

President: I don't mean anything more than what I say. I have submitted it to the Congress for their information. I should assume that the facts that they have set out there are reliable. I haven't examined the report sufficiently to want to state any opinion as to whether I would concur in all their conclusions, as I do not know exactly what their conclusions are.

The report that I gave any instructions to the Secretary of State, Commerce and Labor, relative to discontinuing their studies regarding the reapportionment of the immigration clause in relation to the national origins provision was not correct. I do not know where that report could have

originated. Those three Secretaries are working on a report which I suppose they will be ready to submit to me in the near future. My desire is to carry out the provisions of the law. That is what the three Secretaries are trying to do.

I haven't any information about denaturing alcohol, as I expressed to the last conference. If you want accurate information about that, of course you can get it from the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department has never discussed it with me.

I don't know when the memorandum on China will be released for publication. This is a question from Mr. Halgren. Just what did you mean by that? What memorandum did you refer to?

Mr. Halgren: The memorandum that Secretary of State Kellogg has referred to in recent conferences.

President: Well, I imagine that is a memorandum that Mr. Strawn made.

Mr. Halgren: It was to have been in reply to the British --

President: I understand now what it is. I don't know when that memorandum will be completed or when it will be made public. I have been over some of the details of it with the Secretary and I haven't been notified as to whether he has finished his studies of it or whether he has sent the memorandum as a reply to the British position. I should assume that whenever he sends it to them and they have received it, why then he will be ready to make it public. That would be the natural course, not to make it

3.

public until he knew it had been received by the Government to which it was addressed.

There isn't any new development relative to either Mexico or Nicaragua that, so far as I know, hasn't been given to the press already. The policy of this Government has been stated time and time again as that of desiring to protect the lives and property of American citizens. Of course, in Nicaragua the Government itself has interests. We have purchased a right to build a canal, for which we paid \$3,000,000. We also have a right to locate a naval base on Fonseca Bay. Those are the main interests of the Government itself in that country. Of course our nationals are there in quite large numbers and have large commercial interests of lumber, coffee, rice I think, sugar, probably bananas, and I think some mining. It is for the protection of all those interests that I am solicitous and desire to take every action that the Government ought to take to secure that purpose.

Friday, January 7, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Several questions have been submitted relative to Nicaragua and some telegrams have come to me making inquiries about it from different publications. Of course I can't very well send to different publications throughout the country statements for use in their press. Those publications that are not represented here at the White House conferences will have to rely very largely on reports from these conferences for such information as they may need. Here is one inquiring as to the reasons for landing marines on the coast of Nicaragua. I think that has already been made as plain as I could make it, that it was for the purpose of protecting American life and property and the rights of the American Government within that territory. Another one, "What interests have we in the so-called neutral zones established in that country by the United States." There have been several neutral zones established in Nicaragua, I think principally by agreement between the different factions. The reason was because they were inhabited by American citizens and within their location is American property, so that if fighting or warfare took place in that locality it would probably result in injury to American citizens and American property. Another here inquiring on what principle of international relationship have we acted. Why, it is the generally recognized principle of the duty of the American Government to protect its citizens and their rights when they have gone lawfully into a foreign country and are abiding there in observance of the local laws.

I wouldn't care to give out the names of Americans that have asked for protection. That might result in injury to them, if their names are disclosed.

Press: Are there very many?

President: I don't know how many. I know of several that have been received. I don't have in mind the names myself and I wouldn't think it was proper to give them out if I did have them.

I do not think I have any specific information as to the relationship of Mexico to the present situation in Nicaragua other than what has already been published.

Press: What have you in mind in regard to the published reports?

President: Well, I don't know that I can state that accurately and if I could I hardly think I would want to state it at all. I haven't given specific and careful attention to published reports of that kind and I haven't them clearly enough in mind so that I could state them, but as I have observed them the impression that was made on my mind was that they were, very broadly speaking, in harmony with information that has come to me from other sources. I happen to have here a paragraph from some instructions that were issued to Minister Foster, at Mexico, on the 12th of August 1878 by the then Secretary of State William M. Evarts, and they express the policy of the United States so clearly that perhaps it might be helpful to the conference if I read them. It is quite short. It has since been known as the Evarts doctrine.

"The first duty of government is to protect life and property. This is a paramount obligation. For this governments are instituted, and governments neglecting or failing to perform it become worse than useless. This duty the Government of the United States had determined to perform to the extent of its power toward its citizens on the border. It is not solicitous, it never has been, about the methods or ways in which that protection shall be accomplished, whether by formal treaty stipulations or by formal conventions, whether by the action of judicial tribunals or that of military force. Protection in fact to American lives and property is the sole point upon which the United States are tenacious."

That sums up the general policy that the Government is attempting to pursue so well that I thought it might be helpful if the conference had it in mind.

Press: Could we have a copy of that?

President: I haven't any copies of it. I should be very glad to let any one have this copy I have. I don't know whether you have access to any documents that would give it to you or not. Now, I think the conference is by this time fairly well informed about our Nicaraguan policy. I have stated it quite a good many times. We have sent forces there to protect our interests and Admiral Latimer has general authority to take such action as he may think is necessary from time to time to accomplish that purpose. It has been the policy of our Government, worked out by Secretary Hughes as an example, in getting the Central American representatives up here to make treaties to discourage revolutions. Revolutions have been one of the peculiar drawbacks of that locality. I don't speak of that in any critical way or desire at all to criticize those countries, but that is the fact, that revolutions have retarded their progress. We wanted to do

what we could to be helpful in getting them to adopt a policy that would discourage revolution. Whenever one breaks out we find ourselves in the same position that we are in relation to Nicaragua. Our people, property, and our rights are in jeopardy and it necessitates our sending forces for their protection. We wanted to use our good offices and extend our assistance to help those people to establish stable governments. As an example of what we have been willing to do you will recall our recent assistance to General Obregon when he was President of Mexico threatened with revolution. He applied to this Government for its moral support, for arms and supplies, which were sold to him to help him in the situation in which he found himself. We did that because we wanted it understood that when we have recognized a government our recognition ought to be considered of some value. It wasn't a mere empty gesture, but it meant that this Government considered that the government it had recognized was one that was doing the best it could, was undertaking to maintain its international obligations, protect the rights of Americans and the rights of other people that found themselves within its jurisdiction, and while it was doing that under our recognition we wanted to give it what aid and assistance we could. Well, acting in accordance with the treaties that were negotiated here some of the Central American countries and our country recognized the Diaz government in Mexico, thought it was the government in authority because we considered it had come into authority in a constitutional manner. We can't always inquire as to

the source of authority that a government has, but after we find it a de facto government that is able to exercise its authority and jurisdiction over the country that it represents and fulfills the other requirements, then we recognize it. We recognized the Diaz Government, and having recognized it we are taking the same position toward it that we took toward the Obregon government in Mexico. I wasn't following the details of the negotiations at that time, but it was my understanding then that there was a kind of a general conference at which it was understood and agreed that Diaz would come into power under a constitutional method and was duly chosen first designate, which means Acting President, and therefore was entitled to ^{the} recognition of the other countries and we recognized him.

Press: Have the Central American countries recognized him?

President: I think the Central American countries have not recognized him, but the others have acting in accordance with the terms of their treaty. I have never given enough thought and study to the plan of financing campaigns. It has been suggested quite a number of times and I think in some states there is something of that nature, especially where they apply the referendum quite extensively. The government itself undertakes to provide literature and sends it out to the registered voter on pending questions. I think it also undertakes to send out to them information relative to candidates. I don't know whether that would be practicable in all cases. I see this question relates to financing the major political parties. I can see that minority parties would feel that

that would be quite to their prejudice and whether it would be possible through any method of that kind to have campaigns conducted without voluntary contributions I couldn't say without making more study of it than I have had.

I don't know just what we shall do about taking up negotiations with Canada for the construction of a St. Lawrence shipway. I have sent the report that has been made by the engineers up to the Congress for its information. Perhaps the Congress will wish to indicate whether they wish negotiations proposed. Of course, nothing of that kind is necessary and we can take up negotiations with another power on the voluntary motion of the Executive at any time without any suggestion from the Congress.

I have been invited to speak at Buffalo at the dedication of the new International Bridge which is being erected between the city of Buffalo and the Canadian shore, the expectation being that such dedication may occur some time early in the Fall or late in the Summer. Of course I can't tell so far ahead whether it will be possible for me to go up there or not. I recognize the importance of the occasion and the epoch-making event of the opening of an international bridge of that kind. Also it will be time for the celebration of the peaceful relations that have for such a long time existed between Canada and the United States, which makes it all the more an interesting event.

To go back to the Nicaraguan situation, I understood that there was no doubt that arms had gone from Mexico, I don't mean from the Mexican

Government, but that arms had been shipped from Mexico to Nicaragua. I do not think that this Government has been in communication with Mexico in relation to that. When the Diaz government was recognized and an embargo on arms was placed by this Government, and I think by the Central American Governments, against the shipment of arms into Nicaragua. I believe that Mexico was approached by the United States with an inquiry as to whether Mexico would put on an embargo. I understand that they did not put on an embargo. I think that is probably the extent of any communication that has been made by this Government to Mexico relative to the shipment of arms.

Tuesday, January 11, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about Mexico other than what has already appeared in the press. I have put into my Message to the Congress yesterday everything that I have to say at the present time about the Nicaraguan situation. There isn't any further comment that I can now make about that.

I haven't yet selected a house to live in after we vacate the White House. We have several in mind that would apparently be agreeable. I am undertaking to see if I can't get one near at hand. I suppose if I have to go so far away that I might naturally travel back and forth by automobile it doesn't make much difference whether it takes 5, 10 or 15 minutes to go and come, but the convenience of my household, the servants that come in during the day and do not stay there during the night, would probably be much better served if I could secure a location that is close to the White House.

I haven't taken any action on the report of the Tariff Commission on hosiery schedules. It is my recollection that they have sent me a report which shows that the cost of production of some of our hosiery is such compared with the cost of production abroad that it would warrant some reduction in the tariff, and in other kinds of hosiery the production cost here compared with that abroad is such that it would warrant some increase in the tariff. I am having the report considered by the Department of Commerce and the Treasury Department - I don't know which one has it now - to get their advice as to the effect on our commerce and the effect on our revenues.

I have had invitations to go to the Northwest - Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana - for a visit during the coming summer. I have those under consideration. I think it is very doubtful if I will be able to go so far away.

Press: Do you mean for your vacation?

President: No, I didn't understand that that was an invitation to come and abide with them, but an invitation to make a visit.

Press: Have you given any consideration to the question of a summer White House somewhere in the wide open spaces?

President: Well, I think I have read some newspaper statements that you (Mr. Wile) have written about it.

Mr. Wile: I was only reporting what I understood to be the facts.

President: I have come to the general conclusion that a summer White House could be established if they would establish one in every Congressional District. That of course is an interesting question. But my general view about that is that while it would be a great convenience to have a place that the President could go to in the summer and have it all ready for him and suited to his use, that there are other considerations that are also quite important, and that is that the President has tastes that he might want to defer to as to the locality to which he would like to go to spend the summer. And then I think it is an advantage to the President to go to one locality at one time and another locality at another

3.

time. Neither of those conditions would be served if you had a permanent summer White House. Of course, there is opportunity for travel, which the President might avail himself of, but you gentlemen who have been on trips with me know of the difficulties that the President encounters as soon as he goes away from his permanent location, and any extended trip of course means a very great strain on the President. I have to keep in mind that there is only one ex-President living.

All I would want to say about protection of property and live in any part of the world would be, of course, that the Government will do the best it can. Wherever it is threatened it will use such forces as it has at its command to afford protection.

Friday, January 14, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Chairman O'Connor of the Shipping Board came in this morning to talk with me about the possibility of transferring to the Shipping Board some of the transports that are used by the Army and Navy. I understood his idea to be that if the Fleet Corporation were to carry on the work of Army and Navy transport which he said now costs about \$10,000,000 a year, it probably might be done in connection with commercial activities of the same boats at a considerable saving to the Government. I couldn't give him any opinion about that without taking it up with the War and Navy Departments. I imagine that they would be quite solicitous to maintain the entire control over the Army and Navy transportation and wouldn't wish their boats to be in the hands of the Board of the Fleet Corporation. So I doubt if anything could be done in that direction. But it is an interesting suggestion and well worthy of consideration.

I called in Representatives White and Lehlbach to confer with Secretary Hoover and myself about radio legislation. I wanted to see what question is at present before the conference committee that has been appointed to confer upon the differences in the bills that passed the Senate and the House and see what could be done, if anything, to expedite a decision. I judged from what they said that the committees were not very far apart and that there was a possibility of reaching an agreement.

Press: Would you say what was their chief disagreement?

President: I don't think I would say that. No, I don't think so. I of course want to avoid if possible the setting up of a new independent commission, so that I have been desirous if possible to have this board that is to be established function in conjunction with the Department of Commerce. But my views about radio legislation were quite carefully set out in my message. If you desire to comment on my personal views you will find what I had to say about it there. I wouldn't say that I look for the ultimate success of the essential features of either the Senate bill or the House bill. Naturally, when there is a difference of opinion, they have a conference and it usually results in a compromise. I don't see any reason why they can't reach a compromise in this question. It seemed to me that some compromise might be reached as to what action should be taken in case of a contest. Where the small affairs only are concerned and it is merely a ministerial duty, no objection on the part of any one to the issuing of a license, the question of issuing it is not of great consequence, it can be done very well in the Department of Commerce. Where ~~it~~ is a contest over it, of course it is quite apparent that a contest of that kind had better be decided by an impartial and somewhat detached board having judicial functions and it is for that purpose that I think the board ought to be established.

Press: By that you mean this judicial board to be established in the Department of Commerce?

President: Well that would depend upon what you mean by independent.

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I should say not exactly independent. Their findings, of course, would be entirely independent, but it would be in the nature of an appeal board.

Press: Within the Department?

President: Well, not exactly within the Department. A board that functions when there are disputes. When there is no dispute, why the Department of Commerce can very well issue the license or order. When there is a dispute let it go to the Board for its decision. It is in the nature of an arbitration, or anything of that kind, that our different Departments have power to establish.

There are no new developments, so far as I know, in the situation in Nicaragua that haven't been reported in the press, and no new developments in relation to the Mexican land and mineral laws that haven't been reported in the press.

Tuesday, January 18, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The only information I have about the rejection by Peru of the proposal that was made for the settlement of the Tacna-Arica difficulty is that which I saw in the morning press. Before deciding what action we could take, it would be necessary to get the formal statement of the Peruvian authorities. It is my recollection that we were requested by both the interested parties to extend our good offices in the matter. My thought would be, without consulting with the Secretary of State, that he would continue that effort just so long as he thought there was any chance that it might lead to success. Should there be something in the report that indicated there was no use further to make an effort, why he would conclude that he had exhausted the possibilities. There may be something in the answer that comes from Peru that would open up some other avenue.

There are no new developments that I know of in Nicaragua or in Mexico. Of course the questions that we are interested in in Nicaragua I have already stated as carefully as I could in my Message that I sent to Congress. We are there to protect the lives and property of American citizens, protect the interests of this Government in the canal concession and the right to establish a naval base, and in addition to that we have received requests from two foreign governments to take such steps as were necessary to protect the rights of their citizens, that coming in as a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, it being understood abroad that other

governments hesitate to send any forces into Latin-America because of our position on the Monroe Doctrine and therefore they always give us notice in the first place that they think there is some jeopardy of their interests and bring it to our attention to see what we wish to do about it. That is incidental. If our forces are there trying to keep order, or such order as is necessary to protect our interests, why the interests of other people are naturally protected by the same method. We are doing what we can to compose the situation and prevent any injury to our interests before it accrues. I think that our presence there resulted in the saving of a very substantial amount of bloodshed. We have been able to extend medical aid to the wounded of both sides, I believe, which otherwise apparently they would not have been able to secure.

Now, our whole difficulty in Mexico is exceedingly simple, and stripped of all its outside discussions there is only one question, and that is the question of whether the property of our citizens there is going to be confiscated, going to be taken without being paid for. It is that which we object to and that which we are trying to prevent.

I hope that we shall be able to get through at this session some legislation on the Boulder dam. I don't wish to have you make the mistake that sometimes occurs -- as the session is going along some one asks me in one of their questions that come in if I am in favor of certain legislation. I say I am. Some one else that is in favor of other legislation which

I might also be in favor of just as much as they are concludes that I have discarded their legislation and taken up some other. This is only one piece of legislation. If you want, as I have said before, to find out what things I am in favor of, always consult my Message. I stated in my Message that this is a short session, and while I gave a general survey of the state of the Union I realized that it would not be possible to secure very much in the way of affirmative legislation. I am not familiar enough with the proposed amendments to the bill for the Boulder Dam to give any opinion on that. My desire here is for the general purposes of erecting the dam, stopping the floods, providing southern California with water and the surrounding territory with irrigation, and using such power as they may develop for the benefit of that general locality.

I should take the opinion of General Hines about having the Veterans Bureau advance loans on the insurance certificates of the World War veterans. He told me that he had been up to New York and secured the cooperation of, I think, 14 banks in one day. When this matter first came up hundreds went into the banks and, of course, oftentimes they were not known to the banks and it would be a question of identification. The amount that can be secured now ranges I think from \$80 to \$130 or \$140. It would be very good business for banks that have the time to devote to it. But of course each of the items is small. He told me he has secured facilities, and it is my understanding that the banks over the nation are rather priding themselves in their desire to accommodate veterans of the

World War in relation to loans on certificates whenever it is necessary. Of course, it is my hope that the veterans will not find it very necessary to make loans of this kind, or especially to take any action that would result in their abandonment of their insurance certificates. I understood from General Hines that he rather favored some arrangements by which these certificates could be ~~be~~ turned into the Veterans Bureau and loans issued through that medium. My only desire here is to secure the best possible methods for the accommodation of the veterans and shield them against the imposition and the loss of the rights that accrue to them under the legislation of the Congress.

Whatever settlement President Diaz of Mexico wants to suggest or the other parties in interest, I would say (Nicaragua I mean) is very largely a domestic question down there. What we are interested in is in having a settlement that will restore the tranquillity of that country. I don't know enough about any proposals that have been made to discuss their details or pass any judgment on their adequacy.

There isn't anything that I could say about the action of the Senate appropriation committee in proposing to proceed at once with the building of three cruisers that I have not already said. (Our country has been undertaking, in so far as I have had direction of its relations in this respect, to get away from the policy of competitive building of armaments. That seems to me the main question of the situation here, especially

as about the only suggestion that is made to me for our starting this year to build three cruisers was that some other countries were building cruisers. I was glad to support a policy, in so far as I could, of letting our country lead of its own volition in abandoning the policy of competition in the building of naval armaments.) I sometimes see statements that some of the other countries have not observed their treaties in this respect. Those statements of course come from misconception. The treaties refer, so far as the 5-5-3 is concerned, to capital ships. I supposed that any one would know that the State Department and the President would not sit by without taking some action if any country was violating the terms of their treaty, and of course, so far as we know, no nation desires to or has thought of it. There isn't any limitation on the number of cruisers that can be built. The limitation is on the size, which is limited to 10,000 tons, and on the caliber of the guns, which I think is 8 inches. Now, of course, there is on the other side the financial consideration. We have been building two airplane carriers that cost us about \$90,000,000, about \$45,000,000 a piece. This budget that is now going through will probably provide enough money for their completion. When that is out of the way there will be an opportunity to build some more cruisers without any expansion of the entire amount of the naval appropriations. We are already building 5 cruisers - 2 of them are already being built and 3 of them are just starting. If we could wait about these other 3 cruisers until next year we could finance the proposal very much better.

I have sent to the Congress the report of the Committee, if I may so call it, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Commerce and Labor, on that part of the immigration law known as the national origins clause. That report constitutes all the information I have of an authoritative nature. My duty is of course to try to find out what the law is and do the best I can to carry it out. That would be the course that I should pursue in relation to this or to any other function that rested on the Presidential office, either by reason of the Constitution or by reason of a statute of the Congress. I think there is pending some proposed legislation which very likely would clear up any question and solve any difficulty.

Friday, January 21, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have not taken any final action on the Rivers and Harbors bill. It goes to various Departments for their recommendations. So far as they have come in they have all been favorable. I mean on the general proposition of the bill. There are two or three things in it that are not in agreement with the recommendations of the Board of Engineers.

Press: Would you care to specify which items those are?

President: I think the Board of Engineers recommended \$6,000,000 for the Missouri River instead of \$12,000,000. Then it was necessary to make some further study about some canals that are down in North Carolina.

Mr. O'Connor of the Shipping Board and some other members came up to speak to me about a bill that is pending putting more money into the loan fund. I think they now have \$59,000,000. They want to put more money into it, which they are prevented from doing on account of some technicality. \$59,000,000 is now in the loan fund. There is some other money that they thought manifestly belonged there, and on account of some ruling of Comptroller McCarl they want to get some legislation to provide for that. I told them I didn't know how sound that policy would be but would have the matter investigated.

There isn't anything new that I would wish to say about the practice of our State Department in consulting with the Treasury and Commerce when loans are to be floated here for foreign purposes. There are

several angles that come into that for the protection of the citizens of our country. One of them is in relation to foreign monopolies. Another one of course is the very broad question of whether at a particular time this country is in sufficient funds so that it is warranted in sending a considerable sum abroad. That is why the State Department consults with the Treasury, which has the advice of the Federal Bank Board. And there is the question of commerce to be taken up with the Secretary of Commerce, whether so far as he knows, also, the commerce of this country would not be likely to suffer if a loan was made abroad. There are those questions that come in. Sometimes one of them is applicable and sometimes another. But generally speaking the Government wants to interfere in transactions of that nature as little as it can, feeling that the people of this country have the right to make such disposition of their available resources as they wish. If they want to go into business in this country with it, why that is their privilege, and if they think it would be more to their advantage to invest it abroad, that again is a privilege we should not put any limits on unless it is to the disadvantage of the country as a whole. Under our bank laws and our federal reserve system we supervise our domestic finances, and by this somewhat voluntary method we place some supervision over transactions of our citizens in the foreign field.

