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C A L V I N   C O O L I D G E

REMARKS  
by the PRESIDENT to  
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME X  
January 6, 1928 - June 29, 1928

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NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME 2

January 6, 1923 - June 29, 1923

Friday, January 6, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about the situation in Nicaragua that hasn't already been given to the press.

I am not familiar enough with the exact workings and practice of the Federal Reserve System so that comments that I might make relative to the amount of brokers' loans and so on would be of very much value. I do know in a general way that the amount of securities in this country has increased very largely in recent years. The number of different securities that are dealt in on the stock exchange are very much larger than they were previously. The deposits in banks also are larger. And those two things together would necessarily be a reason for doing more business of that kind that is transacted by brokers and would naturally result in a larger sum of money being used for that purpose. Now, whether the amount at the present time is disproportionate to the resources of the country I am not in a position to judge accurately, but so far as indicated by any inquiries that I have made of the Treasury Department and so on I haven't had any indications that the amount was large enough to cause particularly unfavorable comment.

The Postmaster General reported that the excess of postal receipts in December '27 over December '26 over the country averaged 1.4%. You will get that I presume from the Post Office Department. I presume it has already been sent out. Mr. Hoover made the interesting comment that that was almost exactly the amount of increase in population.

Question: Was that 1.4%?

President: 1.4%. Some places have increased considerably and some have fallen off. That is always the case in each month. So far as the reports

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show, they don't seem to indicate that any particular area of the country was affected one way or the other. There seemed to be a difference in different cities and often in the same relative area. They indicated a fairly normal condition of trade for the month of December.

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Tuesday, January 10, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know what kind of a proposal, if any, has been made, according to a question that has been presented to me, to sell some of our merchant ships or all of them to the Brown Boveri group. My policy relative to the sale of ships is well known. I discussed it a great many times in my messages and addresses. I have had quite a good many investigations made by members of the Cabinet and I think you will recall that I had Mr. Dalton of Cleveland make an investigation of our shipping situation two or three years ago. All of them have advised the sale of ships. The present law under which the Shipping Board operates directs the sale of ships. It has always been difficult to secure action of that kind. There is one member of the Board that I think has a perfect record of opposing every sale of ships that has been made or proposed. Not knowing what the terms of the offer may be of this group I wouldn't be in any position to judge as to its adequacy, but I should think that would be the main question to investigate, as to whether the offer was adequate and what the offer might demand of the Government. From all the studies that I have made and all the investigations I have had made, I am convinced it would be greatly to the advantage of the country and greatly to the promotion of the merchant marine interests if we could get our shipping into private hands.

I don't quite understand this question - oh, I misread it. It is a suggestion of Senator King that we ought to press as fast as we can the settlement of claims that our people have against Mexico. I think the question is perhaps asked under a misconception of the situation, because it says that the settlement of those claims should be given right of way over other questions we have with Mexico.

Durno: That is what Senator King said yesterday after he had seen you.

President: Oh yes. Well, the situation about that is this - that we



have reached an agreement with Mexico some time ago relative to the investigation and adjudication of these claims. I don't know what their amount may be, perhaps no one can tell in advance. They are considerable and run over a series of years. But we have under our agreement appointed a Claims Commission - I don't know but what there are two Claims Commissions, one anyway - and that work is in process of going on at the present time. What I want to get clear in the mind of the Conference is that this matter has been taken out of diplomatic channels. There is nothing further to be done about it through diplomatic channels. It has been transferred into judicial channels. That is we have set up a Court before which those that have claims may appear and prove their claims and have them allowed, and that work is going on. The time limit that was on that expired some time ago and it was renewed by the Mexican Government and this Government, and those claims are being pressed as rapidly as we can press them. I quite agree that we ought to press them as rapidly as we can, and I think that is the desire of our Government and the Mexican Government. Many of these claims are for amounts that are not large in comparison with the whole, but they are large so far as the individual that is pressing them is concerned. They oftentimes might represent all the accumulations of that individual for a good many years, and perhaps represent all the property that such an individual might have, and it is important that they be taken up and disposed of promptly. That is what our Government is trying to do.

Question: Do the arrangements for the adjudication of those claims provide any means for payment after their settlement?

President: I am not sure just what is the case. I don't know whether they provide for any particular method by which they shall be paid. In general they would of course be paid out of the treasury of the Mexican Government.



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I had a short conference with Colonel Stimson this morning. He is lunching with me at 1:00 o'clock. He is very much encouraged at the prospects of his work in the Philippines. He seems to have assurances of cooperation from the Filipino people who have been over here and with whom he has talked, and it is evident that his appointment has been very well received by the Filipino people who are in the Philippines. What he is especially desirous of working out is a method by which he can be assured of an opportunity to secure adequate assistance. He was very much gratified that he had assurances that that can be worked out through some action of our Congress here and through the cooperation of the Filipino Government.

I have just spoken about the matter of the merchant marine. I knew that some bill had been reported out by the Senate Committee. I should doubt if it was expedient, for the reason that I have just stated, to have the unanimous agreement of the Shipping Board for the sale of ships. That would mean that one member of the Shipping Board was a majority, and I don't think the sale of a ship necessarily requires the meticulous care that we think is necessary in undertaking to convict one of our inhabitants of crime. In that case we require the unanimous agreement of 12 jurors. I don't think the sale of a ship is so important a function as that. I don't see any reason why it should require the unanimous consent of the Shipping Board. One of the reasons that I think our ships ought to be sold is the difficulty of the U. S. Government to transact business. Business is carried on for purposes of profit. The U. S. Government isn't carried on for that purpose at all, and if anything is to be done about a merchant marine the place to begin is to secure an adequate administration of it. I do not think that can be secured through putting operation and control into the hands of a Board of 7 men. I don't know of any private business of any consequence that could be undertaken through



that method and our shipping business suffers from the effort to administer it by that clumsy method. I am not in favor of having the U. S. Government build any ships at the present time. I think that an investigation would show that we have sufficient tonnage to more than carry all the freight that is offered and as I indicated at a previous conference what our shipping interests need is not more ships, but more use of the ships that we have, by people in this country that have merchandise and freight that is to be transported by water. Once in a while there is a temporary and local shortage of shipping, due to a seasonal movement of corn, or more especially cotton and wheat. That was because two years ago there was an unexpected movement through the Gulf ports and there was a slight shortage there for a very short period, because at that time there was the coal strike in Europe, especially in England, and the tramp steamers that are usually available for temporary work of that kind were all engaged in carrying coal and that made a slight shortage. Last year there was no shortage. I don't know of any shortage of ships at the present time. Certainly, we can't be expected to build any ships for profit. I think I am well within the mark when I say that the next day after a ship is launched it could not be sold in the market for 25% of what it cost. Now, I am very much in favor of maintaining an American merchant marine. It is very important to the interests of the country, but I think it can be best maintained and best carried on through the avenue of private ownership. But I realize that it will be necessary to give it some support from the Government, as other countries give their merchant marine support, through mail contracts or through some arrangement about the masters and crews of ships who are regarded, of course, as an auxiliary of our Navy, and who might well be taken into consideration in the matter of some payments or assistance of that nature for the maintaining of an adequate merchant marine.



Friday, January 20, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There have been a number of names presented as suggestions for appointment to succeed Justice Hoehling of the District Supreme Court. There is a man named Atkin or Adkins, District Attorney Gordon, and several others - I don't recall them all.

There is nothing I can say about the Pan American Conference that occurs to me, that has not already been said. Naturally our Government is pleased with my reception at Havana. One of the most pleasant opportunities that I had there was going out to the country place of the President, which gave me an opportunity to drive through quite a number of miles of Cuban territory where I had a chance to observe the people and see something of the progress they are making. As I left there it seemed to me that the conference was in a position to do very much excellent work.

I have not been able to find a person that I wish to appoint particularly to the vacant position on the Radio Board. I have been trying to find a person with some judicial experience, perhaps a former member of the bench. I am having the same experience there that I always have when my right of choice as the appointing officer is limited. The law provides that I shall choose some one from a certain area, Pennsylvania and down to Virginia and out west as far as Kentucky and Ohio. There are one or two excellent men that I have no doubt could be secured, but they don't live in that area. I presume that injunction is not binding on the President, but the law has been passed by Congress and approved by me, and for all practical purposes I shall regard it as binding. But it limits my power of appointment in a way that in this case, as in practically every other case I have come in

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contact since I have had appointing power, which is quite a good many years, the public service suffers when the legislation undertakes to limit the appointing power of the executive. It is generally understood that when this place is filled it is to be filled with some one that is chosen to be Chairman of the Commission. Although in the search I think some 20 possibilities have been canvassed, none of them have been selected or have been willing to serve.