I doubt if it would be helpful for me to undertake to enter into any discussion about arbitration that might relate to our difficulties with Mexico. I want to repeat again that we have only one question there and

that is the question of whether American property is going to be confiscated. From certain activities that I have seen, I doubt if the American people yet fully realize that that is the question at issue. There are some smaller collateral things, but when that question is decided there wont be any further difficulty. All the action that the Government is now taking or has been taking, all its negotiations that it entered into before recognizing the Obregon Government, were for the purpose of getting explicit agreements and prevent the confiscation of American property. When I say American I mean property owned by our nationals. Now, I don't say it in any criticism of any one. I don't mean it in that way at all. But it is very difficult for me to understand how any one in this country can see that there is more than one side to that question. Under our system of law, our Constitution and our institutions, and our form of society, the right of persons to own their property and not have it taken away from they by the Government unless they are compensated for it is one of our inalienable rights. I think our public mind would save itself of a great deal of confusion if it would come to a clear comprehension of what this question is. This Government is on one side of this question and the Mexican Government is on the other side. If the public understands that, I don't believe that they would wish to make any criticism of us for contending for that principle and its application in Mexico. It is a general principle of our intercourse with other nations.

Mr. John S. Lawrence, President of the New England Council, and his wife and daughter came in to lunch with us and make us a social call. The only matter that was discussed to partake of any other nature was a reference to what he said was the effort that was going on to organize the textile industries and the boot and shoe industry. He thinks one of the difficulties in those two industries is a lack of organization, finding that those industries that are thoroughly organized are prosperous and those that are not organized are not prosperous.

I think the press already has all the information that has come to me relative to the situation in China. That country is undergoing a revolution and is split up into different sections, each of them contending against each other and each of them pretty much entirely denying the authority of the central government, so that at the present time there are so many factions that it is difficult to know whether the central government is in possession of much of any authority. What we are trying to do there, of course, is to afford such protection as we can for the lives and property of our citizens in accordance with our treaty rights and faithfully execute the treaties that have been made between the Chinese Government and ourselves. Because of the very grave danger of disorder I understand that Mr. MacMurray has been ordered back to Peking, or has remained there, I haven't had any report from Mr. Kellogg about that within 24 hours I should say. I have talked with him about dispatches that came

from Mr. MacMurray. I don't think he indicated in any of them that MacMurray had started for home. But perhaps he had. We arranged some time ago that he might come home partly for the purpose of rest and recuperation and partly that we might have a chance to confer with him personally about all the different angles of the situation.

The last I knew about railroad consolidations was some talk that I had with Chairman Parker and some talk that I had with Chairman Watson. Mr. Parker was at that time going to take up the matter in his committee and Mr. Watson said that they were already holding hearings and expected to be able to produce a bill.

I don't know enough about the details of any proposed reapportionment legislation so that a discussion of it would be of any very great value. I suppose every one recognizes that it is desirable to have reapportionment. The House, as I recall, passed a reapportionment bill several years ago and sent it to the Senate, where for some reason or other it failed of passage. I suppose the question is not between reapportionment and no reapportionment. It is a question of what kind of reapportionment, and that is the difficulty that has prevented further action before this time. Some very good authorities say that the House ought not to be enlarged. Others who apparently are equally well informed, whose judgment you would suppose was just as good, say that it could be enlarged without serious detriment.

I haven't seen the text of the resolution adopted by the Foreign

6.

Relations Committee relative to action in Mexico. It is possible that that bill will afford to the people in this country and abroad a considerable amount of information as to the position of the Senate and perhaps result in clarifying the situation. I very much hope that that might be so.

Tuesday, January 25, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Our policy in respect to our citizens and their property in China is that which I have often outlined to the conference, of doing what we can to protect them. There are great difficulties because of the vast extent of territory and the fact that we have people who are located in many different parts of China. All we can do about it is to do the best we can. The American situation and that of Great Britain is quite different. They have concessions in China and we have not, so that their policy perhaps might be different from ours. We have at the present time some forces around Shanghai. It is there that there is located the principal number of our citizens in China. I think there are some 4,000 in Shanghai and those we shall attempt to do the best we can to protect from disorder and mob violence. A memorandum was handed to the Secretary of State not very long ago from the British and the Secretary has been considering making some statement that would more clearly define the policy of the United States relative to our treaty rights and so on in China. I think he may have such a memorandum ready within a day or two, so that you will have an authoritative and carefully prepared statement of the American position and policies. That hasn't anything to do with protection of our citizens and their property that is located there, but it has to do with the other matters which are not in the memorandum that the British made.

There are no new developments, so far as I know, in Nicaragua or Mexico.

I haven't decided on any one to fill the vacancy in the Interstate Commerce Commission. Now that Mr. Woods has been rejected I shall have to canvass the situation to see who I can find that would be suitable to fill that place.

And I would say the same about the People's Counsel of the New Public Utilities Commission. I have withdrawn the name of Mr. Mallan and shall canvass that situation again to see if I can find a suitable person.

As it is probable that Mr. Kellogg, Secretary of State, will give out a memorandum within a day or two relative to China there isn't any occasion for my making further comment about it.

It wont be possible for Mrs. Coolidge and me to attend the dinner in honor of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Grover Cleveland on March 18th in New York. I suppose that is ex-President Cleveland. The name given here is Cleveland. I should be pleased if I could have such an opportunity. As I was growing up President Cleveland was the first President that I came to comprehend at all. Of course I could recall others. In my still younger days we were taught in the District Schools the name of the President of the United States, Governor of the State, and so on, so that I recall some earlier Presidents. He was the first one that I comprehended in relation to his office. The more experience I have had

3.

in public affairs, the more I have come to admire the strength and solidity of his character and the efficiency of his administration.

I have already spoken of the Interstate Commerce Commission and China.

I have a large number of inquiries this morning, but a great many of them are repeaters.

Friday, January 28, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I was not aware that there was any secrecy surrounding the appointment of men to public posts in the District of Columbia. My own procedure has been almost to approach a point of giving public hearings in relation to suggestions, perhaps not quite, but every one so far as I know of that has wanted to come to me and talk with me about appointments in the District of Columbia has come and such suggestions as have been made have been taken and considered. A careful canvass of the names that have come in who are thought to be worthy to hold appointment, or who have appeared to be persons that I could secure, has been made. The method has been to make very careful inquiry among a great many people in the District concerning qualifications of persons that were proposed and then the selection has been made in accordance with the apparent merits that have been disclosed as a result of those inquiries.

I haven't chosen any one yet for the Public Counsel for the Utilities Commission. I would like a man of experience and outstanding legal attainments. It is very much easier, of course, to stand here and draw the specifications of a person that I should like to appoint than it is to go out into the city and find such a person. There is the handicap that has been put on by the legislation that makes it all the more difficult to get a man of experience and outstanding ability because he may within a certain specified time have owned some securities that

disqualify him. There is some question as to whether if a person has entered into a contract for the use of a telephone he may not be disqualified. I am not going to assume that that is so, but a literal interpretation of the statute might give basis for an argument that that was a contract and if any one has had a contract with any public utilities in the city, why he is disqualified from serving. I don't know whether the purchase of some tickets on the street railways, which I suppose would be a contract between the person purchasing them and the street railway to furnish him with transportation, would disqualify or not. It would on a close interpretation or literal interpretation of the statute. I merely mention these as showing the length to which the Congress has proceeded in tying up the situation in making a selection of any persons who undoubtedly would be willing to serve, who have had experience and ability, and outside of this statute are recognized as persons of character.

I should doubt very much if it would be at all practicable for the President of the United States to go into conference with the President of Mexico. International relations are not conducted by that method. I think ever since some one attempted to conduct negotiations directly with George Washington, which he refused to do and referred them to the Secretary of State, it has been recognized that the foreign relations of this country are to be conducted through that avenue.

I have the report of the Tariff Commission on cotton hosiery.

3.

There are so many different angles to it and such a lack of agreement on the part of the members of the Commission/^{on it} that I haven't been able to come to any conclusion on it.

I haven't decided on any one to take the position that is vacant on the Interstate Commerce Commission.

No final decision has been made on filling the vacancy on the Municipal Court of the District. I have several names under consideration and there again I shall proceed in the same way that I mentioned, take different names that are suggested and such names as may be suggested by myself, and make inquiries among people that are informed of the suggestions to determine those who are qualified to hold the position.

I haven't made any final decision about where I shall live when I have to vacate the White House for the repair of the roof. I have several houses in view. No final decision has been made.

This country has about 4,000 of its citizens in Shanghai. without doubt in obedience to the law. They are there lawfully and as long as that is the condition I don't know of any reason why they should be asked to leave their property and their business. There is a great deal of commerce with China that centers in Shanghai. If all the foreigners should leave there, the commerce that they minister to would be ~~pro~~ prostrate and the results would be very disastrous to the Chinese people that are dependent on that commerce for their existence. What we are attempting

to do is to forestall the recurrence in Shanghai to our citizens there of any such experience as took place, I think it was Hankow, you may have seen some pictures in the paper within three or four days showing the results of the rioting that took place there. Now, I am perfectly aware that the Chinese Government doesn't approve of anything of that kind and undoubtedly would do what it could to prevent it, and I am convinced is doing what it can to prevent the recurrence of anything of that nature in Shanghai. I have every reason to suppose that they will be able to prevent the breaking out there of any riots, but our purpose in having Marines and ships near there is to take care of our people the best we can. I haven't given any consideration to the statement issued by the Chinese Minister. The American position was stated at considerable length, and I thought with as much ~~pl~~ clearness as possible, by our Secretary of State within a day or two. That may be taken as the authoritative position of the United States until some other authoritative position is stated. There was a press report that some of the Chinese interests had given a statement to our Consul General, I think at Shanghai. We have had no report of anything of that kind yet. I think that statement appeared in the press of yesterday morning. So we are not advised as to whether the press report was correct. Mr. Kellogg has indicated that this country would be perfectly ready to enter into negotiations with the government and people, the governments representing the different sections of China, if that could be agreed upon, and that is the American position.

Tuesday, February 1, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not able to give the exact number of craft that the Navy has sent to China. We have several around in the Shanghai region. I think as I indicated at a previous conference, we have about 4,000 Americans there and we are doing what we can to afford them protection. Of course if we have a number of vessels there they would be serviceable in case the Americans desired to leave, or such part of them as might wish to be taken out. I don't anticipate that that is going to be necessary, but it is always a contingency in a disordered condition of affairs like that which now exists in China.

No arrangements have been made for dealing with the Chinese groups, other than that which was indicated in the prepared statement that Mr. Kellogg gave out some time ago, indicating our entire willingness to proceed by that method if such a method could be arranged.

There isn't anything that I could say about farm relief, other than what I have said in my several messages. I spent considerable time and space on that in my last message to the Congress.

And nothing new that I could say about constructing additional cruisers at this time. That is also dealt with in my budget message.

My budget message also made such recommendations for expenditures in the air force as I thought were warranted at this time. Of course every one understands, I suppose, that the President makes and submits a budget to the

Congress because Congress by a duly enacted statute has created a law authorizing and requiring that to be done, and in that the President makes such a distribution of funds that are available as would seem best to give a balanced expenditure to the several departments. None of the Departments, so far as I know, ever get all that they ask for, but I think it is fair to say that all departments are substantially satisfied - I have used the word satisfied rather than content - with the recommendations that I finally make. As I said in my budget speech last Saturday evening, if we should make a great many more recommendations than we do and entirely exhaust the resources of the Government, we wouldn't be able to provide for carrying on all the governmental projects that a great many people of the country, a great many people in the Departments, would like to see carried on. The element of time always comes in on these things. Ultimately I expect we shall be able to pay off the national debt. We all know very well that it can't be paid off in a year. Ultimately we are going to build an air force. We can't do it in one year. Ultimately I am in favor of some additional building in the Navy, We are building 5 cruisers now. We can't do all the building that I might like in a year. Ultimately we are going to do a great deal in river and harbor improvement. We can't do it in one year. Now, the budget is for the purpose of establishing, so far as it can, a scientific expenditure of the resources of the Government, so that they will be evenly balanced and, apply to each of these various projects what we can reasonably apply during any one year. Of course, under the Constitution the Congress has the authority to make appropriations. The budget doesn't undertake, the budget law, to divest the Congress of

3.

that power. Again, as I said in my speech, the Congress has not in any one year gone so far in expenditures as has been recommended by the budget. That is, in each year the Congress has made a smaller appropriation in the aggregate than the budget has recommended. Of course that isn't intended at all as criticism, it is intended rather to be a statement of fact. If I were to pass any criticism on it, I would say that I thought it indicated a great deal of care and thought on the part of the Committees of the Congress and of the Congress itself in the appropriation of the people's money. That is somewhat of an elaboration of the relation of the budget law to the appropriations in general. I make such recommendations as seem to me correct. It would be very wonderful if with the new light that might arise from the hearings they ~~you~~ didn't find some items that can be increased and some that can be decreased. That is why the budget goes to the Congress. If there wasn't any need of any further action, if it could be done under the Constitution, I think some arrangement could be made by which the Congress wouldn't have to pass on it. But it goes to the Congress in order that they may make the appropriations which they are authorized to do under the Constitution.

I haven't received any information from the Department in relation to the reported message from Admiral Williams that 104 Americans are missing in China. That naturally is cause for inquiry and solicitude. I don't think it warrants great alarm, on account of the disordered condition. That probably means that a person that was supposed to be at (A) is now not found there, and

there is every reason to suppose that that person has moved to some other locality where it is thought it would be more safe and convenient.

There isn't anything that I can say about coal legislation, other than what I have said in my message. The situation there seems to be that when there isn't any dispute in the coal industry it is very difficult to get any action of the Congress, and when there is a dispute then the action of the Congress is not likely to be helpful. Of course, it is very difficult to pass legislation concerning an industry when there is a strike on in that industry.

I don't recall that I have ever made any recommendation about the passage by Congress of any law that would undertake to regulate legislative agents. We have a law of that kind in Massachusetts. It works very well for the Massachusetts legislature. I am not sufficiently informed about the practice here in Congressional activities of that kind to know whether a law of that nature would be helpful or not. I can see quite a good many difficulties in its administration of a nationwide forum that wouldn't attach to a law of that kind for a single state. It is quite obviously a question for the Congress to settle itself and make such rules and regulations as it wants to have itself, rather than to have suggestions of that kind emanate from the Executive.

It is quite obvious that while I am very glad to give any information that I have at any time touching the relation between our country and other countries, that the serious matter of the conduct of relations of that kind has to go forward through the regular diplomatic channels and that I couldn't undertake through the press to do anything that might look like the conduct of our

national affairs through that medium. I wouldn't think that another country would feel that that is quite the thing to do. If we had something about which we wished to confer, or about which we wished to negotiate, why the thing to do would be to communicate that fact to that country. Now, I don't mean that it isn't perfectly proper to state to the press the general policy. That I do constantly. That was the nature of the message that I sent to the Congress, the nature of the statement that Secretary Kellogg made the other day. But when it comes down to specific questions and negotiation, why those of course are more profitably taken up directly with the countries concerned, if we wish to accomplish any practical results, than to undertake to do something through the indirect agency of the public press.

Friday, February 4, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I doubt if I have any information that the members of this conference are not already possessed of relative to the Harrison tax resolution in the Senate. I saw that he had made some motion in relation to taxation. I never had a chance to see what the resolution was, nor do I know anything about the Norris amendment favoring the application of surplus to debt retirement.

Press: Mr. President, for your information this afternoon the Senate adopted an amendment declaring that they favored applying the surplus to the national debt.

President: I see.

I don't know how much has been applied of our revenues during this fiscal year to the retirement of the debt. Those figures could undoubtedly be secured from the Treasury Department. I don't think any figures have come to my desk showing what that amount is.

The breakfast that the Texas people had with me and some of the Senators Wednesday morning was a social affair. Some of you may remember that when I was at Omaha in the Fall of 1925 there was a Texan there that presented me with a very fine Texas hat on the stage. The gentleman that performed that ceremony was up here with some of his friends and I took occasion to reciprocate by asking him to come in and have breakfast with me. That presentation was made I think just as I had made my speech at Omaha.

I have been invited to speak to the National Christian Endeavor Association in Cleveland. I have forgotten just when. It is sometime during the coming Spring or Summer. I haven't been able to give them very much encouragement about it. I told them I would take it under consideration.

I haven't yet made a final decision about where we shall go to live, but I think our most probable choice is the house which I believe is known as the Patterson house. It is on Dupont Circle. It is the property of a daughter of Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Alma Schlesinger. She lives almost entirely in New York now and has this house here. It is very favorably located and it has one of the conditions that are almost necessary, it is totally detached. It hasn't any other houses backing up onto it. It stands by itself with open space all about it. I have looked at that house and several others and the interior of the house, its arrangement and so on, is such as would be very comfortable for us I am sure.

Press: How many rooms has that house?

President: I really haven't any idea. Of course the White House looks to be very large, but it hasn't so very many rooms in it. In relation to its size, I should almost guess that this house has about as many rooms as the White House. Of course they are very much smaller. Then the hallways take up so much space. Some of the rooms are not large. I should judge there were 15 or 18 rooms in the Patterson house. That is just a very rough guess.

Have you made any decision as to the exact time of your leaving the White House?

President: I think we shall go very soon after the social season is over and it will depend upon the time that the contractors begin work. Whether they would want to begin before the 4th of March or not, I don't know. ~~Whether-they-would-want-to-begin~~ We need to stay in the White House until we are finished with the social season and the receptions and dinners are out of the way.

I think I referred in my message to the possibility of a grouping together of our insular possessions and the Territory of Alaska into one central government and probably taking the insular possessions out of the War Department. It is partly by accident, I think, that the War Department has charge of these possessions, because those came into our jurisdiction as a result of the action of the Army and the Navy, and because the Army was there in possession during the first part of our occupancy it was quite natural that they began to be administered from the War Department and as the administration was so well carried on it seemed to be the natural thing to leave it there. Now, I don't anticipate that some other Department could do the work better than the War Department. Their administration of our insular affairs has been exceedingly satisfactory, but the people that live in the Philippines and the people living in Porto Rico get the idea that because the administration is through the War Department that in some way or another it has a military aspect. That is not the case, but it gives that impression. I have thought, as I stated in my message, that it might be worth while to

make a change for the purpose of removing that impression and then get our outlying possessions all into one management.

I haven't come to any final decision about the Interstate Commerce Commissioner. I have had quite a number of recommendations.

There isn't anything that I can add to what I have already said about the situation in Nicaragua. I do not have in mind just what Secretary Kellogg may have said in relation to our good offices there. But whatever has been indicated in relation to that was transmitted to Admiral Latimer and the Chiefs of the parties that are on the ground, Admiral Latimer is in contact with them. If they wish to make any move in the direction that was indicated by the Secretary of State, I should judge that the obvious method to accomplish it would be for the interested parties to communicate their desires there on the ground to Admiral Latimer. I am not making any suggestion at all about it. I don't want to be represented as in the attitude of offering any advice about it whatever, but it seems to me that is the obvious thing. If any question arises of how they are going to take advantage of the suggestion of the Secretary of State, I should think the reply would be that the way to take advantage of it is to go to Admiral Latimer and accept such offices as he is able to perform.

Tuesday, February 8, 1927.

Report of the newspaper conference.

The best I can do to help any one that wants to know my attitude about public affairs is to refer them again to that book that was published by Mr. Slomp. I suppose that you have all followed the suggestion I made that your offices should provide you with a copy of it.

Press: We don't know what question that is that you are answering just now.

President: Well, that is a general question.

I don't know just when I shall take up the matter of making any decision relative to the tariff on pig iron. A report has come over, I think, from the Tariff Board and then I have that referred to the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Treasury to see what effect it would likely have on commerce and what effect it would have on our revenue. Then I decide what action I wish to take.

I haven't seen any detailed report of the speeches that Colonel Thompson is making. I assume if he is speaking in relation to the Philippine Islands that he is telling what he saw there and the conclusions that he drew, probably the same as were contained in his report he made to me and which I submitted to the Congress. His views are in very close accordance with mine. We differ about some things. My views on the Philippine situation were set out in my message and especially in that letter I sent to one of the officers of the Philippine Islands, I have forgotten whether it was directed to Mr. Quezon or Speaker Roxas.

Press: Roxas.

President: Then I think my message to the Congress last December

corresponded very closely to the recommendations that Colonel Thompson made in his report to me. I had expected to be able to confer with General Wood before I took final action on the resolution passed by the Philippine legislature relative to taking a plebiscite on independence, but the General has recently had another operation, so I am not sure that he can reach this country in time for such a conference. Of course, I have reports from him and statements of his views. I shall put off action, however, to see if I can confer with him and if I can't why then I shall go ahead and make my decision without such a conference.

I saw some press reference to the resolution suggested by Senator Shipstead for a conference to consider the question of a Confederacy of the Central American countries. That, of course, is an interesting suggestion. They have by that treaty that was negotiated in Washington, especially relative to domestic disorders, something of that nature already. This occurs to me though, in relation to this question, that such a movement might more properly come from the interested countries than from the outside intervention of our own country. Of course, it goes without saying that the people who are responsible for the foreign relations of our country, who have to carry them on and keep on friendly terms with other peoples, wouldn't think of putting a thing of this kind out into the public press or taking any action in relation to it without first making inquiries of the countries concerned whether anything of this nature would be agree-

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able to them, whether they would want to consider it. I spoke the other day about the difficulty of conducting foreign relations through the newspaper and this is an example of it. It would be very inappropriate for myself, for instance, or the Secretary of State, to put out a suggestion of this nature without first approaching the countries concerned to inquire whether they would be willing to consider anything of this kind, and if they said they would, why, then we would take it up with them further. If they ~~did~~ said not, then the matter of course would be dropped. Now, there is a little difference between that which is not immediately affecting our interests and a statement of policy such as we make concerning matters where our interests are involved, like we did in relation to the Chinese situation the other day, sending a proposal to different elements over there making such suggestions to them and then, in order that the public might know what we were trying to do, giving publicity to the proposal that had been made. But for a new departure of this kind, where our interests aren't particularly involved, of course the only method to proceed would be by first making a diplomatic approach.

I have never made enough study of the question of how the skyline and height of buildings around Lafayette Square ought to be treated, so that I could express any mature opinion in relation to it. Of course the building that is across the Square, which was put up by the Government, put up in time of war to be sure, but still put up by the Government, which is now

occupied by the Veterans Bureau, is a comparatively high building. I think it is a little unfortunate that so high a building has been erected on that location. I don't know what is proposed to be the height of the building that is to be erected on the other corner where the John Hay house was located, and I am not enough of an expert to know whether that would injure the artistic and appearance of the locality about the Square ~~mar~~ the looks of the White House. It is suggested here that the National Institute of Architects think that it would. That is a body of men well trained in matters of that kind. Their judgment would be worthy of a good deal of consideration and will undoubtedly be given all the consideration that it is entitled to.

While no final decision has been made and of course isn't made until the nominations go to the Senate, it is expected that Hugh Gibson, who is now our Minister to Switzerland, will be transferred as Ambassador to Belgium.

Friday, February 11, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't seen the suggestions said to have been made by Representative Fish of New York relative to the acquisition by this country of British and French possessions in the Caribbean, so there isn't any comment I can make about it.

It is too early to have received any response from the governments interested in the note that was presented yesterday relative to a further limitation of naval craft. It will probably be some time before any formal reply is made. It isn't quite correct to call this a new naval conference. There ~~is~~ is a conference on general questions of disarmament already in existence in which we are taking part and this was our formal suggestion as to what might be done by five Washington treaty powers relative to extending the limitation adopted at that conference to the naval craft, to which it does not now apply. The difficulty has developed at this preliminary conference as to which branch of armaments should first be taken up, whether it should be air or land or sea, so that it was suggested in my note and message that it seemed best to take up the naval branch first. We have a formula for that, and when that is disposed of very likely it will be easier to take up the other departments of armament. If naval armament hasn't any relation to land and air armament and we can get a standard adopted for naval armament, why then they can make a standard for the other departments that corresponds. There isn't any standard whatever in relation to land or air. Of course,

I don't know whether the proposal will be acceptable to the other powers, other than that because there is a standard already in existence and it would seem to be a reasonable proposal I had every expectation that it would gain a favorable acceptance.

I haven't made any choice yet of a new Interstate Commerce Commissioner.

I am advised that no marines, American marines, have been landed at Shanghai. I think that appeared in some of the headlines. I was told at the Cabinet meeting that a careful reading of the dispatch didn't bear out the headline. What happened is that some of our marines have arrived at Shanghai and have been partly or entirely taken off the transport which carried them there and distributed among some of the vessels that were already there. In that sense they have landed at Shanghai, but they haven't gone ashore.

There haven't been any developments that indicate any present necessity of landing marines. They are there, of course, as I have said a great many times, to protect American life and property in case these are in jeopardy and undoubtedly the greatest danger from that is not from any organized military forces, but the danger of mob violence breaking out in case the town is taken and the present government authorities are superseded by some other. The peculiar danger would come during that transition period and when the old authority breaks down and the new authority is not yet established. In order that we may be able to meet a contingency of that

3.

kind we have sent our marines there and some of our naval forces entirely in accordance with a well established practice that marines and sailors land in foreign ports from time to time when American interests there are in jeopardy to furnish them such protection as is necessary.

Press: Have there been any replies to our note to China?

President: No, I don't know of any formal reply coming. The only thing we have is, I think, some reports from Mr. MacMurray stating that he had presented the notes to the various interests in China.

Tuesday, February 15, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have here a question as to whether the Canadian and Australian navies are part of the British navy. That is more or less a question involving a technical construction of the unwritten British constitution, the relationship of the Dominions to the British Empire. In so far as it is a question of considering what ought to be done in relation to naval disarmament, it is a technical naval question. I should assume that any ships that fly the British flag were British vessels. Just what action would be taken in relation to their consideration in determining the quota, as I say, would be a technical question for the Navy to consider. I should think it would all revolve around the fact of my understanding of it, that a ship that flies the British flag is a British ship, the same as one that flies the flag of the United States is a United States ship.

I haven't made enough of a study of what effect a 5-day week would have on the welfare of the people of the United States, so that I could give an opinion on it that would be worth anything. It will be interesting to see how it works out in Mr. Ford's factories and the results secured there may throw a good deal of light on what might be possible in other industries, though of course it is recognized, I think, that he has an industry that is very peculiarly circumstanced and which doesn't afford a standard of judgment for much of any other of our industrial activities.

I think the State Department has not yet received any replies to

the suggestion made for further consideration of naval disarmament by the five powers signatory to the Washington treaties, and until those replies come in officially I can't anticipate by undertaking to make any comment on what they may possibly be or the possible results that would accrue from them when they are received. I suppose the press has it in mind that this is not a new or separate conference that is proposed. It is simply a suggestion that when these five powers return to the Geneva conference, which is going on, that they be empowered to negotiate treaties or a treaty among themselves on the general theory or the general standard of the 5-5-3 basis. It is not exclusive of what the League is trying to do, merely supplementing the action that is to be taken. I think it must be perfectly evident, I do not think that is too strong a term, that it is impossible to secure agreement among a lot of small countries, some of which have no navy at all and others of which have almost none, in matters that affect the five powers that signed the Washington treaties. It is for that reason that I have made a suggestion that we segregate that question, consider it as a separate question, which I think is the only practical method of approach. All I have suggested is that we have a conference about it and undertake to determine whether we can not reach some further practical conclusion in relation to it. I have made that proposal because I can see no other method of securing any result.

I am informed that Admiral Latimer is to have a conference today

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with Dr. Sacassa for the purpose of considering plans to prevent further strife and bloodshed in Nicaragua. I am very hopeful that something in the way of a settlement may come out of that conference, and until I know what the results of it are there isn't any other matter in relation to Nicaragua that I think it would be helpful to discuss.

It is very difficult to find out what conditions are in China. It is a vast territory having a vast people. We have Americans scattered all over it. I don't know of anything that has occurred lately that would indicate that American lives and property are in any greater jeopardy than would naturally be supposed from the warfare that has been going on there now for several years. What we are trying to do in relation to that situation is to be there and be ready to take care of our people as best we can in case necessity arises. It is a country that is far away, which we can not reach in a short time, so that on account of the situation which has developed we are keeping forces in the locality that will be able to land and protect our people and their property from outbreaks of mob violence.

I have several questions here as to what may be done about naval disarmament in case France or some other country doesn't desire to participate. The only thing I can say about that is what I have already said, that I don't care to anticipate that subject or that situation. I will see what replies are made by the different countries and then see what hopes we have from those replies of getting further limitations.

There isn't any present need for the use of marines in China.

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I have not yet reached any final decision about a member of the
Interstate Commerce Commission.

Friday, February 18, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any inquiry that has been made by the French Government relative to the French debt. It states here that there are reports from Paris that the French Government is making inquiries. I have heard nothing of that kind. I do not think it is true.

I have talked with some members of the Cabinet about the McNary-Haugen bill. It hasn't reached me yet. When it does, I shall consider it the same as I do any other bill.

We have sent additional marines to Nicaragua because of apparent reliable reports that have reached us that shipments of arms are going into that country to be used in the desultory warfare that is going on there, which would seem to indicate a greater degree of jeopardy for our people who live there and their property.

Press: Could you say whether those arms are going by land or sea?

President: I am not certain about that. I think they went both ways. It is difficult to get any information that you can rely on absolutely, but in cases of peril of that kind the best rule is to assume that anything that looks like a fairly reliable report should be acted upon and preparations made to meet the worst effect that could accrue from it.

I haven't had a chance to make any personal study of the reply of France. Secretary Kellogg made some statement that the reply was received, which I thought was appropriate. I want to wait until all the replies are

received before making any formal statement in relation to them. When they are received I may make some formal statement.

We expect to go up to the house on Dupont Circle approximately the first of the month. It might be two or three days after that. I think the house is being put in preparation for us. Probably some telephones will have to be installed and some things of that kind, perhaps some electric bells around the house for the purpose of calling people that are at the front door and so on.

I am not informed whether Senator Phipps or any other members of the Colorado delegation are going to be present this afternoon when I press the button opening the Moffatt Tunnel. I should be very glad to have any of them come in that wish to come, any Senators or Representatives.

I have no information about any suggestion that bankers or others who are acting as interlocking directors of corporations engaged in the same industry are being advised by the Federal Government authorities to retire from all but one of their directorates. I think there is a law in relation to national banks that provides that a director of one bank shall not be a director of another without the express consent of the banking authorities here in Washington. I am not certain whether it is the Federal Reserve Board or whether it is the Comptroller of the Currency. But whatever the Federal Reserve Board might do in that respect would not be likely to come before me. I have taken occasion once or twice to commend something that they have done. Some people have misunderstood that as thinking I was

interfering with the work of the Federal Reserve Board, which wasn't the case. I do not confer with them about their actions. They have a very peculiar relation to the business in which they are engaged, sitting in relation to it almost in the same relation that the Supreme Court sit in relation to the transaction of their business. While I might think it is perfectly proper to comment on the result and effects of a decision of the Supreme Court, I should hardly expect they would consult me about a decision they might make, and it is the same with the Federal Reserve Board. Now, the only other body here that I can think of that might have or express any opinion about interlocking directorates would be the Federal Reserve Board. I never heard of their taking any action in relation to it. It might be that some case would be reported to the Department of Justice where they thought that relations were such that interlocking directors would be in a position where it would raise a strong presumption of restraint of trade contrary to the provisions of the Sherman act. In that case they might take some action. I haven't heard anything of that kind. I know of no such intimation being made by any parties.

THE PRESIDENT: I expect to get the Board of Radio Commissioners ready to send up for confirmation at this session. As always happens when there are limitations put on the appointing power, it takes some longer to select a person. This commission is to be divided up as to location. I do not know whether the theory is whether the radio works differently in one section than it does in another, or just what lay in the minds of the Congress. They provided for one each from five districts - not more than three of which should belong to any one political party. There is some difficulty even now in the country whether one belongs to a political party or not. I have had filed, I think, about nine hundred applications for this place. I want to get some one that has some general knowledge of the radio or broadcasting business - something of an expert in relation to it. I would like to have some one too - if I can find them - that knows something about public service regulation. And then, of course, business experience and legal ability are always helpful on a commission of this nature.

I do not think there is anything that has come to my attention that has not already been published or amplified in relation to the proposal of the British to send a cruiser or something of that kind to Nicaragua. They have suffered some damage down there. I think the Italians have also filed some claim for the damages they have suffered. There was quite a considerable amount of

damage in one of the cities as a result of the disorder that is somewhat prevalent in Nicaragua. One of the towns there suffered quite severely from fire. I do not think any foreigners have been killed, but I do not know what personal injuries may have come to them. I think the losses have been almost entirely in the nature of property losses. The British have the same interest in protecting their nationals that we have in protecting ours. They have considerable investments there. They have spoken to us twice, I think, about the situation in Nicaragua and suggested that we do what we could to protect their nationals - the property of their nationals. Of course that went along with the protection of our own people down there. It has been usual for this government to interpose if a foreign government has taken any action which looked to be in the nature of occupying territory in any of the Latin-American countries. I think it has been generally recognized that they are undertaking to protect their citizens and the property of their citizens located in those countries. Of course that isn't anything to which this country would object. That is, I think a line has been drawn between landing to occupy territory, for instance, until such time as debts and obligations might be met and sending some force that might act in the nature of a police authority. As I recall it, President Roosevelt made very strong objection to Germany seizing and holding territory in Venezuela until Venezuela had settled certain claims that the Germans had. It has not usually been necessary for European

governments to send forces over here. I do not understand that the British are expecting to land any forces in Nicaragua. They are sending over a vessel that could be used to take away their nationals in case they wish to come away. No other method is provided for their transportation.

QUERY: Could you say whether any American property has been damaged in Nicaragua?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, some has but I do not know the extent of it. We are trying to prevent that by taking the step of trying to save a stitch in time.

Tuesday, ~~February~~ March 1, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Of course, I don't know what the action of the Senate may be on the nominations which I have made for membership on the District Public Utility Commission. The principle of the bill I thought was a good principle, but the administrative features are difficult, and it is no wonder that the Senate finds that it is difficult for them to function under it. I don't know what action I shall take in case the Senate fails to act on these appointments. I suppose it would be my duty to do the best I could to carry out the provisions of the law. Those nominations have been up there now for months. I have no doubt that the Senate will take action on them.

I haven't been able to confer with the State Department since all the replies to my suggestion for instructions to the delegates that are to assemble at Geneva from the powers that signed the Washington treaty, giving them authority to negotiate for further arms limitation, were received, so that I am not in a position to state any more definitely than what has already been stated in the public press what the implications may be from the replies and what the opportunity of hope may be for securing action under them. But so far as I can see, there is an opportunity remaining open for negotiation and I think for some favorable action upon further limitation. I would like to emphasize the point that this is for

limitation and not for reduction.

I haven't any information about the attitude of the British Government relative to the construction of the Washington treaty on the proposal to elevate our guns, other than what has already been made public. Some inquiries have been made to see just what the details of their attitude may be.

I haven't had any report from the Department of Justice on the appointment of an additional Federal Judge in Maryland, so far as I recall. If an additional judge has been authorized for that State there will be, or it is being taken up, by the Department of Justice to see what recommendation shall be made to cover the authorization.

There isn't anything new in the situation in China. I have been over that so many times I am sure the conference is quite familiar with all the information that I have and the position of this Government. It is simply to be prepared to protect the rights and property of our citizens there in case of any kind of an outbreak against them.

To recur for a moment to the matter of limitation of arms. I don't know whether it would be feasible to secure any agreement with Japan and Great Britain. It might be that some progress could be made by a three-power agreement. But I should think that would be doubtful. The position of Great Britain, as I recall it, at the Washington conference was that unless some arrangement could be made with France for limitation on sub-

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marines and so on, that of course they couldn't make any limitation on those vessels that are used as a defense against submarine attacks.

I am not sure that any final proposal has been made by France relative to making any payments on the debts that they owe us. Of course, they are making payments on the interest of the debt of about \$400,000,000 which was contracted by France for the purchase of some war supplies that we had there, and there has been some suggestion that payments might be made on the other debts. Whether that will be done or not, I don't know. I think our attitude will probably be of course to receive any payment that might wish to be made on account.

I haven't any information other than what is already public in general relative to the reaction in the country in relation to the veto of the McNary Haugen bill. There

There are some indications of negotiations going on between the revolutionists and the Government in Nicaragua that appear to be hopeful of some agreement being reached which will settle the difficulties in that country, restore peace and good order. There hasn't been any armed conflict there for some little time, since the Government recaptured a town there that had been captured by the revolutionary forces. At that time there were several hundred casualties. Since then there hasn't been any armed conflict that has resulted in loss of life or any serious casualties, and as the country appears to be settling down I think there is hope that that condition may be made permanent.

Friday, March 4, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I doubt if there is much of anything in the report of the Tariff Commission on the shingle industry that is of public interest. I think I have submitted that to the Department of Commerce for their comment in relation to it. There isn't anything on which the Executive can act. I think shingles are on the free list, so that there is no opportunity to make any change in the rate of duty, the change that can be made under the law being limited to 50% up or down of the present rate. Now, here there is no change that can be made.

I do not see any occasion for a special session of the Congress. They have had such opportunity as might be required to pass legislation which might be necessary. While some inconvenience will arise on account of the failure of the deficiency appropriation, I imagine that some methods can be worked out by which the Government can continue to function, notwithstanding the failure of that appropriation bill. The serious part of it, of course, is that which relates to pensions and the Veterans Bureau. I think it is doubtful if there will be money with which to meet the pension payments due on the 4th of May and the 4th of June. I don't know just what the deficiencies are in relation to the pension bureau. I suppose the major one is the \$25,000,000 for loans to the veterans, \$25,000,000 loans on the bonus certificates. While it would be a convenience to have that done through the Government in many instances, I think that now that the

first pressure is off that there is fairly good opportunity to have such accommodations as may be necessary extended through the regular banking facilities.

I haven't had a chance to consider the matter of a recess appointment for Charles W. Cushing, U.S. Marshal in southern Illinois. If I make any recess appointments to the radio commission I should rather expect to appoint those two men that I have already designated, which have not been acted upon by the Senate.

There is no foundation for any rumor that Secretary Kellogg may ^{had} resign. He has/an especially heavy load to carry, as you newspaper men realize, for the past two years, ever since he has been in office. Perhaps there have been more questions before the State Department in that time than in any other corresponding time. His conduct of the office has been eminently satisfactory. He has gone away for ten days or two weeks to have a vacation which I have been urging him to take for a year. I expect he will return shortly to resume his usual duties.

The main question between this country and Mexico is exactly what I have stated to the conference several times, and that is the question of confiscation of property of American citizens. There are incidental and collateral questions, but they all grow out of that, and if that were adjusted the other incidental questions would quite naturally adjust themselves.

I don't think there is anything that I can add to what has already

been said about the session of Congress that has just been completed. It has done a good deal of very good work. There have been only two or three bills with which I have not been able to agree. I suppose those which I have signed would probably be between 1500 and 2000. In the present session the principal bills were the banking bill, radio bill; the session before that the railroad bill; public buildings bill, the bill reorganizing to a certain extent the representation of the Commerce Department abroad, a bill of very great importance. I doubt if sufficient attention has been given to it. I have seen very little reference to it in the press. I signed it a day or two ago. Then a good many other bills which are of some importance, but I think those are the main things. Congress kept very well within the recommendations of the budget. Of course if we consider the recommendations that are in the deficiency bill that just failed of passage the amounts that the budget has recommended would be quite a good deal above what has been appropriated, but I suppose in considering that there really was no action, Congress didn't affirmatively reject, they simply failed to act on the recommendations that were contained in the deficiency bill. But outside of that the Congress which began two years ago and ended today I think has kept very well within the recommendations that have been made by the budget. When I say budget, of course those recommendations are the recommendations of the President. So that on the financial side the record is very good. At the last session the Congress added \$67,000,000 or \$68,000,000 annual

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expenses for the relief of veterans and their dependents of the Civil War, Spanish War and the World War. The bill at that time carried an increase in the pensions of widows of the Civil War from \$30.00 to \$50.00, those who had been the wives of soldiers during the Civil War.

Tuesday, March 8, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

While I think it is true that no funds have been specifically provided for the salaries for the additional judges, I am told by the Attorney General that that probably can be adjusted some way. I haven't been into details with him, so I don't know just how it would be done.

I haven't given any consideration to the appointment of a United States District Attorney for the southern district of New York to succeed Mr. Buckner. In fact, I didn't know he had resigned. I doubt if he has resigned. I have some communications here on my desk that I haven't been over this morning. I don't know of any resignation that has come from him, though I saw that he stated in the course of some trial in New York that he had in contemplation the matter of his resignation. That is the only information I have about it.

I do not think Mr. Mellon has selected a Commissioner to head the new Prohibition Bureau. The authority to make the appointment has been lodged in the Secretary of the Treasury. It is not lodged in me. So that he will make it.

I have talked with the Attorney General some about the matter of making further judicial appointments. I think there are 7 judges provided for that have not been appointed. There was one appointed in Pennsylvania. The Attorney General told me there were 7 more which, on account of lack of time, he was not able to make recommendations upon. I don't know just when

those appointments will be made. Unless there is urgency about them, I prefer to make appointments that will be confirmed by the Senate before the judges begin to sit. That isn't always possible. Where it is possible, I should want to pursue that course. Where there is some urgency about it, why the appointments will be made.

I think it will be possible to work out the control and regulation of the radio broadcasting by the ordinary means provided by law. There are funds appropriated for radio regulation which probably can be applied for that purpose.

We have made some informal inquiries of the British and Japanese authorities relative to what might be accomplished at a 3-power arms limitation conference. That will be carefully canvassed and if it appears that it is possible to hold a conference of that kind with prospect of some practical results, that is what we want to do. Perhaps the press put a little too much emphasis the other day on what I said in relation to it, that it didn't seem practical. What I intended to indicate was that it didn't seem as practical to secure results from a 3-power conference as it would from a 5-power conference, but of course that question will be carefully investigated to see what it is possible to do, and if it appears at all feasible we shall go ahead and try to hold such a conference. The responses so far as they have been made, they are tentative, lead us to think that some action in that direction would be promising.

It isn't intended to incur any deficiency for the carrying on

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of the business of the Government, other than those that are authorized by law. There are some provisions of the law that authorize deficiencies in certain departments and for certain purposes. Some of those may have to be taken advantage of, but I think very few. There is a provision, for instance, that the food for the Army may be supplied even though it incurs a deficiency. I think there is a provision that a deficiency may be incurred for supplying fuel to the Navy. I do not think it is going to be necessary to use either of those things. I simply refer to them as examples of general law which provide for the incurring of a deficiency in the case of necessity. General Lord is working with his department to see what rearrangements will have to be made. The matter is being canvassed, of course, with the Comptroller General and with the various Departments. I think that with very little inconvenience we can carry on the necessary business of the Government for the remainder of this year without incurring a deficiency. As I said at the outset, it isn't proposed to incur any deficiency that is not authorized by law to be incurred.

I haven't made any decision about where I shall spend the summer. As I have already indicated, I had in mind seeing if I could find a place in the West. That is rather an indefinite statement and it depends upon where you live as to what you regard the West. I have suggestions coming all the way from Michigan to Utah. I do not wish to get too far away, but I want to go far enough into the West where I shall have some elevation in order to get a place that would be comfortably cool.

Friday, March 11, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

For some time we have known that it was the opinion of the Cuban Government that in return for the convention that exists between that country and ours, by which they accept parcel post shipments, that they ought to have some change in the law here by which at present our Country bars the shipment of Cuban cigars and cigarettes into this territory in less than 3,000 lots. There was a bill that would give the remedy that the Cuban Government desires introduced in the present Congress -- I think it was reported from the Committee favorably but didn't have an opportunity to have it acted upon. It is one of those questions where we have to concede that Cuba, of course, has a perfect right to take whatever position they think is for their interest, and while we should desire to give them favorable consideration if we can. It is not an administrative matter that can be adjusted by the Executive Department, because it is a matter that is regulated by United States statute, and in order to secure any relief for Cuba we have to proceed through a statutory enactment. I have had this matter up several times with the Postmaster General and with the Secretary of State. I don't know what plans the Postmaster General may have, now that legislation has failed. It is possible that through negotiation we may establish some method of procedure until the next Congress assembles so as to prevent failure of the present arrangement for sending parcels from this Country into Cuba. Every effort will be made in that direction.

I don't know whether it will be developed that there is sufficient urgency for the appointment of a federal judge in Maryland to warrant a recess appointment. From such slight information as has come to me, I would say that probably a recess appointment will be made. My information is not complete and my opinion is not final. It depends on so many different elements, whether there is any one over there that has a general agreement on it so that if he were appointed it would be understood that he would be confirmed without trouble, or whether there is a considerable variety of candidates and the people over there are not able to agree upon any one.

I haven't any positive speaking engagements for the near future. I like to go out and speak when I can, but on the other hand there is a great deal of administrative work to be done at the present time that will require my attention here in Washington and rather closely confine me to looking after the business of the Government.

I don't know whether I shall be able to go to the dedication of, I think this is Wicker Park, near Hammond, Indiana. A very large delegation came down this morning in a special train to invite me, so large that I suggested to them that I might make them a speech here and save myself the trouble of going out there, but they seemed to want to make speeches themselves down here, which they did, leaving me to make a proper response at some future occasion. I haven't given any particular attention to the details of the treaty that has been proposed by President Diaz of Nicaragua.

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Of course this country would consider carefully any suggestion that the Government of Nicaragua desired to make to us, but from such casual consideration of it as I have been able to give to the reported outline I doubt very much if the Government of this Country would think it desirable to enter into such a treaty. As I have expressed to the conference heretofore, we have some peculiar interests in Nicaragua, on account of our right to build a canal there and establish a naval station, and in addition to that we have a desire to help that country or any other ~~peas~~ Central American countries in any way that we can, but of course it has been my policy and I want to carry it out as far as I can to leave those countries as undisturbed as possible to work out their own salvation. That was the reason why I withdrew the Marines from Nicaragua in 1925. We are willing to respond so far as we can any time that we can be helpful, but to take on a permanent obligation of the nature that I understand is contemplated in the suggestion of President Diaz would be, I think, a little farther than this Government would wish to go.

Tuesday, March 15, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't made any speaking engagements for the future, nor have I any plans for leaving the city in the future. Since the close of Congress I am having a great many invitations to go and make speeches. Of course, I have a great many all the time, but since the close of Congress they have been coming in with much more frequency than usual. I doubt if I shall make many speeches. I have to make some. But there are so many questions that are pressing here in Washington at the present time -- there is the economic conference we are preparing for, the navy limitation conference, and various questions of that nature that are very urgent, besides the routine business of the President's office, that I think I can serve the people of the Country rather better by staying in Washington and attending to those questions than I can by going out for the purpose of furnishing entertainment for any one or undertaking to offer instructions on public questions.

I think the War Department will be able to take care of such needs as the Army has, notwithstanding the failure of the deficiency bill.

I haven't the details of the agreement in mind under which the President undertook to arbitrate the Tacna-Arica controversy, so that I do not know how long the agreement continues in effect. The way to answer that question would be by an examination of the agreement to see just what its provisions are.

Senator Fess merely came in to pay his respects. He talked with me about the work that the Congress had been doing, the general business of the Country as he has seen it around, and told me of some of his plans for the future to make some speeches and so on.

I haven't made any selections of judges that are not already announced. There have been two delegations in from North Carolina, presenting the name of Mr. Hayes, and I had understood that there are some other names in that State that would be presented.

I don't think any names have been presented for the Eastern District of Michigan. If they have been presented here, they have been sent in the usual course of business to the Department of Justice for investigation and report.

I do not have in contemplation an invitation to any of the various elements of the British Empire. An invitation has been sent to Great Britain, which has been accepted, and under its terms the participants were designated. It isn't the plan to include any that have not been designated. We understood directly or indirectly that the British Government had conferred with the different elements of the Empire before they accepted the invitation, so that the inference would be that the invitation as extended was acceptable to the various elements of the Empire.

I don't know whether any judges will be appointed during recess. I think that some may be. But I haven't in mind any particular district where I should think it would be necessary to appoint any. I couldn't

3.

tell about that until I had information from the Department of Justice.

Friday, March 18, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

We are planning to participate in the Economic Conference. The Congress passed a bill authorizing an appropriation for that purpose, but the appropriation bill that was to make that appropriation didn't pass. It isn't a large matter, probably \$12,000 or \$15,000 and can be taken care of, we think, out of the contingency fund of the State Department, which is a fund that is appropriated for the purpose of meeting unforeseen contingencies that might make it necessary to incur expense, sending people abroad upon negotiations of one kind or another.

There doesn't seem to be anything of any consequence the matter with my wrist. It got lame a little. I don't know what caused it. The doctor doesn't seem to know. He thought it would get well quicker if I kept it bandaged up some of the time. I wasn't able to connect it in any way with shaking hands. I had a large reception in the White House. The Army and Navy reception was the last one I had and I don't think I injured it in any way at that time. I haven't been shaking hands very much lately, but it was since then that my wrist became lame. I can't seem to tell whether it is in one of the sinews or tendons, or what the matter is. It doesn't seem to pain me much, nor is it sore. Just a slight lameness. Possibly it is good old fashioned rheumatism, though I thought it was the wrong season of the year to have that.

It is not possible to tell what could be done at the next session in the way of tax reductions. The indications now are that we shall have a very sizeable surplus on the 30th of June. I think Mr. Winston told me just before he went away that a 10% recession in the business of the Country would wipe out all the surplus that was then in prospect in the treasury. Before we can form any estimate of what possible tax reductions would be wise, we shall have to see what the surplus is for this year and then we shall have to see how the business conditions of the Country keep up. But I should think that by next November, when it comes time to make a decision, those conditions would be pretty well revealed. And I should expect that from present indications there would be an opportunity for some tax reduction. We could very well have made a reduction for this March payment and the coming June payment for this year, as conditions have turned out to be. I think both Houses passed resolutions expressing their opinion that it would be well to apply the surplus to reduction of the debt, which is a perfectly sound thing to do. We have a large debt that it is very desirable to reduce, and when the business conditions are good people are in the enjoyment of large incomes and considerable profits, they contribute greatly to our income tax collections, as well as to our customs collections and our other charges on business, and it is well to use the surplus for reducing the debt. I have talked to some leaders of Congress some time ago about having the Ways and Means Committee make some investigations and make some preparation for tax reduction, if the state of the Treasury seems to warrant it on the

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approach of the next session. I am having a great many invitations to go to various parts of the Country. I haven't made any decision yet as to any specific places, either for the summer home or for the near future. I think it is doubtful if I can get away in the near future. Several people have spoken to me about visiting Asheville. Mrs. Coolidge and I spent some time there just before I was inaugurated as Vice President. I found it a very charming place. Mrs. Coolidge especially was pleased with it and has^{always}/been talking about finding an opportunity to make another visit there.

I haven't any figures on the possible treasury surplus.

And here is another question. I haven't formed any opinion about what method ought to be adopted for a possible tax reduction. That matter, as I say, is being studied by a committee on Ways and Means of the House, and of course they would confer with the Treasury about it.

There isn't any new development in regard to our differences with Mexico. The only thing I could say about that is that so far as I am informed that country has not in the immediate past taken any property of Americans. There may be some small pieces of land, or something of that kind, that have been taken and have not been reported to me. The only thing I could say about that is that it indicates an indisposition at the present time to confiscate our property, and that such action temporarily appears to have ceased.

There isn't any comment that I would care to make on suggestions that have been made by some members of the faculty of some of our universities.

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relative to our foreign debts. Secretary Mellon has commented on that and given some of the reasons why such suggestions do not appear to be wise to the present administration. Many more reasons might be given, but those that have been given are perhaps cogent and sufficient at the present time.

Tuesday, March 22, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

A group of American gentlemen have been approached with a view of their acting as our representatives at the Economic Conference. Some of them have not yet replied, so that I am not yet able to announce their names. I think an announcement may be made within a day or two. One or two of them have been away and have not been able to be reached.

I think we shall make an appointment very soon in the Western New York District of a United States District Judge. I had a letter from Judge Hazel recently stating that it was quite desirable that another judge should be appointed in that region. There are several names which have been presented for consideration. As soon as it can be determined which one of them seems to be the best the appointment will be made.

There isn't any statement that I can make relative to any proposal of reciprocity with Canada. Such a proposal would only be made after carefully considering its details, which I haven't been able to do.

There is nothing that I can add to the announcement that I understand has been made by the Department of State relative to the termination of a small treaty we had with Mexico covering the question of smuggling.

The Department of Interior and the Treasury have under consideration the matter of making the May and June pension payments. Nothing has been worked out yet that seems to be satisfactory. The question is still being

studied to see if some method can not be reached for making those payments. Of course, it was only a short time ago that payments were made once in three months, and the interval in this case would only be three months, from the 4th of April to the 4th of July, at which date it seems to be clear that both the May and June payments could be added to those of the July payments. So that it really amounts to waiting from May 4th to July 4th. But if anything can be devised to obviate that period of two months waiting, it will be done.

I have had very little complaint about the abolition of some land offices that were made under the advice of the Interior Department, the reason being I think that it had been taken up as I understood and canvassed quite carefully with parties in interest before the abolition was made. It may be that there are one or two that it is proposed to abolish that will not be abolished, but I haven't any final decision on that.

I doubt if I am going to be able to get away in the immediate future to go to Asheville or Florida, or any other place in the South. I have had some very hospitable invitations and offers of places to stay from several southern points. It doesn't now seem probable that I shall be able to accept any of them.

I doubt very much if I can attend the opening of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal on the 14th of May.

Question: When is that to be, Mr. President?

President: The 14th of May.

I was up to Wilmington, - no it wasn't Wilmington that I visited, it was Trenton. I was up in that general vicinity a short time ago, so I doubt if I could go up there again so soon.

What I said about the appointment of a judge in Western New York would apply also to the appointment of a Judge in Maryland.

I have also had a number of invitations to go into the Northwest. Here is a specific one from the legislature of Washington suggesting that I go there in June to dedicate the State's new \$6,000,000 Capitol. I think it is very doubtful whether I shall go so far West as that. I do, as I have already indicated, want to get out West somewhere to spend some time during the summer. I have had many invitations from practically all the states west and including Michigan, but I do not expect to go so far West as Washington.

Question: At no time during the summer, Mr. President?

President: I do not expect to go so far west as that. Touring the country doesn't lend itself very well to my idea of a vacation.

Friday, March 25, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There isn't anything I can add to what I have already said relative to the appointment of some judges that have been provided for by recent legislation. I expect some appointments will be made very soon, but no final determination has yet been made in any of them. .

Of course, it is difficult to say, but so far as we can foresee it would appear that we now have sufficient forces in China to take care of such Americans there as need to be cared for. Just at the present time the situation at Shanghai appears to be less tense, but considerable trouble, as has been reported in the press, has broken out at Nanking. The Navy Department has reported to me that their information is that one American there has been killed and the American Consulate attacked and the Consul and his staff driven out. There are some 125 or 150 Americans still within the city supposed to be at the University and their safety is naturally giving us a good deal of concern. I think we have sufficient forces there for rescue purposes and to do everything that could be done in that direction. The only advantage that could be secured by a larger force would be from sending a very large force.

Question: And that isn't being considered at all, Mr. President?

President: Well, I hardly think so at this time. That would not now help the situation that has developed with reference to the people in Nanking and we think we have a sufficient force to protect our people at Shanghai.

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Question: Is there any evidence that the attack on foreigners at Nanking was instigated by the Cantonese forces, or was it the affair of the mob - people that got out of hand. Have we information on that score?

President: The information I have is that it was almost entirely by soldiers who are in the Cantonese uniform.

No final decision has yet been made about the delegates to the economic conference. One or two of those are still not yet decided on.

I have given considerable attention to the matter of the payment of pensions in May and June and I think that the Bureau of the Budget and the Comptroller General have worked out a plan of a perfectly legal method of making the payments at the ordinary times.

I haven't any new information about the probably size of the surplus. Perhaps after reports of the payments on the 15th of March are all in it will be possible to make a new estimate. Receipts have been considerably larger than were anticipated and it is expected that the surplus will be something over the \$383,000,000, practically \$400,000,000, that was estimated some time ago. Now, how much more than that it will be I have had no figures submitted to me, and I am not in a position to make any estimate about it, but it will be a substantial sum in excess of that.

Nor is there anything new to add in relation to possible tax reductions. That will necessarily wait on the coming in of the next Congress and at that time we shall be in possession of very definite information as to

3.

the state of business, which is to a very large extent the measure of the revenue of the Government and as to the surplus, and therefore as to the possibility of tax reduction. I should think it was evident that some tax reduction could be made. How much can not now be said, not have I had any plan worked out as to what items should be reduced.

I have already spoken about the matter of the pensions and of the judges.

Tuesday, March 29, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Colonel Cheney has been my Military Aide for a couple of years or so and is desirous of returning to more active service, so that he will be relieved about the 1st of May and will be succeeded by Colonel Blanton Winship, who is now in the War Department in the Judge Advocate General's office.

Question: Wasn't he the law officer of the Mitchell Court Martial?

President: I am not certain about that. Perhaps he was. He has seen service in Cuba and had quite a good deal to do there with helping frame some of the Cuban laws.

Question: Can you say what Colonel Cheney's assignment will be?

President: I don't think that is determined yet. He is an Engineer and will naturally be assigned to some duty of that nature. There has been some suggestion that he might be assigned to the Department that has its headquarters at Boston, but I haven't had any report from the War Department yet as to where they desire to locate him.

All that I can say about the number of our forces that are to be in China would be to say what I said the other day -- that we didn't have any present intention of increasing them. But I had hardly made that statement before a request came in from Admiral Williams to send 1500 Marines, which the Department is planning to do. I expect that will be sufficient. It is possible that they will not be needed, but it is some

distance over there and takes some time to get a force assembled and send it there, so that we have to work in anticipation of what might possibly arise. We depend of course on what Admiral Williams requests. in the way of additional forces and up to that time he had not seemed to think it was necessary to send any larger force than what he had there. Three of the cruisers were held at Honolulu, I think, for a considerable length of time awaiting his call. They had been dispatched some days ago. Our forces are there for the purpose of protecting our people and their property. They are not at all in the nature of an expeditionary force, nor are they there to make war on any one. They are there in the nature of a police force to protect our people, in so far as we can see now, not from any organized military attack on them, but from disorganized attacks sometimes made by soldiers we assume not acting under the authority of any one there that is attempting to function as a Government, but acting rather in accordance with a mob spirit. It is because of the liability of something of that kind to break out at any time in most unexpected ways that we are increasing our forces. There will be no change in the command of our forces there. They will be under the charge of our own officers of course, and there is no intention of having any unified command so far as I know now. We cooperate with other nations there. Of course, that is necessary. The location of the foreign settlement is such that I do not understand that our people are altogether separated from those of

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other nations. I rather think the French settlement is perhaps the most compact, but of course that is not separated from our settlement or from the settlement of other nationals there, so that we should all act together to prevent a mob from breaking through at any point, I assume, to afford protection for our own people.

I do not recall any persons that might come under the designation of political leaders calling on me at Dupont Circle with the possible exception of Mr. Hilles, who was in town for two or three days, and I think he dined with me. I am not certain about that. I think he did. He came to see me in relation to the suggestion of some names for District Attorney of New York and some of the vacancies on the bench in that State, more in the nature of a report to me what he found out at that time. He had then arrived at no final determination about it. It was understood he would take the matter up further on his return to New York and make a further report about it.

I do not expect that the situation in China or Mexico will prevent my going away for a considerable length of time during the summer. It is possible that the limitation of naval armaments conference would make it more necessary for me to remain in Washington in close touch with the Departments than the situation in China or Mexico or Nicaragua.

I haven't made any decision as to where I shall go for the summer. As I have already stated, I have invitations under consideration running all the way from Michigan to the Pacific States.

So far as I know there was only one American killed in the recent disturbances in China, which has already been reported, a Dr. Williams connected with the University at Nanking. One or two women were wounded. One American I think had his ankle broken. But as I understood that, it was not from violence on the part of the Chinese but was an accident he suffered in getting over the wall that surrounds Nanking. There are steps up on the inside, but of course nothing of that kind on the outside. They have to be let down. I understand he fell about 20 feet in being let down, and suffered that injury to his ankle.

As I have already stated, there is no plan for any unified control of our forces in China.

I can't tell just when I may be able to get away on my vacation. I am expecting to have the semi-annual Business Meeting of the Government on the 10th of June, 10th or 11th. That is a little earlier than I expected to have it, the reason being that it is the night when it will be possible to secure the best broadcasting of the meeting. I doubt if I shall do any hunting. I never know where I am going to break out in that respect. I hadn't time for any fishing since I was a boy until last summer and my hunting consisted mostly of hunting birds and rabbits with a muzzle-loaded shot gun in the early Fall at the same time that I was fishing in the summer. I rather prefer fishing to hunting. It appeals to me in some way more. So I am not making any plans about hunting. I shall be glad to confer with the members of the conference though about that any time.

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No final decision has been made about appointing a United States District Attorney for the City of New York, but I think a decision may be made within a day or two.

No one has finally been selected for judge of the Western New York District.

I have appointed the members of the Economic Conference:

Henry M. Robinson, of Los Angeles. He is known to you as one of the men that served on the Committee which the Reparations Commission chosen from this Country to make suggestions about the German reparations.

Norman H. Davis, of New York City, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Assistant Secretary of State.

John W. O'Leary, of Chicago, and President of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Alonzo E. Taylor, of Stanford University. He is a man that has had considerable experience in Europe and he speaks several of the European languages and is especially an agricultural economist.

Dr. Julius Klein, the Director of our Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. He knows our Government relationship to economic questions perhaps as well as any one in any of our departments. He is very familiar with the different questions that have been up for discussion during the past two or three years.

Friday, April 1, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The chance of my going to Buffalo to open the new International Bridge in June is quite remote. I have so many things that require my attention here in Washington now that it is going to be very difficult for me to get any time to go away or prepare addresses to be made.

I am appointing Colonel William B. Ladue of the Corps of Engineers to be the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia. I think his term of service doesn't begin until some time in June, but as it is necessary to make arrangements in the Army some time in advance the arrangement has been made to give notice of this appointment now. I think the War Department, or is it -- here is a statement to be given out. Does that come from the War Department?

Mr. Sanders: War Department.

President: You can get his military record over there then.

I haven't received any definite statistics on the amount of coal that is already above ground. Such information as has come to me is to the effect that there are 80 or more million tons. I do not contemplate any action relative to the cessation of mining of bituminous coal some of the bituminous coal regions. A great deal of the industry is going on, but there is some cessation of operations in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and parts of Pennsylvania.

There isn't anything new in relation to the situation in China, except what has already been reported in the press. I shall probably make it

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a practice not to say very much about that, because I find that the statements I make in relation to it get sent over to Shanghai very much different in their form for publication over there from those that I make here. My information, of course, comes from the reports that are received at the State Department and the Navy Department, and all of those that are of public interest are given to the press.

Question: Are some more marines to be sent?

President: Yes, we are sending some more marines. That has already been announced, 1500, some of which started from here, some from Philadelphia, and are to be assembled on the West Coast. The Henderson is being sent up there from somewhere down the Coast and is to take them to Shanghai.

Question: Not in addition to this 1500?

President: No.

Question: Not a third regiment? You see there is one regiment over there and --

President: The one that I told you about the other day is the one I am referring to now. That is the 1500 that have recently been assembled here. It may be necessary at some future time to send more troops, but there are no plans now to send any more. Of course, it goes without saying that we are taking such action as we can to protect the property and persons of our nationals there.

I do not expect to take any trip on the Mayflower this week.

Tuesday, April 5, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

A considerable number of inquiries about judgeships of the District Courts and Circuit Courts of the United States are made. All I can say about that is that no final determination has been made as to the filling of any of those vacancies. We are working away at it and I expect that within two or three days we will be able to make some appointments.

I have no information other than what has already been made public relative to any connection between any of the forces in China and the Russians. We are sending the 1500 troops that have already been announced to Shanghai, and about 1500 more troops. These troops, both marines, are being assembled at San Diego, California. Whether it will be necessary to send them or not we are not quite certain. In general, what we are doing is to undertake to be prepared to take care of our nationals as difficulties may arise in different localities at concentration points. For the south of China the concentration point is Shanghai, and it is possible that we may be compelled to take care of those from the north of China at Teintsin. The situation hasn't developed enough so that we are certain about that. We hope there won't be any necessity for it. We are looking ahead to be prepared to do that, should occasion arise. There is no change in relation to our cooperation with other powers in China. In these concentration points quite naturally the nationals of other countries come in and then the defense of the territory where they concentrate is one that is carried on jointly.

The principal matter of discussion in the Cabinet this morning was the situation in China, which was developed along the line that I have indicated.

I do not think that the declination of France to take any part in the naval limitation conference will materially affect the holding of the conference. We are disappointed, of course, that France isn't willing to join in the discussion, but if France is not willing to take part in it we will naturally go ahead with the Japanese and the British, and possibly the Italians, if they come in.

I do not know of any intention on the part of Mr. Butler to resign, nor of Secretary Kellogg.

I had sent to me by some one that I do not happen to know an interesting cartoon that was in the issue of Harper's Weekly, of July 18, 1885, which shows the White House as an intelligence office, meaning by that an employment bureau. It is labeled "What the Position of the President of the United States Really Is". It shows President Cleveland, who had recently come into office, undertaking to provide positions for a great many applications, which leads me to suppose that the Presidential office hasn't changed in some material aspects between that time and this. Over the door is the motto "E Pluribus Unum" or "Many for One Place". President Cleveland evidently was able to cope with the situation.

Question: Mr. President, is that true of the situation today?

President: I don't know as it is quite so bad now.

Cleveland was a very able man and a great President, who perhaps has not yet been fully appreciated.

Question: They brought their baggage with them in those days.

President: The cartoon indicates that they did. A cartoonist's history is not always absolutely accurate, but usually is somewhat representative.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Friday, April 8, 1927.

I do not know of any tentative treaty having been received from Canada. I doubt very much if any has been received.

No final decision has been made about a District Judge in Michigan.

I haven't any further information regarding the District of Columbia payments of pensions, other than that which has already been made public.

There are no changes in the Chinese situation. Developments there have been fully reported in the press, so far as they have come to my attention.

There isn't anything further that I can say about a possible visit to Buffalo at the time of the opening of the International Bridge. As I stated the other day, it seems quite doubtful whether I can find time to make that trip.

The duties of Mr. Stimson were fully set out in the statement that was made public by the Secretary of State. I don't know of any way that I could add anything to that.

Tuesday, April 12, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I expect to make an appointment during the recess of a judge in the Northern California District, but no one has been agreed upon out there yet, so I don't know when the appointment can be made.

As we have every expectation that the Chinese will make some appropriate response to the note we have filed with them, we haven't given any consideration to any further action that may be taken in relation to the injuries that were suffered by our people at Nanking.

I have no information as to any study that the Department of Agriculture may be making relative to the cooperative methods of handling wheat in Canada. I think the Department has full information about that. I don't know of any especial study that they are making of it at this time. I learned from the Secretary of Agriculture this morning that Mr. Nagle, the Ex-Secretary of Commerce, who I believe is Chairman of some Committee that is making a study of the agricultural situation, was to be in town today and ^{he} would be in consultation with (Mr. Nagle and some other member or members of his Committee) the Agricultural Department.

I don't recall any complaint having been made to me relative to the contract for carrying air mail between New York and Chicago. Now, some complaint may have been sent in to the office. If it was, it would go in the usual course of business to the Post Office Department.

Miss Genevieve Cline, of Cleveland, is one of the names that has

been suggested for appointment to the vacancy of the United States Customs Court caused by the death of one of the judges, the Chief Justice of that Court or the Chief Judge, I don't know just how he is designated. There have been several other names suggested and no decision has been made.

I haven't in mind anything especial about the vacancy, if there is one, or the authority to appoint a second Federal judge in south Texas. That may be one of the appointments that are to be made. There are several judgeships to be appointed. That will be taken up in due course with the rest.

General Crowder, our present Ambassador to Cuba, is a man advanced in years who has performed most excellent services in that country and I understand that he contemplates asking to be relieved in the not distant future. That is as far as anything has progressed in relation to that position. We should be very sorry to lose his services there, but I have known for some years that he was staying there when it was rather beyond his strength and had expected that he would ask to be relieved.

I haven't in mind any calling of a national conference for the prevention of crime, the main reason being that most of the complaint about the commission of crime is complaint about the violation of state laws, rather than national laws, so that it is something that if dealt with at all it would have to be dealt with by the states. So far as I had thought of the question, it hadn't seemed to me that a national conference for that reason would be especially helpful. If it was a new question and there was the desirability

3.

of arousing public interest in it, something might be accomplished by a national conference, but I think the public interest is already aroused and various states are taking action. I do not know of anything that we could suggest that would be helpful as the result of anything like a national conference. The local conferences of course have my hearty approval and the local efforts that are being made to check criminal activities are very much improved and I am very glad to encourage them in any way possible.

There aren't any new developments in the Chinese situation that haven't already been reported in the press. Of course we get reports daily about the activities of various military bodies there, but it continues in about the same situation. Whenever there are military difficulties in China, there is always trouble about the navigation of the streams and that trouble exists at the present time. One of the experiences that always develops is the firing upon our boats that are going up and down the streams and the firing upon the boats of other nationals. The Chinese do not seem to be able to differentiate between their own craft which they might want to resist and the craft of foreign nations. This firing becomes rather indiscriminate. Any boat that goes up and down those streams is subject to being fired upon. It is seldom that any damage is done. The practice has been resorted to of returning the fire if it becomes at all active, which usually results in its being stopped. Most of the fire is rifle fire and machine gun fire. Once in a while it is done with guns of a larger

calibre, but not always.

I haven't any information about an application by Earl Carroll for executive clemency. I don't know whether one has been filed with the Department of Justice. If it has been, it will be acted on there in the usual course.

I haven't made any decision about where I shall spend the summer. Sooner or later I expect to send some one out there to make some investigation of some of the different places that have been suggested. Meantime, I hope that the summer advantages of all desirable localities will continue to have adequate publicity.

The breakfast that I had at the White House this morning was entirely casual. There were some people in town that I wanted to have come in and have breakfast with me, some of the members of the Senate and the House and some visitors that called in, partaking entirely of a social nature.

The Secretary of War reported this morning on his visit to Porto Rico, Hayti, and I have forgotten whether he went to Cuba - he went to Panama - and found conditions in the places he visited encouraging and the relationship between the different countries and our government activities in them on a very friendly basis. The countries seemed to be prospering fairly well and the activities of our Government officials in those places seemed to be acceptable and on a very good standard.

Question: When the Secretary left he indicated he would investigate the Nicaraguan Canal situation.

President: Well, I don't think he did anything about that. He didn't say anything about it. The nearest he went to that country would be Panama, which is some 500 miles away. He may have mentioned that to people incidentally. He spoke about the large amount of business done and the Panama Canal. They had supposed before the month of March that they might do more business there than ⁱⁿ any other month, but they didn't quite come up to the high record. They missed that only by about 100,000 tons, which indicates that the use of the Panama Canal is steadily increasing. I have known that from the monthly reports that come to me showing the amount of tonnage and the amount of revenue that is derived and the tolls that are charged for boats that pass through the Canal.

I shall be glad to see all of you at the ball game this afternoon.

Friday, April 15, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There haven't been any developments relative to the appointment of a judge in the Northern California District.

There isn't any division of the Cabinet over the policy that is being pursued in China. I don't think that would be possible in my Cabinet. The way I transact the Cabinet business is to leave to the head of each Department the conduct of his own business. While, of course, matters are taken up in the Cabinet and everybody is asked to give their opinion, yet I have never considered that it was for one member of the Cabinet to have any very great weight in trying to indicate to another member of the Cabinet how the latter member should conduct the affairs of his own Department. What I am telling you is a general principle. It hasn't any application at all to this matter in hand, because there isn't any division in the Cabinet. All members of the Cabinet have agreed that what the Secretary of State is doing ought to be done. Of course, it is done under the general direction of the President and with his approval. I noticed in a headline recently the statement that Mr. Hoover disapproved of what the Secretary was doing, thinking that identic notes ought not to be resorted to. It is my recollection that Mr. Hoover was the warmest advocate in the Cabinet of identic notes, pointing out what is evidently the condition, that if each of the countries concerned - and it was the common concern of all - went ahead on its own initiative it would fail very much in the influence it would have if they

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all adopted their identic policy, which is of course the policy.

There is another matter of general concern, and that is this - that when our relations with a foreign country are in the condition that our relations with some of the Chinese are in at the present time, it is in danger of being quite harmful if the press resorts to speculation about the attitude of this Government. It probably would be very comforting to any opposition that this Government might have in China, and I don't think there is very much there, but what opposition there is there would be comforted if they were told that the officials of this Government were in violent disagreement about what ought to be done. So that while I know that the press oftentimes has to speculate some and draw deductions of positions when our foreign relations are concerned, over a matter that is somewhat delicate ~~if~~ there is grave danger that anything of that kind may do considerable harm and ought to be resorted to only on occasions when the press is pretty certain that it is going to be right. In this case it has no foundation whatever.

While I am on that, I might state again that Mr. Kellogg isn't going to resign. If he does resign, Mr. Hoover will not be appointed Secretary of State.

I haven't made any final decision about reviewing the fleet in June. I would like to go down on the Virginia coast when the fleet is down there.

There isn't anything new in relation to farm relief. Senator

McNary came in to see me before he went away and in a general discussion of the question told me that he was making some new studies, giving especial thought to the bills that have been introduced into Congress to see if with them as a foundation he could work out something that would be helpful, and I told him of course that I should be very glad to have him make a study of that kind and that the various Departments would be very glad to cooperate with him. There is also another body working on the farm problem that I mentioned the other day, headed by Mr. Nagel, ex-Secretary of Commerce. Some of them were in town Tuesday, I think. Secretary Nagel was not here. He expected to be here but didn't come. I don't know whether they have been in conference with Senator McNary. They were in conference with the Secretary of Agriculture. I haven't any idea about any of the details that Senator McNary may be working on. The only matter that was mentioned was to take the various plans that had been proposed in the large number of farm relief bills and see whether any of them would furnish a foundation for some legislation that would appear to be helpful.

I think the general attitude in Porto Rico towards this country is very friendly. That is in accordance with the reports that come from there. There is the usual political disagreement, as I understand it, about things in Porto Rico that would correspond to political disagreement concerning policies in our own country. But I think the general feeling towards this country - and by the way they would like to be classed as America and

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Americans, I do not wish to differentiate between this part of the country and their part of the Country or as that being a possession or territory that is not just as much American as this. As I was saying, I think the feeling is very friendly there.

I haven't given any recent consideration to the matter of a local election of Governor in Porto Rico. Under Secretary Weeks we did work out some kind of a bill, but it wasn't apparently acceptable to the interested parties in Porto Rico and so the matter was dropped. I rather think that for the present there isn't much that could be done in relation to a change of policy in that direction. I think it might be better in the first instance to try and appoint some one that lives in Porto Rico to be Governor. I am not certain that conditions are quite ready yet for that step. I think that would be a good way to begin.

The reply of Eugene Chen representing the Cantonese organization to the note that was sent relative to the injuries that Americans suffered at Nanking has been received. I haven't had a chance to study it yet or to compare it with notes that may have been delivered to other countries. We should want to do both of those things before making any final comment about it. I think I suggested the other day that I had every expectation that a reply would be made within a reasonable time and that expectation has been borne out by the event.

I understand that a labor expert will be attached to the American

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delegation that goes to the Geneva Conference, that is the Economic Conference. I think this name that is given here, John P. Frey, is the name of the person that is under consideration and who, I understand, is to be appointed. That is a matter that is being attended to by the Department of Labor. It is my recollection that that is the name that was given in a communication that was sent to me by the Secretary of Labor.

Tuesday, April 19, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any more information about the appointment of a Federal Judge in California. It is my recollection that Senator Shortridge was in just before he went away and I think the matter was mentioned, he saying that he wasn't ready yet to make any recommendation, and my impression was that the matter was to set along, nothing very definite about it, waiting some recommendation from him. Senator Johnson has made a recommendation. I had assumed that perhaps Senator Shortridge was going to make inquiries after he reached California as to the immediate necessity for the appointment of a Judge.

I don't know what is going to be done about the land office at Guthrie, Oklahoma. I think a letter did come in from State Senator Elmer Thomas, of Oklahoma - he is State Senator, that isn't the name of the new United States Senator?

Press: U. S. Senator.

President: U. S. Senator, of course; I had forgotten his name. A letter did come in from him and it was referred by me to the Department of the Interior.

I have already spoken about my interview with Senator Shortridge.

I am not proposing anything like a reorganization of the Federal Farm Board. Some of the present members are going off the Board. I shall have to look about for some one to take their places. I would like of course

to make that Board function as actively and energetically as possible, especially in relation to the Intermediate Credit Banks. The Land Banks and the Intermediate Credit Banks of course are comparatively new institutions. They have done a very remarkable piece of work, I think, and have met with general approbation, and my desire is to strengthen them in every possible way and see that they provide service to the limit of their possibilities. One of the difficulties is the financing of agricultural land, and also of crops and cooperative associations. I want to have that work, as I say, as effective as possible. While I am not at all familiar with the details, it has been thought that perhaps additional methods to those excellent methods that are already in operation might be provided for increasing the facilities and service, especially of the Intermediate Credit Banks.

The State Department I am informed has sent a cable relative to the reported capture of Miss Mary I. Craig, an American missionary, and our representatives in China are making every possible effort to secure her immediate release.

I haven't any information about the purchase of cotton cloth for the making of balloons for the Navy Department. It goes without saying that the Department always gives preference to domestic produce, but of course it has to observe the requirements of the statutes, which are to the effect that it shall give due consideration to the offer of the lowest bidder. I think it always leans over backwards to give orders that will provide for the use of materials of domestic manufacture.

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We have given out all the news that has come from Nicaragua. It appeared to me from the dispatches from that country that the Government forces of President Diaz were prevailing in the field and that indications were that the country might very soon be pacified. Of course, as soon as that condition is reached I shall be in a position to withdraw a very large part of the American forces. I don't know how soon all of them could be withdrawn. It would be entirely for future consideration. But, of course, that would be the goal toward which we should be working. The last time that the marines went in, I think they had to remain 12 or 13 years. I should hope that nothing of that kind would be necessary on this occasion.

There isn't any change in the policy towards China. It is that of furnishing refuge for our citizens there and removing them.

I didn't speak of Mr. Hoover's abilities the other day. I had rather assumed that that would be assumed by the conference. His reputation is so well established in this country, and indeed abroad, for ability and executive achievement that I doubt very much if I should be able to shake it even if I wished to. Certainly, I have no desire to do that and shouldn't want to be thought so lacking in appreciation of a man of his abilities as to think that he wasn't well qualified for any position in the Cabinet that he would be willing to accept. Of course, the place that he is in now is one of great importance and of constantly increasing importance, not only on account of our domestic commerce, but on account of our foreign commerce,

4.

which under his direction and encouragement has very greatly increased and shows promise of further increase in the future.

I have here some very interesting questions proposed by Mr. Vining of the Toronto Star, but as they are not in relation to any current news I hardly think I would wish to go into them. They are questions of a general nature that is exemplified by the first one: "If the Executive were a young man today what work would he choose to do?" That would be rather difficult to answer.

Friday, April 22, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

No information has come to me relative to holding national political conventions in Washington, other than what I have seen in the press. I am always glad to do what I can to help advertise the city. I don't know as I can make any contribution that would be helpful in that respect on that subject.

No entirely final decision has been made about delegates to the proposed naval limitation conference. Of course, Mr. Gibson, the Ambassador, who has been through this preliminary conference, will represent the United States, and the naval representatives that have been with him. That is settled. And they will be the backbone of the American delegation. I think that one of the admirals is expected to return to Washington for a conference, and after such conference has been held with him we shall know whether it is necessary to send any additional representation. My present feeling about it is that all that will probably be necessary in that respect will be, perhaps, some expert advice that might be helpful to Mr. Gibson in the possible drafting of treaties and studying proposed drafts, and such additional help as the naval experts may furnish. It is our information that the British and Japanese are confining their delegates almost entirely to representatives of their Navy. I don't mean by that all naval officers, but representatives of their naval organization. We do not have any that exactly corresponds. That would leave us, if we pursued a similar course, to use officers of the Navy to a large extent, and that is what we are proposing

to do. Mr. Gibson is, of course, expected to head the delegation if no change is made in the plan.

I haven't been taking up any questions relative to Mexico with Charles Beecher Warren. He has been spending two or three weeks, he told me, at White Sulphur Springs, and stopped off here on his way back to Detroit. I think he is returning to Detroit tomorrow. I am not quite certain about that, but I think that is what he told me. He and Mrs. Warren and his family. I asked him to take lunch with me. We had a chat in which we talked some about the developments in Mexico, but not in any official way, nothing having developed other than what we both knew about virtually at the last time we talked together.

There hasn't been any development relative to the appointment of a Judge in California. ~~xxxxxx~~

I have had called to my attention lately the fact that some of the press are beginning to get a little careless about quoting the President as the result of these conferences. It seems that it is necessary to have eternal vigilance to keep that from being done, and to caution the members of the conference against that. Of course, it is a violation of the understanding to say that the spokesman said so and so, and put in quotations on that. I think, by the way, that it would be a good plan to drop that reference to these conferences. It was never authorized in any way that I could determine by the President. It has been used from time to time, but it has been used so long and there has been so much reference to it that one might as well say that the President said so and so, or

the White House spokesman or the official spokesman said so and so.

Question: Mr. President, do we understand that the term spokesman is not permissible?

President: It has never been authorized and has been used in a way that it is perfectly apparent that when the word is used it means the President. Now, that need not have been done, but it has been done, and having been done I think it would be better to drop that.

I am very much interested in doing what we can for the relief of possible flood sufferers along the Mississippi, the lower Mississippi. I have, as I think has already been given out, appointed a committee of the Cabinet, consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, in whose department is the Public Health and the Coast Guard, that will assist in doing what they can to provide for the health of the stricken area. Of course, the Coast Guard has a great many boats that could be used in an emergency up and down the river. I have also asked the Secretary of War, in whose department there is a store of medical supplies, tents and blankets and cots, and the Secretary of the Navy, who is somewhat similarly equipped, to assist. The Army and the Navy are, of course, prepared to supply surgeons wherever they may be necessary. Of course, under the War Department is the Engineering force of the Army, some of whom have charge of the work on the Mississippi. That will be strengthened and reinforced, and such assistance as the Engineering force can give will be given. And Mr. Hoover, who is an expert in all kinds of relief work, will provide his services. He is also Chairman of the Executive Committee - I think

that is the name of it - of the Red Cross. Now, I have appointed this Committee and directed them to meet this afternoon at 2:30, which I think they did, with the Red Cross officials here in the city, and I am planning to carry on this work of relief through the Red Cross, making them the managers and supervisors of it, and they will call on the Government for such assistance as the Government can give. It looks as though the situation might get considerably more serious before it gets better, and for that reason I am hoping that we may have a generous response to the request that I made this morning for funds to go to the Red Cross for this relief work. The Government hasn't any appropriation that can be used for that purpose. That is one of the reasons that we are putting this under the direction of the Red Cross. They have facilities for raising money. The Government can't raise money in that way. We think the work can best be met in that way.

What I said about quoting the President in relation to the use of the term as spokesman wasn't said for publication. It was just said for the information of the conference. That part of the conference we will consider carried on in executive session.

Question: Have you any formula to suggest?

President: I think your ingenuity will provide you with one. The only thing I am suggesting is that you observe the rule of not quoting the President.

Tuesday, April 26, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There was no discussion in the Cabinet over the proposal to open the levees on the lower Mississippi, other than the report of the Secretary of War that he had a telegram from the Governor of Louisiana stating that they had such a proposal under consideration and the suggestion of the Secretary of War that the Federal Government hadn't any legal authority either to approve or disapprove or assume any responsibility for possible damage.

Here is a suggestion about a summer residence in Wisconsin quoting some newspaper reports. I am willing to take any responsibility I can for newspaper reports. I can't always be entirely responsible for them. It says that this was a report that I was to summer on Green Lake and might take the Mayflower there. This question here, I suppose, partakes of a newspaper report, so I don't want to assume any more responsibility about that than I do ordinarily. It says Green Lake is 26 miles over land and says that the Mayflower is 2600 tons, I think it is 3200. I wonder how it would be transported over there. It says that the Welling Canal has a draft of about 14 ft. I presume that is correct, because I had it in mind that the Mayflower could not go through the Welling Canal. I don't know where or what the source of this newspaper report may have been. Perhaps what was meant was that some of the launches from the Mayflower might be taken up to that Lake. That would be entirely possible, though I have no doubt the Lake is sufficiently provided with boats and launches to minister to such sailings as I might want to take.

2.

I haven't made any decision about my summer vacation. Very soon I expect to send out some one to look over the different proposals and bring back some reports and make a final determination about it.

There hasn't been anything further done in relation to the selection of judges.

I have only observed in the most cursory way the press reports on the address that I made last night. So far as I have observed them, they seem to be favorable. It is my observation that if a President makes an address and it doesn't do any harm it is a good address. You naturally can't expect that a President would say much of anything that is new. About all I could do would be to assemble certain facts and arguments that have been made a great many times, but perhaps the fact that the President assembles them and restates them, puts them in a little more authoritative form and brings them to where the public can hear and see them, enables it to get in that way a little new information that it didn't have before.

Friday, April 29, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not see any method by which resort can be had to the Federal Treasury for funds for relief work in the Mississippi Valley. I think that ought to be made quite plain. There has been some suggestion that such might be done. Of course, if that impression becomes held in the country it wont be possible for the Red Cross to do anything in raising money. They would get very little response from the public, if it was thought that the public treasury could be used. The Red Cross are making very great progress. It is quite evident that the \$5,000,000 will not be sufficient for the immediate necessity of the relief needed, so that I am urging an increase in the amount to be raised. I do not expect, of course, to call any special session of the Congress. It would take quite a long time to get Congress assembled and quite a long time to get an appropriation bill through. First there would have to be a bill authorizing the appropriation and then a bill for the appropriation, and it doesn't seem to be expedient. The Federal Government is making large expenditures of supplies, running into some millions of dollars, through the War Department, the Navy Department, in the use of the resources of the Treasury Department, the Coast Guard, the health authorities of the Treasury Department, and the surgeons of the War and Navy Departments. Of course, the Engineering Corps of the Army is provided with funds for working on the levees up and down the river. I might say in relation to funds, that when the bill failed on account of the congestion of business in the final sessions of the Congress, sometimes referred to as a

the bill
 filibuster, /which provided the Department of Agriculture with funds for the purchase of seeds and fertilizer and so on to be used in the Northwest and in the South failed with it, and the Department has been obliged to tell the people in those regions that it had no funds at its disposal for use for that kind of work.

Question: Wasn't there a direct advance from the Treasury in the case of the San Francisco fire?

President: I don't know whether that was the case or not.

I haven't any information relative to recent immigration rulings that have been made in relation to residents of Canada crossing and recrossing into this country. I knew that the Department of Labor was working on that question. I think their main desire was to prevent our immigration laws from being circumvented by persons of alien birth coming to Canada and getting naturalized and then obtaining the right to come into our country to work. It is quite obvious that if that is done to any great extent it would circumvent the present laws, so they have tried to make rulings, as I understand it, and adopt regulations that would prevent that. I think the rules relative to persons born in Canada, who want to come over here, are different from those relative to persons who have been born under some other jurisdiction.

Of course, legislation is almost always under contemplation relative to the prevention of floods in the Mississippi River. There are three elements always to that question. One is flood control, the other is power development, and the other is navigation, all of which makes a com-

3.

plication that is not very easy to solve.

I think all the information that I have relative to the peace negotiations that are going on in Nicaragua has already been published in the press. Whatever comes up from there is given out by the State Department, relative to those negotiations. I couldn't tell what would be the result of the negotiations, if they are successful. I should expect that the result would be that we could withdraw a large part of the marines that are already there. It would depend on what we were expected to do there after the negotiations are carried out. If we had to maintain a force of marines there for a dozen years, I presume that it may be necessary to keep a small legation guard there for some time in the future.

I don't know of any changes in the situation in China, other than what have also been given to the press by the State Department and the Navy Department. The country is in a rather rapidly changing situation. There were reports this morning of some military operations by Chang Kai Check against some of those that have formerly been associated with him under his command. I assume it was the more radical followers that had been associated with the Cantonese movement, in which Chang Kai Check had defeated some of the troops that were attached to the radical movement and driven them back. Nothing further developed in relation to judgeships.

Question: Are you fixing any amount for the additional call for flood sufferers?

President: No. I am glad you spoke about that. I am awaiting the return of Mr. Hoover, which I expect will be in a day or two. I haven't heard from him since he left for the Mississippi Valley. But some member of the Cabinet this morning thought he was going to return in a day or two. I am not sure who that was. The suggestion may not be authentic. He has with him some of the head men of the Red Cross and when they return we will take up the matter of what additional funds ought to be asked for. But I should be very much pleased to have the press make the general announcement that the President desires the collection of additional funds, as it is apparent that the present amount which has been asked for, I think \$5,000,000, will not be adequate.

Question: Then you are not going to make another call?

President: I am not certain about that. That may be considered necessary, but on that I should want to take the judgment of the officials of the Red Cross headquarters.

The motion picture theaters throughout the United States and Canada have very generously responded to the proclamation that I issued in behalf of the American Red Cross and to their response I have suggested that Saturday the 7th day of May the motion pictures give benefit performances, the proceeds of which will be contributed to this Red Cross relief work. I think that is understood. I made the proclamation, and they wanted to know what they could do to help, and I suggested that on the 7th of May they give benefit performances and give the proceeds to the Red Cross.

May 3, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There is no foundation for the reports, so far as I know, that Mr. MacMurray, our Minister to China, has resigned. I think it probably wise to look with more or less suspicion on reports concerning the attitude of this Government toward China and its representatives in China which originate out of our country. I have happened to see a number of reports of that kind which had a foreign origin that didn't have any foundation. I do not think, too, that it is true that the other four governments, the British, the Japanese, the French and the Italian, have agreed on a note that they wish to present to the Cantonese association. It is possible that the representatives of those governments in Peking have agreed on something, but I do not think that the governments at home have made any such agreement. So far as I know, they are in agreement with our own position. There may come a time when it looks to us to be advantageous to present another note. Speaking for our Government, I don't see any advantage that could be derived from such presentation at the present time. Of course, we should consider any suggestion that came to us from the other four governments and would naturally be inclined to cooperate with them in so far as we could. The different governments, however, have different interests in China. There are certain fundamental things on which we are all agreed for the protection of life, the security of property, but we all recognize that in time of disorder like the present those are more or less in jeopardy. That is why

2.

we have sent out forces over to be prepared to extend protection to our own nationals.

I do not anticipate that it is going to be necessary to have a special session of the Congress. I am asking, as the press has reported this morning, for an increased response from the country to the appeal of the Red Cross. We raised, I think, over \$11,000,000 for the relief of suffering in Japan at the time they had the earthquake. I am very certain that our people will make a corresponding response to the appeal for relief of our own people. We are organizing the different departments to give such assistance as they can. The Secretary of War is going down to that region. Mr. Hoover is going with him. I have requested the Secretary of War to have the Engineer Corps and the Mississippi River Commission make a special report to me on the problems that have arisen as a result of the present flood, which will be done before Congress convenes, and will be accessible to Congress for their information, and I shall also have the benefit of it in deciding what recommendations may necessarily be made to the Congress.

I am not expecting at the present time to make any personal inspection of the flood area. Of course, if I went down there now I wouldn't be able to see much of anything of it. I could only go up and down the river in a boat. That wouldn't enable me to make much of an inspection. Perhaps in some small boat I could get outside the main current, but it wouldn't be possible to get any information that I think would ~~increase~~ increase the knowledge very much of what

I have as the result of reports.

I haven't made any further determination about the appointment of judges and I haven't made any decision yet about where I may spend the summer. I am expecting to send Mr. Starling of the Secret Service force into the West within a day or two to inspect some of the places to which I have been invited. As you know, I have to have a place for myself and my family, my servants, a place for an office, and there has to be some accommodations for my office force and accommodations for the press representatives, the writers and the picture men. I should like to have hotel accommodations --

Question: Would it be possible for you to tell us how far West you will go on this trip?

President: I don't know. It will depend on the report I get from Colonel Starling.

Question: I thought perhaps you had a highwater mark.

President: Somewhere in the Middle West. There are some very attractive places in Wisconsin, Minnesota, a very attractive place in Iowa, in South Dakota, and in Colorado. Now that isn't an exclusive list of those places that are attractive. My disposition would be to locate myself somewhere this side of the Rocky Mountains, perhaps on the slope that rises up to them, perhaps in Wisconsin or Northern Minnesota. There is a very good place on Lake Minnetonka that I am going to have inspected, and a place in the Black Hills, places around Colorado Springs. As I have indicated before, I want to get within

4.

as easy striking distance of Washington as I can and at the same time get out into the Middle West area.

Question: Will altitude have anything to do with your decision?

President: In so far as it may govern the temperature, it will.

It would be cooler for instance in Colorado or the Black Hills than in some other places. There is a very beautiful Lake in Iowa, which is 1760 ft. high, which is just about the altitude we had last year at Paul Smith's. But I am also having some investigation made about the mean temperature of these places.

Friday, May 6, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There isn't anything further that I can add to what I have said a great many times about my policy relative to the ships owned by the United States and operated by the Shipping Board. I think you will find it in practically all my messages and in a number of my speeches. There is no reason that I know of why I should reiterate it now.

I don't know of any report that Frank Hambridge has resigned as Federal Judge in Honolulu. Something may have come to the office that has not yet come to my desk. I don't know of anything of that kind. It might go as a matter of course to the Department of Justice, but I imagine that I should know about it if such was the case.

I had several gentlemen in to breakfast this morning. Have their names been given out, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes.

President: Yes. It was a breakfast very much like all of those that I have, mostly social.

I haven't received any different report from Mr. Butler than that which I have seen referred to in the press. He told me last night that he had seen several of the members of the press yesterday and gave them the information which he gave me, to the effect that he had had a very pleasant journey out through the West, become conscious of the great hospitality out there, thought the country over which he had traveled was

on the whole looking prosperous, and that there was general satisfaction expressed with the course of the Government at Washington.

I haven't any report today from Nicaragua. The only thing that I am certain about down there from reports that I have received is that Mr. Stimson is doing his best to compose the differences and find some method by which peace can be restored. Perhaps the method that he may employ is not so very important, if it results in bringing about an amicable condition. I think perhaps it would be well not to take too literally what the contending sides may think it is necessary to give out as publicity, but keep in mind that the main effort of this country is to restore peace and prevent further bloodshed. I have great hopes that Mr. Stimson is going to be able to bring that about.

There isn't anything further that I can say about flood relief and so on that I haven't already said. Of course, all of us recognize the magnitude of the question that has arisen as the result of this great catastrophe and I have already requested the Secretary of War to direct the Engineering Corps in conjunction with the Mississippi River Commission to make a study and report. We are more engaged just now in affording relief for those that are in distress than we are in trying to lay out plans for permanent protection hereafter, though we are by no means oblivious to the necessity of making every effort along that line. I expect that the crest has passed by. There is little opportunity to find out what the results of this flood have disclosed, but I shall have a preliminary report

3.

from the War Department as to whether they desire to have the assistance of civilian engineers, business men, and so on, whether it might not be well for some of the committees of the Congress that are going to pass on probable proposals for legislation to begin at an early date preliminary studies, so that they will be in a position speedily to take action when the Congress convenes. There have been a good many different suggestions about special commissions. It is somewhat difficult for the President to start out a special commission, because the law specifically prohibits him from expending any money for that purpose, and any commission that I might convene would have to provide its own resources without any financial assistance from the Government. But we have the Engineering Corps and the Mississippi River Commission which are both proper bodies to do this work, and I judge that they would have authority to call in for consultation any persons that they might think were necessary to assist them. This is an allied question, as I pointed out the other day, of power development, navigation, and flood control. Such discussions as I have had relative to it indicate that things that might be done on small rivers which are tributary to the Mississippi, which would do a great deal towards flood control in the headwaters of those tributaries, would not be of great assistance in solving the real Mississippi River problem.

Question: Has Secretary Hoover made a report yet?

President: He has not made any report. I haven't had an opportunity to discuss that matter with him very much. He did tell me though

that the water that is going down the main channel of the Mississippi now represents 3,000,000 - I don't know whether it is cubic feet or 3,000,000 second feet, whether it is technically called 3,000,000 cubic feet or second cubic feet - and that one of the large tributaries I think in the ^{headwaters} ~~headquarters~~ of the Mississippi would represent only 4,000 compared with 3,000,000.

Question: Did he name that tributary?

President: I don't -- I was thinking we were talking then about the headwaters of the Mississippi. I am not certain about that. It is not a matter of importance any way. I just mentioned it as an indication of the magnitude of the present flood. We ^{can} ~~xxxx~~ deal with it very effectively on the headwaters of the different streams that enter in. This has come about by the great precipitation of water over the broad lowland area. While at other times there have been flood waters from 3 or 4 tributaries of the Mississippi at one time that have raised the waters of the main stream, this time there are 8 or 10. All of them are originating in the lowlands, where probably it isn't feasible to try to make artificial reservoirs for water. I don't want to undertake to express any opinion about what ought to be done, or what method ought to be pursued. I simply state what I understand is to be done and the main origin of the present flood. Provision is being made through the Red Cross and through local committees for the purchase of seed and feed and animals. I am expecting that some of the banking interests of that locality will be up here within a day or two to confer with Mr. Mellon and Mr. Meyer to see what plan can be adopted

to assist in financing rehabilitation. In 1922 there was a very carefully prepared bill intended to take care of the Mississippi flood situation, which provided for the laying out of a dike which was 3 feet higher than the point of the highest flood. That hasn't been high enough to take care of this flood. I merely mention that again as an indication that this question has had very careful consideration in the Congress and by Engineering talent. I think that bill provided for an expenditure on the part of the National Government of \$10,000,000 a year, supplemented by I think \$5,000,000 to be paid by the adjoining territory where the dikes were built. It was thought that when those dikes were built up to that standard there wouldn't be any trouble from floods up and down the Mississippi Valley. Now whether the engineering profession is going to decide that ^{the} dikes are not high enough or not I don't know. From such meager information as I have I judge it will be necessary to conclude that they have not been high enough to carry this flood. Of course, those dikes are not all done. That was an expenditure that was to run over a considerable period of time. I think there are about 23 or 25 miles of dikes up and down the Mississippi and this was to be done each year as funds were available, \$10,000,000 being appropriated each year from the National treasury. This question, therefore, has been studied and considered in a good many of its aspects a great many times, but apparently no final solution has been made, so that I should judge that the whole question will have to be reconsidered and

6.

conclusions will have to be reconsidered on account of the experiences of the present year and plans will have to be formulated to take care of any emergency of this kind happening in the future.

Question: Do we understand that this bill of 1922 was enacted into law?

President: Yes.

Tuesday, May 10, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not sure whether I shall go down to Norfolk to review the fleet. I would like to go and mean to go, if I can find the time.

I have directed Mr. Mellon, although perhaps it had already been done, to notify the Coast Guard vessels - we have quite a good many of them out on stations in the North Atlantic, where they go at this time of the year to keep track of icebergs - to do what they can towards searching for the French fliers. The Secretary of the Navy doesn't think that we could get naval vessels out there in time to stand much chance of rendering any service. But we have the coast guard out there. There are a number of those vessels. They are in that locality and they will be on the look-out

I haven't had any word from Colonel Starling since he went away.

I had understood that the Naval Limitations Conference would confer in Geneva about the 20th of June. Whether the parties have finally agreed on that date and place, I am not certain, but I have expected that that ~~be~~ would be the place and that would be the date.

I think there is a petition for executive clemency for Earl Carroll pending in the Department of Justice. It hasn't come to me.

The French Government has not made any request for aid in search of the aviators. This, by the way, was not a French Government enterprise, but was a private enterprise engaged in by these two men and their supporters, so that I don't know that it is to be expected that the French Government

would make any request of us for aid.

One or two people have spoken to me about closing several -- about the proposal to close several land offices - and I have referred them all to the Department of the Interior. Whether the Department is getting any additional information that would lead them to make any different recommendation to me than that which they have already made, I don't know.

I never heard any suggestion about closing the Panama Canal for repairs. That is one of those reports that would be right 99 times out of 100 if you deny it. I suppose sometimes the Canal may be closed for a few hours on account of some thing or another, but I think that is unusual and my last reports were that the Canal was in excellent shape. I am very sure that there is no suggestion emanating from any Government quarters for the closing of it for repairs.

I haven't any information about the appointment of a Prohibition Commissioner, other than what has already appeared in the press. The duty of making that appointment is reposed in the Secretary of the Treasury. I know that he is conferring with different people to get their opinion about it, has some more conferences on it, and I think he has not come to any decision.

The Country is making very good response to the appeal of the Red Cross to furnish money for the relief of those that are suffering on account of the flood, but the area of the flood keeps increasing so that the

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Red Cross will certainly need all the money that it can secure. I would like to emphasize the continuing need for relief and my appreciation of the response the Country is making.

Nothing has been done about the appointment of any further judges. The Attorney General's wife is very critically ill and he has been with her for a week or so. I don't know just when he will return. I think he is likely to return almost any time.

Friday , May 13, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't made any further decisions about judges. The Attorney General has sent word that Mrs. Sargent is feeling somewhat better and it is expected that he will return about the first of the week, probably Monday. I expect to be in a position to take up some further appointments.

Richard Washburn Child, I assume, has gone down into the flood area as a writer. He told me that he was going down and I suggested that he might get in touch there with the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Commerce, and they would probably be able to give him some information that might be helpful to him. The matter of flood control was not discussed at the Breakfast this morning. I don't know but it was mentioned incidentally. There was no discussion about it. The relief work is being organized there, so the reports from Mr. Hoover indicate, both for rescue and rationing while the floods are going on, and for rehabilitation after the floods recede. I think they are making very good progress in that direction.

I have a question relative to the stores of the United States that are maintained in Panama. If any one is desirous of getting a full discussion on that, if they will look into the Federal Relations of the United States, on page 613, they will find there a note from John Hay that explains that matter to a considerable extent. When we first went to Panama, of course, we didn't have any port within the Panama territory, I mean within the Canal Zone, so that we had to make our landings within the Republic of Panama, and it was for

that purpose that there was put into the treaty a provision to the effect that we could take stores, machinery, and so on, in through Panama without having to pay duty. But the treaty itself provided that the United States should have full sovereign jurisdiction over the Panama Canal Zone and that is what it has. Having that, of course this Government has just as much right to carry on business there as it would have to carry on business anywhere within the United States. But the Government has always recognized that it didn't care to engage in business there to any extent to the prejudice of the merchants of Panama, so that it provided in the treaty that was negotiated in 1926, and which has not yet been ratified by Panama, that such activities would be of a limited nature, and that the provision was to run in perpetuity.

I have noted that there is some effort being made to curtail oil production. The interest of the United States Government in that is on the side of conservation. We have a general interest in securing a supply of oil at a reasonable cost, but the main interest is one of conservation of our natural resources in order that they may be used for the best advantage of our people. I presume some of you in the conference will remember that about a year ago Governor Byrd of Virginia addressed an open letter to me complaining about the high price of gasoline. I think I pointed out at the time that it was probably due to natural causes, the falling off of that great production that had been going on for some time on the California coast, the great increase in the number of automobiles and so the greater consumption and the general use of oil and fuel,

and suggested that while the Government would do anything it could to prevent illegal combinations from being made that would unduly enhance the price of gasoline, and for that purpose the matter was called to the attention of the Federal Trade Board and the Department of Justice, yet that it was thought that the result at that time was probably a natural working out of the law of supply and demand. I judge that developments since that time have confirmed that opinion. The great production that has come in in oil in Oklahoma, I think it is known as the Seminole Pool, where they are producing some 350,000 barrels of oil per day, increases the supply of oil in this country one-seventh. The result has been that there is more of a supply than for which there was a ready market and prices of oil and oil products have declined. Some one told me the other day that the price of gasoline in California, I think it was Southern California, was 12¢, which I judge to be a very low price. I don't know just what our local price is. Now the matter of price is not one with which the Government can deal very much, but we are interested to have conservation of oil and we are interested to have a free market in it to prevent anything like a conspiracy to raise prices, or any arrangement which would result in the waste of our oil resources. I have a Commission that I appointed two or three years ago on the conservation of oil and they are considering the question at the present time. I don't know just what they can do. They haven't made any final decision. They will do whatever they can to secure conservation of oil and prevent, so far as they can, its wasteful exploitation. But I want again to put the emphasis entirely on conservation. The matter of price is not one with which the Government undertakes to deal ~~except~~ except indirectly.

01342

Tuesday, May 17, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have here a telegram from Mr. Hoover. It is quite long and I don't need to read it all. Some of the pertinent parts of it are. Accumulating experience and the success of our appeal to the public makes reasonably safe to say now that the funds in hand and prospective will enable the Red Cross to do its work on efficient basis. The Governors of each of the states have appointed commissions under able chairmanship to represent the state in reconstruction measures. They have divided the work into two stages. One is the measures during the flood stage and the second is reconstruction. The reconstruction is subdivided into emergency action and the longer view of measures to be adopted under the responsibility of state commissions. Of course the flood measures are the rescue of families and life stock, equipment of relief camps, the provision for food, clothing and medical supplies, feed for livestock, transportation of sufferers and animals back home. Then the second period of reconstruction is the seed, temporary supply of food, feed for the livestock, farm implements, additional livestock and poultry, buildings and repairs, furniture, medical service and sanitation, financial credit. You undoubtedly saw the statement given out by the Farm Loan Board yesterday that they were in cooperation with a million dollar corporation that has been formed ~~th~~ so that through the Farm Loan Associations \$4,000,000 would be added, making \$5,000,000 for relief. Then comes business reconstruction, public schools, roads and bridges, municipal property, public utilities and levees. The Red Cross gives its assistance to

2.

needs that arise directly from the flood. The central office is at Memphis, but they have staff representatives and agents at concentration points who work through local chapters and committees. The national organization is coordinating its work with the activities of state commissions and state agents. County Committees have been decided upon for the rehabilitation work. The chairmen of these county and parish committees will be appointed jointly by representatives of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the State Commission. The Red Cross will keep a representative with each State Commission to coordinate all the activities. The question of mass purchasing is being considered, but in general the local committees will make their own purchases. Emergency credit corporations, one of which I just mentioned, are being formed and State health authorities and Red Cross nursing and medical and sanitary assistance are being coordinated. This other telegram relates to the Agricultural Credit Corporation that I spoke about a moment ago. That is especially for the State of Arkansas. Transportation of people from concentration camps has already started. That is dated on the 13th. I have a number of questions about flood relief, which I think I have covered in what I have already said.

I haven't any information about the conferences that are taking place between our officials and the Canadian representatives relative to recent immigration regulations that have not already been made public. I had understood from what the Secretary of State told me and the Secretary of Labor said to me that they felt confident that some method would be worked out that would

be fairly satisfactory to both people in this country and people in Canada.

Here is an inquiry relative to the use that might be made of questions that are submitted to me and which I do not discuss. I had supposed that the rule about that was that questions that were submitted and not discussed would not be discussed in the press. I don't mean by that that it isn't perfectly proper of course to discuss the substance of the questions, but I did understand that it was the rule that if a question were submitted to me and was not discussed by me that no report was to be made, one way or the other, about the fact of the submission of the question.

It is too early to come to any settled conclusion about tax reduction next year, the next financial year, or the next session of the Congress. As I have already indicated, it will be necessary to see what our surplus amounts to, what the source of that surplus is, what the conditions are, when Congress gets together, and what the probabilities are as to the continuation of a surplus if no change is made in the law which would justify tax reduction.

With the work that is going on for flood relief and the arrangements that are being made to take care of the situation, I do not think it would be necessary to call a special session of the Congress.

I expect to be at the meeting of the American Medical Association this evening. I haven't made any final determination about where I shall spend the summer. I expect Colonel Starling will be back very shortly now. He was in Colorado a day or two ago and I think that was the last place he was expecting to visit.

4.

Nothing further has been done about judges.

Press : Would it be permissible to give that telegram out from
Mr. Hoover?

President: Yes, you can have that if you want it.

Press: Is the Secretary coming back shortly?

President: He hasn't indicated when he would return.

Friday, May 20, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Some suggestions have been made relative to a successor to Roy Morse, who is the United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. They are under consideration. No decision has yet been made.

I want to go to review the fleet on the 4th of June. I haven't fully determined about it.

There have been some suggestions made to me about an early session of the next Congress. But that matter hasn't developed far enough so that I have come to any conclusion about it. I think some of the Southern representatives have made some suggestion of that kind for a session, perhaps the first of November.

I have not received any resignation from General Andrews, either recently or at any other time.

I haven't decided yet about my location for the summer, and I can't tell just when I shall get away. Of course, I have to be here for the semi-annual meeting that is held under the auspices of the Bureau of the Budget, which is on the 10th, as I recall it.

Press: 11th.

President: 11th, thank you. And then there are some other things that may detain me for some time after that.

I don't know as there is any comment I can make on the resolution that some representatives of Porto Rico brought in yesterday relative to their desire

to have Governor Towner continue in office. Of course, I was pleased to receive the information that he was giving general satisfaction to the local government of the Island. I don't just know why the delegation should be sent up here for the purpose set out in their resolution, but considering the fact that some of our officeholders are not averse to visiting Porto Rico on occasion perhaps it is not difficult to imagine that officeholders in Porto Rico would not be averse to coming up here. It is very much more pleasant to have them come telling me that they are contented with the situation as it exists, than it is to have them come making complaints about their government. Perhaps their visit may be taken as an indication of a very happy condition on the island, indicating satisfaction on their part with the general way that their government is proceeding. I suggested to them that it is always necessary to use care in the raising and expending of the revenue of the government. The resources of the Island are limited, of course. They have been embarking on a considerable policy of public improvements, the building of a rather ambitious capitol or state house, the construction of a system of highways, increasing their educational facilities, all of which calls for a considerable outlay of money. I suggested to them also the great desirability of a general knowledge on the Island of the English language. They are under an English speaking Government and are a part of the territory of an English speaking nation. I thought that it would be very much easier for them to understand us, and for us to understand them, if they had a good working knowledge of the English language. While I appreciated the desira-

bility of maintaining their grasp on the Spanish language, the beauty of that language and the richness of its literature, that as a practical matter for them it was quite necessary to have a good comprehension of English.

I do not understand that the policy of railroad consolidation has been given any definite check by the Interstate Commerce Commission because they have rejected two merger proposals, one known as the Van Sweringen case something more than a year ago and the other the Loree case that was decided quite recently. I understand that the Van Sweringens have filed a new petition, probably in accordance with the opinion that was rendered in their first case. I am not familiar with the details of the Loree merger, or of the decision that was made, so that I could judge whether the decision indicates it would be impossible to make the merger that was suggested or whether it merely means that there must be a change in the details. I have indicated in my messages to the Congress and on other public occasions my interest in the promotion of railroad mergers that were just and fair, thinking that the policy of consolidations was one that was of benefit to the public. Of course, each one of these cases has to be determined on its own merits, but I hope that the decision that has been made in the Loree case will further clarify the rules that the Interstate Commerce Commission wish to follow in the making - approval - of consolidations.

I don't know as there is any special comment that I can make on the attempt of Captain Lindbergh to fly from New York to Paris, other than one of great interest in it that I feel in common with what I think is pretty much that of all Americans, my best wishes for his success.

4.

The Attorney General has returned and I understood from him this morning in talking with him at the Cabinet meeting that he would have some recommendations to make either today or tomorrow relative to filling several vacant judgeships.

01350

Tuesday, May 24, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't made any final decision where I shall spend the summer. The general situation in the Black Hills looks so good that I am having a careful investigation made there to see whether adequate accommodations can be provided to take care of myself, my office force and the newspaper men.

I haven't seen the suggestion that is referred to as having been made by Ambassador Herrick that Lindbergh be sent to fly to various European capitals. There would be some difficulty about arranging that through Government action. I had seen some reports in the press that he was contemplating flights to different portions of Europe. The more we learn of his accomplishment in going from New York to Paris, the greater it seems to have been. That is something that grows on us the more we contemplate it.

I haven't had any report of what resulted from the Oil Conservation meeting, other than what I have noted in the press. I judged from that that it was thought that some progress had been made. Nothing has been said about it in the Cabinet. I don't know but what it was mentioned at some previous meeting incidentally, but nothing recently.

I have a tentative decision - of course all the decisions of the President about making any trips are tentative, but this is rather more tentative than usual - to review the fleet. If I do so, I think I shall go down on the Mayflower. That would seem to provide about as convenient a method of access as any. I could make the run down during the night, review the fleet during the day,

and come back during the next night.

The Navy Department has directed the Commander of the Naval forces in Europe to offer transportation to Lindbergh on a destroyer of Division 25, which is now in Europe and will sail for the United States about the 15th of June. This Division consists of the destroyers Isherwood, Case, Sharkey, Lardner, Toucey and Breck under the command of Captain W. W. Galbraith of the U. S. Navy. Directions were also given to the commander of the forces to offer transportation to the United States for Captain Lindbergh's plane.

I was naturally very much pleased with the report of Colonel Stimson, former Secretary of War, on his return from Nicaragua. He told me that he would prepare a short statement and give it to the press, which I think he did and which covered the vital points that he reported to me. He is very certain that peace has been entirely reestablished and all bands of any consequence that were engaged in warfare in Nicaragua have delivered their arms to the United States authorities there, both those that represented the government and those that represented the revolutionary forces. It was a very excellent accomplishment on the part of Colonel Stimson and one to which he is entitled to great credit. I am personally very appreciative of what he did there and it was a great service to the people of Nicaragua and a service that the people of this country may view with a good deal of satisfaction, I am sure.

I am appointing Claude M. Henry of South Dakota to be a member of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, vice McIntosh resigned. Mr. Henry

3.

is a farmer in South Dakota with banking experience and served in the Spanish War I think with the rank of Captain.

Press: What are his politics?

President: He comes from South Dakota.

Press: The reason I asked that was because McIntosh was a democrat.

President: I don't know. I think there is no provision in the law for any bipartisanship on this Board. I haven't asked him what his politics are and I don't know.

I haven't had any suggestion, so far as I know, of any person to appoint as a judge in the place of Frank Andrea who has resigned.

I am expecting to leave Washington, as I have already indicated, about the middle of June.

Friday, May 27, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

No final decision has been made about the appointment of a United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

I have conferred with the Secretary of War relative to what appropriate action might be taken by the War Department in recognition of the services of Captain Lindbergh, and the Secretary says that they have considered presenting him with the Distinguished Flying Cross, which he thought could be done but wasn't quite sure about the provisions of the law. Captain Lindbergh is a reserve officer. And they are also considering what possible promotion might be given him.

Quite naturally I haven't got so far as to be considering a list of people that I may invite to visit me during the summer. I expect to leave to review the fleet at Hampton Roads the day before the review. I think the review comes on the 4th of June. I expect to leave the day before that. It is my present intention to go down on the Mayflower.

From such investigation as I have made, I think I can be taken care of at the Black Hills. Colonel Starling is starting out there today, to make a final survey and report. I judge that the executive offices would be at Rapid City, which is a place of about 9,000 inhabitants. I think a little larger than the town that we were nearest to last summer, Saranac Lake.

Question: Do you expect to use those offices? Will you come back and forth?

President: Yes. I expect to hold conferences with the newspaper men.

Question: Twice a week?

President: Yes.

It wouldn't be in accordance with diplomatic usage for me to make any comment on the severance of relations between England and Russia. I haven't any information about any documents that were found in the London headquarters of the Soviet.

Here is a question that perhaps I might clarify a little. Does the abolition of trade relations between Great Britain and Russia suggest similar action on the part of the United States. I judge that question has been asked from perhaps a little confusion of just what the situation is. Between the British Government and the Russian Government there existed the condition of recognition. There is no such condition between the United States Government and Russia. Our people are at liberty to carry on trade with the Russian people or the Russian Government on their own responsibility and whatever action the British and Russians might take toward each other has no effect on the privilege that our people enjoy, if they wish to, of trading with the Russian Government or the people of Russia.

I have already indicated that I expect to go to the review of the fleet on the Mayflower.

Tuesday, May 31, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Here are two or three questions that perhaps could be answered more desirably by reference to Mr. Slomp's book -- what is the title of that?

Press: The Mind of the President.

President: The Class is perfect.

Press: Can we use that story?

President: I haven't any objection to it.

One of these questions relates to the desire of the United States Government to have financial help extended to European countries. I have discussed that several times in the different addresses that I think are reported in that book, and our country has been glad to give its approbation sufficiently through the action of the various secretaries to private interests that have been proposing to lend money for stabilizing currencies for economic development.

I could hardly send any special message to the Polish people. It wouldn't be quite in accordance with the custom of the Presidential office to do that. Of course, it goes without saying that this Government wishes well the Polish Government and the Polish people, and is interested in their welfare, development, and prosperity, the same as it is in the same things towards other countries in Europe.

I had noticed some increase in the prices of corn and wheat and oats. I took it that that was due perhaps to the feeling that the season was backward, perhaps the crops would not be quite so extensive as they were last year. There is nothing occurs to me that could be said about that in its relation to legis-

lation, either past or prospective, that hasn't already been said. I have discussed with some of the members of the Congress the desirability of having the committees of the House and Senate that would probably have charge of any flood control bills meet early in order to study the question and perhaps prepare bills. I understand that those committees are contemplating such action. Of course that is a matter for them to decide. It isn't a matter over which the President has any official jurisdiction and when they come into session, as I understand they are proposing to do, I shall direct the Flood Control Commission, the Mississippi River Commission, and the Engineering Corps to provide them with such information as they have and the results of studies which they are now carrying on as fast as those studies are developed.

It seems to be understood between the War Department and myself that Captain Lindbergh is to be presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross. He will, of course, be invited to come to the White House, call on me here in Washington if he reaches this country before I start West, or if he should reach here at a later date I should like to have him come to visit me at the Black Hills. I quite naturally want him to make such arrangements as are agreeable to him, as to what hospitality he will accept, so that is a matter for him and his committee that supplied him with funds and who are looking after that matter for him here to determine for themselves. But I shall of course invite him to come and visit me.

I have appointed the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy,

the Postmaster General, and Mr. Hoover will sit in with them, as a committee in charge of preparations for national recognition of Captain Lindbergh's great achievement and that committee will meet at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon. They will determine what the National Government can do to appropriately partake in some national celebration of his great feat. We also have under contemplation the matter of promotion, and I expect to appoint him to a higher place in the Reserve Flying Corps than that which he now holds.

Press: Could you say at this time whether or not this recognition will be in Washington?

President: Well, that is for the committee to decide just where they will hold that.

Press: There are dispatches from London this morning saying one reason he was being urged to come back at this time was because of advices from Washington.

President: I am glad you mentioned that, because the Secretary of State mentioned that in the Cabinet meeting and said that so far as he knew no advices had been sent. That must have referred to his own committee who have been here in Washington. Perhaps they have been in communication with him. I know in fact that they did communicate with him by telephone. I don't know whether it was here or at some other point. My impression was that it was from here and that may have been the origin of that story. That wouldn't indicate any official suggestion from this country.

Press: Will you personally confer the Distinguished Flying Cross?

President: I think so. I would like very much to do that.

I have a question here about the Treasury surplus and the possible effect on tax reduction. I can't tell yet just what the surplus will be. It will be a very comfortable sum and I am going to take that up and discuss it at some length in the Budget meeting, so that I hardly think I will comment on it now.

I expect to go to the Black Hills. I haven't yet any report from Colonel Starling since he went out there, but other people who have been in here and pictures I have seen of the location out there indicate to me that it is a desirable place.

I knew that some parties in New York, I think one of them is Professor Shotwell, are making a study of a possible treaty to be negotiated between this country and other countries on the subject which is generally referred to as outlawing war, and I had directed that they take the matter up with the State Department, which I think is being done. I wouldn't want to hazard any definite comment on it until I find out from the State Department just what is being proposed and what the view of the State Department may be. I have referred to that subject several times in my messages to the Congress. It is one which I have been very glad to observe is being studied and which I should be very much pleased to find had been put into a practicable form.

I do not think any movements of Marines in China or any considerable extent are contemplated. Our main base now is at Shanghai. We may send some more

Marines to Teintsin. That will depend on developments in north China and whether we think that our Legation and our Diplomatic and Consular representatives in that locality and the American interests there are in any peril. We have in general contemplation that we should remove the Legation from Peking if any general disorder develops in that neighborhood, because that is a long ways from the coast, comparatively over there, difficult of access, and therefore difficult to protect. It would be very much easier to take care of our interests if our Embassy and the people connected with it -- I mean the Legation -- was brought down where it would have better access to the sea.

Mr. Hoover is working out plans for flood relief, and as he has pointed out to me there is quite a difference between flood relief and flood reconstruction. I could only speak of that in general terms, of the desire that the Government has through its agencies, and which the Red Cross is manifesting, and which I have also taken up with the United States Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Meyer, the head of the Farm Loan Board, to cooperate in securing funds for relief and for reconstruction. I have this morning sent a communication to Mr. Pierson, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, making suggestions to him about raising some more money to finance the Credit Corporations that are being formed in the three most interested states. I think they have already secured subscriptions of about \$1,750,000, and they need outside help of about the same amount. I am asking the Chamber of Commerce to do what it can to secure subscriptions of that kind from the outside business interests around the country. That will make a broader base on which the Federal Farm Loan Board and so on can

extend their credit to the inundated area.

I have already spoken of what is being done about Captain Lindbergh. I hope that he will be able to reach Washington before I go away.

I haven't seen the Goldsmith open letter which is said to have been addressed to me and which has been published in Canada. Without criticising in any way the writing and publishing of letters of that kind in foreign countries -- it is perfectly proper, our own citizens do it here and citizens of other countries can very properly do that in their own lands -- I think some of you recall that Clemenceau wrote a letter of that kind either last summer or two years ago, but it isn't possible for the President to make public comment on letters of that kind. I assume that it has something to do about our Government. But we have official methods of communication with the Governments of other countries and it is necessary for the President to keep within that bound, to carry on our diplomatic intercourse through duly appointed representatives, rather than to undertake to guide it through statements given to the press.

I am expecting to go down to review the Fleet, as the press already knows. I have conferred with the Secretary of the Navy this morning about making arrangements to take care of the press. They will be taken out from some appropriate point and either stay on the boat that takes them out or go on one of the battleships. I use battleship only in a general term -- one of the ships of the Fleet that will be located at that point to give them every possible assistance in properly reporting the review. I hope we may have good weather and that the press anticipates the enjoyment of it as much as I do.

7.

Can you say where the Peking Legation may be moved to?

President: I can't say yet. May possibly go to Shanghai, or some other location.

Tuesday, June 7, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Of course, I can't speak as an expert regarding the appearance of the fleet at the review which I attended last Saturday. I was naturally very much impressed with the fine appearance that was made by the fleet, both in the large number of vessels that passed by and in their generally efficient appearance. We had but a few of our dextroyers there. We have a great many of them. We have a good many battleships and cruisers and an airplane carrier and a hospital ship, which is the only hospital ship in the world which was built exclusively for that purpose in serving a national navy. I don't think that any one could have viewed the parade of the ships that went by with the knowledge that it was only a part of our fleet, without realizing that we have, as everyone knows, one of the most powerful navies in the world.

I am not planning any stops on my trip West, other than the one at Hammond, Indiana. I don't mean by that that there will not be stops which will be more or less incidental. I am expecting to make a short stop at Pierre, South Dakota, more or less informal, where the Governor and some of the State officials wish to come to the train to extend their greetings. I presume there will be some incidental stops of that nature, people coming to stations where the train is stopping to take water or something of that kind.

No final decision has been made about keeping our Legation at

Peking. It will depend upon the development of conditions there. Peking is difficult of access in case of any disorder or military disturbance at that point, so that we had formed a plan some time ago that if danger threatened that point we would move the Legation down where it could be more easily taken care of. That matter is more or less in the hands of Admiral Williams, who will advise us and keep us informed as to what is necessary to be done to protect our people.

I have already extended half holidays for the Government employees to the very closely breaking point. It was done at their request. So that I am not expecting to have another addition to ~~it~~ their half holidays because Captain Lindbergh is going to be in Washington on Saturday next. He isn't to arrive here until 12:00 o'clock. It is now planned to have the ceremony bestowing the Distinguished Flying decoration upon him something like an hour after his arrival. I am advising the Departments, however, that those of their people that are not needed to keep the departments running will be permitted to go out at 12:00 o'clock. That will give them plenty of time to attend the ~~cre-~~ ceremonies which will be at 1:00.

I have reappointed Commissioner Hill of the Shipping Board; that is, given him a recess appointment, his term being about to expire.

I do not think any plans have been made about a reception to Mr. Chamberlin when he returns. No information has reached me about the time of his return. So, quite naturally, nothing has been done in relation to it.

There has been no exchange of correspondence between this Government and the German Government, or any of the cities over there, of which I have cognizance, relative to the flight of the plane that reached Germany, other than the message that was sent by me through the State Department which has already been made public.

I think from reports that have been made to me by the Department of Justice, I may be able to appoint one or two more judges before I leave for the summer. I think not more than two and possibly not more than one.

Senator Smoot, I believe, is coming in to see me tomorrow. Perhaps he will have something to say about calling Congress together a little before its regular session in December. The investigation and plans for flood control have not yet reached any point where I have thought it was necessary to give consideration to any early convening of the Congress. It will be necessary for us to see what progress is made in the plans for that purpose, though considering the probability that any plans that are perfected would require several years for their execution and that the matter of a month or two would be of little consequence, it might not appear when all the information is assembled that there is any particular reason for an early session. I assume though, that the main reason for starting a session early would be in order to have an opportunity for the Congress to act on the considerable amount of business that will come before it, and at the same time give it an opportunity to adjourn at the usual early period/^{at} which the Congress likes to

adjourn when the House and a third of the Senate are up for reelection.

I think I am having a reception, or rather the usual garden party, or whatever designation is properly given to it, for the ex-service men that are in the different hospitals about the city on the 10th. Is it the 10th?

Press: The 9th, Thursday.

- President: I was going to say that if it came on the 10th I felt certain it would be over in time so that we could have our usual afternoon conference.

Friday, June 10, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I expect to receive all those that come to see me to transact business at the offices that we shall establish at Rapid City during the summer. I presume that a good many people will call on me at the State Game Lodge. It would be a little difficult to say just what arrangements we can make about that until I get out there. Very likely it will be quite largely my practice to go down to the office in the morning and probably stay there until some time in the afternoon. It would be more convenient for those that come to call on me to see me there, because that is where they would arrive coming in on the train. But I have no doubt that we shall see a great many people at the State Game Lodge. It is entirely agreeable to me to refer to the place where we shall live as the State Game Lodge. That is the name under which it is known in South Dakota. I think we might very well continue that name.

I have been inquired of by different persons about the probability of the location of the next Republican National Convention. I should think that five or six, perhaps more people, that are interested in particular cities have mentioned the matter to me. I have told them that of course it is a matter for the National Committee to decide and that they will not make any decision until they meet here in Washington next December, that it seemed to me that it would be a proper procedure for the different municipalities that would like to have the Convention come to their city to make their applications to the Committee, who will file them, and they will present at the proper time the correspondence of the different localities and in that way extend their invitation; that I have no choice

about it at the present time. I think it is a matter that the Committee should very largely decide. I think that is substantially all the comment that I have made to quite a number of people that have asked me about it.

I haven't laid out any program for Saturday, other than which has been announced. I expect to be at the stand on the Monument grounds when Lindbergh arrives there. Those members of the Cabinet that are not on the Committee, the Committee consists of the Secretary of War, the Postmaster General, and the Secretary of the Navy - Secretary Hoover was to sit in with them but is still in the South and will not be able to be present - that Committee will go to the Navy Yard to meet Colonel Lindbergh. I suppose that his mother, Mrs. Lindbergh, has already reached our residence. I understand that the plan is for her to go down to the Navy Yard to meet her son, and that she and her son will ride under escort and take a part in the parade in one of the White House cars. Then there will be the short exercises at the Monument grounds. I have a few remarks to make there conferring upon Colonel Lindbergh the Distinguished Flying Cross. After that we shall return to the White House accompanied by the Colonel and his mother. Now, what other program has been arranged for him during the afternoon and evening, I think has already been published. I don't know just what the desires of his mother and the Colonel may be for Sunday. I think there is some program laid out for that day. Mrs. Coolidge and I shall attend church as usual, I expect. I think that some program has been laid out for him so that he will probably not accompany us to church. I think they have a very well thought out program for his entertainment while he is here in the city, and that there is every probability that he will be given a royal welcome.

3.

Question: Do we understand that out at South Dakota you are to keep regular office hours? Are you coming in every day?

President: I think so. There may be some days I shall not come in, but that will be my practice, substantially the same as I did in the Adirondacks last year.

Friday, June 17, 1927,
Rapid City, S. D.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any plan at the present time for conferences out here on any particular subjects. I have no doubt that during the summer I shall see many representatives here of different interests, industrial, agricultural, and commercial. But I haven't any plan about that now.

I think Mr. Sanders has already notified you that on Friday I had planned to have my conference at 11:45. Now, that is for release for the Saturday morning papers. It will be more convenient for the members of the press that are to be here, both to get their stories off early and insure their reaching their destination in the East in time for the regular publications on Saturday morning. On Tuesdays I think we will have our conferences here soon after 9:00 o'clock, perhaps half past nine. I have my breakfast so that I can easily get in at that time and that will be for release for the afternoon papers.

Press: Is it thoroughly understood that no information given at the 11:45 conferences shall go out at all, except for the morning papers on Saturday? In other words, no tips to be routed up to get in the afternoon papers?

President: Yes.

Press: Of course, 9:30 seems rather early, but even that is 12:30 in the Eastern cities, on account of daylight savings. So the earlier to 9:00 o'clock the better.

President: We will do the best we can about that.

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I have a very fine location out at the State Game Lodge. I think most of you have been out there. It is just exactly what I like. I had a fine and pleasant trip across the country. I was very much interested in seeing the country that I was able to see on my trip out. Some of the people that came down to the station I wasn't able to see very well because about the station there is a great cloud of dust that comes up. That is because the ground around there is used to bring freight in for shipment and take freight out, and the soil is pulverized and soft and oftentimes I would go out on the back platform to see the people that were standing at the station and all I would be able to see when I got out there was a cloud of dust, I couldn't see them and I suppose they couldn't see me.

I was also sorry I didn't know when we went through Madison, Wis. I understand there was quite a crowd down there to pay their respects to our party. They were only able to see the train go through. I didn't know when we were going through there, otherwise I should have been most anxious to get out on the back platform.

I want to express my appreciation especially to the people of this locality for the many things that they have done to make arrangements here that are convenient for my party and myself. They have been especially hospitable and helpful.

The trout that I caught yesterday were rainbow trout. I never happened to catch any of those before. They are a very good game fish to catch

and very good fish for the table. I thought my first fishing trip in the hills was attended with very excellent luck.

I am expecting to attend the celebration at Deadwood when they have their celebration there the first few days in August. There was a committee in this morning from Deadwood to invite us up there. I am going up there.

I am not contemplating any trips West from here, or any other trips except such as I may make about by automobile

The only information I have about the study that is being made relative to possible consolidations in the Internal Revenue offices is that which has already been published. I knew the Internal Revenue Department were making some studies there to see if it was possible to make consolidations which would lessen expenses and at the same time maintain adequate service, and I understand they are looking into that subject.

There are no developments, so far as I am aware, in the French proposal relative to outlawing war. I think the Secretary of State has already announced that he has sent some message or a note to France relative to it. Has he not made an announcement of that kind?

Press: Yes sir.

I haven't any information relative to Ambassador Sheffield that has not already been made public. He is returning to this country to be present at the Yale Commencement, and I think possibly may visit me out here.

Press: You may wish to express to some of our gentlemen the rule about quoting the President?

President: Well, I assumed that the committee of the White House press conference had made that plain.

Mr. Lambert: They have all been told, Mr. President:

President: That is the rule. These conferences are held for the purpose of giving newspaper men just in a brief way some idea of what the President has in mind in ~~what~~ order that they may write intelligently concerning the transaction of the business of the Government, and it is the rule that the President is not to be quoted. The ideal way for reports of these conferences is for the members of the press to send out reports on their own responsibility that such and such are the facts.

Press: I wonder if we couldn't use your expression that "this is just exactly what I like" regarding the lodge.

President: Yes, you may quote that.

Press: And the expression of appreciation to the people?

President: Yes, you may say that the President has expressed his appreciation.

Press: And in regard to Madison?

President: Yes, you can say that the President expressed his regret, if you want to do that.

Press: When you give us an advance speech in Washington, we understand that no part of it is to be used for developing the same news elsewhere in advance of your speech.

President: Well, that is what ought to be done, but it happened on the speech that I gave out that was delivered at the Budget ~~meeting~~ meeting that some things came out at the Treasury, and I rather that it hadn't come out just at that time. I was going to say that after the President writes a speech and gives it out, it isn't expected that the press would go to one of the departments and ask questions that would develop the same line of thought that is in the speech.

Press: Will you make a speech or say a few words tomorrow to the Editors?

President: I presume I may make a few remarks. I don't think I am going to write out anything. I guess I will have to depend on you to report that.

Press: Have you accepted any invitation to Church?

President: I have noticed there is a Congregational Church at Hermosa. Very likely we shall go to church there. That seems to be the ~~nearest~~ nearest one.

Tuesday, June 21, 1927.
Rapid City, S. D.,

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not certain whether General Wood will come here, but I expect him to. I imagine it will depend somewhat on the state of the General's health when he reaches this country. I conferred with the Secretary of War relative to having the General visit me here and he will be notified on his arrival in this country that I would be pleased to receive him here at any time he wishes to come.

I have had a message from Ambassador Sheffield that he would be pleased to come out here any time after the 30th of June. I have advised him that I would be pleased to have him come whenever it suited his convenience and that I would like to have him bring Mrs. Sheffield with him if their engagements are such that it will be convenient for her to come.

I don't know that I have any immediate trips in mind. I am going over this morning after this conference, as you probably already know, to visit the National Guard that is in camp just outside the city. I suppose the members of the press will attend with me. I would be very much pleased to have them go over.

I have only had the report from the Naval Conference that came through the A.P. since it convened. It wouldn't be possible to judge anything of the progress until each of the countries have presented their views and there has been some opportunity for discussion. I understood the plan

was to have the conference come to order yesterday. I wasn't technically correct, by the way, that I had not received any report from the Naval Conference. I did get a direct report from the Secretary of State that has probably been given out to the morning papers.

Press: That is the text of the American plan?

President: No, what came was some message of good will from the Conference to me for having called the conference.

Question: May we have that today?

President: Yes, it is here now. Just a short message. But to go back to what I was saying, the Conference would be opened and our Ambassador would make the opening address, as the Conference was called by the United States, and either at that time or soon after probably present whatever plans we have to present, the other countries would present their plans, and then the conference would be opened for discussion and committee work.

I don't know enough about the necessity or desirability of a municipal airport in the District of Columbia to say anything about it that would be very helpful. I don't see offhand why, when we have a field there both for the Army and the Navy, that those two fields could not be used for airport purposes. But there may be some reason why that isn't advisable. The matter of airports, generally speaking, is one for localities, not one for the United States Government. I think we have refrained in all instances from undertaking to establish United States airports, the ports

3.

being provided wherever we have flying by the local municipalities, and I assume it is on that theory that it is proposed to have a municipal airport for the District of Columbia, which would be a City of Washington airport as distinguished from a United States Government airport. The distinction is somewhat fine in this case, of course, but there is a difference between what is done by the City of Washington and the Commissioners and so on, and what is done by the United States Government.

Question: I imagine the Commissioners in starting this now want to get the item in the budget.

President: Of course, all the appropriations for the City of Washington are made by the Congress, but still they are municipal appropriations and supported not only out of the United States treasury but out of some local taxation. I should be, so far as I can see, willing to take the opinion of the Commissioners in Washington, if they think it would be necessary and desirable and convenient to have a municipal airport for the District of Columbia. I don't see any reason why I shouldn't be willing to make such a recommendation to the Congress for an appropriation, though I imagine it would be necessary for us to get a bill through the Congress providing for an airport, and afterward I could make a recommendation for an appropriation. I didn't know where they expected to place it. I suppose the matter has been canvassed of using the Army or Navy field.

Friday, June 24, 1927.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about the Great Falls water power project in Washington, other than what has already been made public in the press. I recall that that was debated in the Senate while I was Vice President. The only thing I could suggest would be that if an application has been filed with the Federal Power Commission that it will be taken up and disposed of by that Commission in the regular course of its business.

There are no new developments about the possibility of a special session. As I have indicated to the conference the other day, until I indicate that I have determined to call a special session of the Congress you will be perfectly safe in saying that there isn't to be any. What I mean by that is that I do not wish to make any commitments in favor of calling a special session, and I don't know what may develop in relation to it.

I have no doubt that interest in aviation will be stimulated by the recent trans-Atlantic flights. I think I have suggested at previous conferences that this country is doing more in the way of commercial aviation than any other country. While I don't think we are carrying so many passengers, perhaps, as are carried in some of the foreign countries, our commercial aviation is covering very much larger mileage. That of course includes our air mail service. I am not enough of an expert on aviation to form any judgment that is worth while on what the effect will be on the art, as the result of the experience that has been secured from the Trans-Atlantic flights. That goes more into the realm of

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mechanics than anything else. It indicates, of course, that the modern plane is capable of a very sustained flight in relation to time and mileage. I do not think that it developed anything new relative to military operations. Any effective military planes would have to be of a range which, compared with the Trans-Atlantic flight, would be rather short. I think perhaps those that saw the review of the fleet which was held a short time before I left Washington would get there a very good idea of the general use that is being made of airplanes in naval operations.

I expect that General Wood will return to the Philippines and remain there indefinitely as Governor General. He is going from here to Washington, I think, to have a conference with the War Department and he is going to New York to attend to some personal business of his. I believe he is also planning to make a short stop in Chicago. He is at the Lodge and would be pleased to see the newspaper men any time this afternoon. I think he is leaving there about a quarter to five. His train leaves Custer about 5:30. So that if you wish to see him you could come out after lunch, reaching there about 3:00 o'clock. I had expected that he would come here to Rapid City, because I realized that it would be a little more convenient to the newspaper men, and I knew you wished to see him, but he is having some difficulty about his railroad car and decided it would be better to have that stop at Custer and he came in from that direction.

I don't know whether Ambassador Herrick will come out here while he is in this country. I think it is somewhat doubtful, though he may. I haven't any plan about that at the present time. I do not think he is coming here with any

3.

plans for a new treaty between this country and France relative to the suggestion of outlawing war. I never heard of any such thing and I think it is entirely improbable that such is the case. There have been no developments about that. I think you had a report from the office of the Secretary of State relative to the nature of the response that he made to France that our country would be glad to know what plans they had and that they could be developed when Ambassador Herrick returns to France and when the French Ambassador returns to America .

I thought the Naval Conference at Geneva started off very well and of the proposals that were made by the three governments each of them indicated very clearly that they were very sincere in their desire for further naval limitations. I don't care to discuss the details of them while the conference is going on, because it often happens that in the somewhat informal methods of discussion here in the conference when the reports are carried abroad they are given quite a different impression from what I had intended to give to the conference. So while the conference is in session I shall not undertake to discuss in detail the questions that it has before it.

I think the press is informed of all the guests of importance that are to come up to the Lodge in the future. Several people write to me nearly every day suggesting that they would like to see me and I am indicating to them that I would be pleased to see them here at any time. Quite naturally we didn't give out that information here because it isn't known whether the people to whom I have made that suggestion are going to come or not and there will not be any information about people that are to come to the Lodge except those that have

4.

accepted invitations to come. Of course, any one that I send an invitation to and ask to come here will come, but those who are merely in this region might not feel the same about it as they would if they got a special request from me to come and make me a visit.

I haven't decided when I will return to Washington. I suppose that will be a stock question from now on. Stock questions are kept going even after the adjournment of the Congress.

There isn't anything I can say about possible tax reduction that I did not say in my budget address. I realize that, of course you do, that the matter of taxation is peculiarly one for the House of Representatives, and Chairman Green and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House is looking into the problem, assembling information and undertaking to make a survey of the situation to see what is required.

I do not see how I can go to the farmers' picnic. I have ~~informal~~ invitations to two farmers' picnics. The one at Ardmore is the one I am expecting to attend. That is a Federal project and an experiment station, especially devoted to experimentation in dry farming. I have never seen anything of that kind and thought I would like very much to go down and look it over to see what it includes and what it is doing, what progress^r it is making, and as they are to have a picnic there on the 16th of July the people there thought that would be an acceptable time for me to come. The attendance at that time would be not only from South Dakota, but from Wyoming, Colorado I think, and Nebraska.

Question: Will you speak, Mr. President?

President: No, I don't expect to make any address down there. I don't think they have speakers at that occasion.

I don't know whether I have changed any in weight since I have reached the Black Hills. I am heavy enough. I don't desire to get any heavier and, perhaps, running through the fields may reduce my weight a little. If it did, I shouldn't regret it at all. I find the general effect of this climate and surroundings to be good.

I don't have in mind any Minnesota farm organization leaders that are coming here. It may be that some one has written in that they would like to come and see me, who is a farm organization leader, that I didn't happen to recognize as such. Do you know of any, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No.

~~President:~~

Question: Mr. President, there is a report to the effect that some Minn. delegation is to come here? A man named Reed is connected with it.

Question: J. F. Reed, President of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation?

President: I have had communications come in from several different quarters that they had an organization, I don't think it has been a farm organization, that was contemplating a trip into this region and asking for an opportunity to see me. I have responded to such suggestions that I would be very glad to have them come. There may be something of that kind. I don't recall it now. Mr.

Sanders has had a number of suggestions of that nature from people that wanted to make an automobile trip or something of that kind, very much like the Editor's association, the newspaper men that came the other day. I expect to have more or less of them coming off and on during the summer.

Question: It isn't to be a formal farm conference in any sence of the word?

President: Not that I know of. Now, it may be that he had written to me when I was in Washington and we told him that we would be pleased to have him come and call on me while I was here. The South Dakota legislature is an example of what I just had in mind. It is coming tomorrow, about 1:30, about the same place that the newspaper association was.

Question: At 3:00 o'clock we may see General Wood?

President: Yes.

Tuesday, June 28, 1927.
Rapid City, S. D.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not certain whether any suggestion has come into the office relative to an investigation of the corn products schedules of the customs tariff. Something of that kind may have come in. If it did, it would be referred in the usual course of business to the Tariff Commission.

I don't know of any change in the policy that has been recently pursued toward the Philippine Islands as a result of the visit of General Wood. The General met with an uncomfortable and somewhat painful accident on his way over, an injury to his ribs, but not anything serious. I was very glad to see that his general health was so good and very much encouraged with the report that he gave me in relation to conditions in the Islands. The general result is I think that there has been an acceptance on the part of the Filipinos of the present policy toward the Islands, and I think that change has resulted in the feeling of stability. I have all the time advised the Philippine people to show their capacity for self-government by a careful administration of the fundamental law of the Islands, which is the Jones law, the organic law we call it, and apparently they are wholeheartedly undertaking to pursue that policy. I think General Wood pointed out to you that some 99% of the administration of the Islands is in the hands of the Filipinos. They hold almost all of the offices and carry on almost all the government. They are in that happy condition of having virtually self-government without the responsibility for protection and national defense and so on that usually has to be shouldered by people who have self-government.

I don't know which one of my cabinet officers may be the first to come here. Secretary Hoover told me that he was expecting to go West some time in the near future to California, and I suggested that either going out or on his return, I think Mrs. Hoover will accompany him, that I would be pleased to have him here. I don't know of anything now that is likely to bring Postmaster General New here.

Question: Secretary Davis is in St. Paul this week. I was wondering if he was coming over?

President: I haven't any information about that. Do you know what time or what day he is to be there?

Questioner: Wednesday, I think.

President: Which Davis?

Questioner: Labor.

President: I would like very much to have him come and visit me here. Of course, while he is on a trip to St. Paul, I don't know whether he has time to come or not. I wish you would keep that in mind Mr. Sanders and drop him a wire that I would be glad to have him come here if his arrangements are such that he can do so without inconvenience to the public business.

To return to the Philippines for a moment. General Wood and I discussed very briefly the establishment of some central bureau that would have charge of all our insular possessions. That is not exactly a new thought. It was included in the reorganization bill which the Congress never got around to act on. There they were placed under the Secretary of State. I recall that Secretary Hughes said

3.

he wasn't anxious to undertake the administration of insular possessions, but of course if it seemed best to put it in his department he would undertake that service. I have never given the matter a great deal of study. As far as I had thought of it at all, it had seemed to me that the Department of the Interior, which is the department that has always had charge of our territorial and disconnected possessions like Alaska might be the logical place to put the administration of our insular possessions, the only difference being there that those territories that have been in the Department of Interior have been a part of the United States in a little more intimate and a different way than our insular possessions are, because it is always understood that those territories that were under the Department of Interior would very soon come into statehood, which they all have now, with the exception of Alaska. Of course the Department of the Interior still has the administration of the great tracts of public lands belonging to the United States, and it is also the department that looks after our Indian affairs. The Indian Bureau is in the Department of the Interior. I don't want to be understood as making any criticism whatever of the policy of having the administration of the insular affairs in the Army and the Navy. That grew up naturally. They came to us as the result of the war with Spain, were taken over by military activities, and at first had a military government. It was quite natural that someone in the Army or Navy should be appointed as the Civil Governor when the civil government was established, and in that way the administration grew into the Army and Navy and has remained there, and that administration has been, of course, exceedingly successful. Of course,

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the fact remains that our Army and Navy are established for the purpose of national defense and not for the purpose of administering insular possessions. Some time that will be changed and the insular possessions will be put under a civil bureau.

Question: Do you expect to make a recommendation to that effect in your next annual message?

President: I hardly know about that now. I think I have made a recommendation that was virtually that in some of my Messages.

Question: In your comment to the Congress with Cami Thompson's report, didn't you say that?

President: That is what I think, though I submitted the report of Colonel Thompson for the information of the Congress. It came, as you will recall, after my annual message to the Congress had been sent in, and it is my recollection that when I submitted the report of Colonel Thompson I said it was submitted for the information of the Congress and that in its general terms it was very much in harmony with what I had said in my Message.

I don't see any reason now why Secretary Kellogg or Secretary Wilbur will find it necessary to come here and discuss developments at Geneva. Something of that kind might occur, but I don't see anything of that nature at the present time. I am advised that Lieutenants Maitland and Hackenburger of the Army Air Service have started from San Francisco this morning to fly to Hawaii. Lieutenant (Commander) Rogers, was not that his name? Yes. As I had occasion to say in the little word of welcome that I gave to Colonel Lindbergh, made a flight long enough to have taken him to Hawaii, but because he happened to get off his course at the latter end of the

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the flight he did not strike the land at Hawaii but landed in the ocean. It is my recollection that he landed to the north. His direction was given him by radio, and he took it to mean that he was south of the directing ship, and so turned further north, which took him off his course. He stayed in the air long enough and far enough, but because he was off his course didn't ~~strike~~ strike the Island, so that from that previous experience I should judge that there is very good reason to expect that these Army officers will be able to reach their objective.

I have two or three inquiries about the Geneva Conference. As I indicated before, I don't wish to discuss that here, the reason being that at these informal conferences the result might be a misapprehension especially abroad in the press as to what I might say. The place to get definite and specific and certain information about our attitude on questions which are before the Geneva Conference is from our representatives at Geneva. If, parenthetically, I may say that the time comes that I may say anything that might help out the representatives of the press here in their dispatches, of course I will be glad to do that.

I have appointed a Register of the Treasury -- that has been given out.

I rather thought when I extended the half holidays to include June, July and August, that the better policy was to have more half holidays rather than fewer whole holidays. It seems to me that if there are to be full Saturday holidays during the summer that they should be provided by law of Congress. There is constant request coming to the Executive Offices and the different departments for holidays, and while we try to be liberal about it, especially in cases of

of emergency like the death of some man who is important, or such an occasion as we had when Colonel Lindbergh returned, I think the matter of holidays is a question that ought to be settled by the Congress rather than to be left to the discretion of the Executive. I have forgotten what the expense of a half holiday is to the Departments in Washington, but it runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars. While it makes no difference to those who are on time work, those who are on piece work - and we have quite a considerable number of them - if they are laid off for a half day of course they lose their compensation.

I hope you are all enjoying this climate and the surroundings here as much as I am. There are a great many things to write about here in the Black Hills, and I am going to make this suggestion to you for what it may be worth. We shall be here for some weeks, and I think you will find that at the end of your stay here that your work will be more satisfactory if you take up some particular thing and write a very good story about it, and at a later time pass on to something else, rather than try to include almost everything in one story.

Question: You said you didn't want to discuss informally the Geneva situation. Do you think you might be able to say something formal which we might be able to use?

President: Well, that is a possibility, but it would be mostly of a negative character if I did anything of that kind, because I don't want to have arise here a confusion of counsel and have reports in the foreign press that the President has said this, that, and the other thing, which might be construed to be opposed to the stand our delegates have taken, because I have every confidence

in them and they have full and explicit instructions, and while I have said that I will be glad at any time to help out the press here, I do want the publicity that is to be given out to be given out by our delegates there and then there won't be any confusion about it.

Question: Is it fair to assume that they might get new instructions that they didn't have before they left as regards Japan, or perhaps Great Britain?

President: I don't know about that. I don't want to make any comment about that. Anything that the delegates, our delegates, ask instructions about, instructions will be given.