Tuesday, January 24, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

My position relative to the Navy was all set out in my message to the Congress. I don't know of anything I can add to what I said there. I have commented so many times about the statements that always appear at this season from quarters that are interested in national defense, that I don't know that there is anything I can add. I don't know why it is, when other appropriations go through without any effort to alarm the country - the Post Office Department has an appropriation of some over \$700,000,000 I think and it isn't considered necessary to resort to inflammatory statements to secure the passage of that bill - that it is supposed that the passage of the appropriation bills for the Army and the Navy won't go through unless somebody asserts that the country is about to be engaged in war. There doesn't seem to be much of anything the President can do about that. I suppose the press likes to have it done. (Laughter) Well, I say that in all seriousness. There is every indication that that is what they like, because you know the very alarming criticism that the press would make if anybody suggested to men in the Army and the Navy that they ought not to say things of that kind. It would be asserted on all sides that they were muzzled, and that some one was attempting to cut down their privilege of free speech, and so on. I do suppose that when persons go into the Army and the Navy they go in on the understanding that they will conduct themselves in such a way as may be best for the country which they serve. I find in my own case that my privileges of free speech are a good deal curtailed, because I am President. I think that rule might well be taken to heart by the military men of the country. I don't think there is any reason for taking seriously any suggestion that the country at the present time is in danger of being attacked. I know very well that we do not harbor any

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intention of attacking any one else. But I suppose that those who have on them the burden of national defense naturally dwell on it, amplify it, enlarge it, and emphasize it. I don't know that they would be of very much value to the country if that wasn't the case. But I do not agree with the methods that they sometimes employ. I don't see why the press should take them very seriously. I haven't any way to make any change in it.



Friday, January 27, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't recall any resignation of Walter S. present United States District Attorney of New Jersey. Do you remember anything of that kind?

Mr. Sanders: No sir. Nothing came here. It may have gone to the Attorney General.

President: So all I can say about that is that I don't seem to have any information about it. There was some resignation up in New Jersey quite a number of months ago. It was my impression that it was some other person than that of United States Attorney.

I haven't any information about the disagreement between the West Point Military Academy and the Naval Academy, other than the most casual observations that have come to me and what I have seen in the press. I have never taken any part in it.

I don't know what the Senate has done relative to the proposal I made for an investigation of the S-4 disaster and a study of submarine construction and operation, in order to see if any further precautions could be taken to prevent such disasters. I sent up a message relative to this subject to the Congress which explained the ideas I had on the subject, and I do not think the action of the Senate would in any way change my opinion.

My opinions relative to agriculture have been set out in my several messages. I haven't anything new to add.

I commented the other day on the bill that is reported to have passed the Senate relative to the merchant marine, especially on that provision that there should be unanimous consent of the Shipping Board for the disposal of Government owned vessels. That would make one member of the Board a majority.

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I think there is one member that has an almost perfect record of never voting to sell any ships. I should take it that if that bill became a law in order for the Shipping Board to function there would have to be radical changes in its personnel. Perhaps the country could stagger along under the present Board without the sale of any ships. I am not in favor of the bill, as I understand it, as it passed, but I commented on it at some length the other day. I don't think there is any need to renew my comments at the present time.



Tuesday, January 31, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about the definition of the term "dividend" in the revenue bill as it passed the House. I could only say generally that if the definition is agreeable to the Treasury Department, I should expect it would be agreeable to me. It had a great deal to do about framing the terms of the bill. I presume that was done with their approval, though that wouldn't necessarily follow.

Nor have I any information on any supposed desire of President (Secretary) Hoover to stay in or leave the Cabinet.

I have received a letter from Edward N. Hurley, former Chairman of the Shipping Board, which I understand is given to the press for release, so I wouldn't want to make any comment about it at the present time, as it might interfere with the release date. I have already indicated -- has it already been released?

Press: Released this morning.

President: I have great respect for Mr. Hurley's judgment on matters of this kind and from such conversations as I have had with him I had understood that he was in agreement with me and I was in agreement with him as to the general policy that should be adopted relative to the United States shipping business. This letter came in late yesterday afternoon and I didn't have a chance to go into the details of it. But any suggestion made by Mr. Hurley would be one that is made after mature reflection and deliberation, and made by a man who comprehends the subject and is in possession of the facts related to it and possessed of sound judgment.

Nothing further has been done about a successor to Judge Hoehling.

I have not taken any action relative to the Army and Navy football games.

I haven't any information of any developments as to negotiations between the United States and France for a treaty to outlaw war, other than what has already been given to the press, our general position being that we would like to make treaties of that kind, thinking that it would be more advantageous if they were made with the several great powers than to undertake to make such a treaty with one country alone.

No evidence has come to me that the next Treasury surplus will be in excess of the \$252,540,000 that has already been made public.

I do not know of anything further that I can do relative to the soft coal situation. I have made several recommendations to the Congress relative to legislation, and that legislation that I have proposed has been generally opposed by both the operators and miners, taken as a body. While that might not apply to all individuals, I think that has been the general attitude of both the miners and operators. I had understood that the Congress was proposing to make some investigation, which perhaps may throw some light on the situation relative to the present prices, though the investigation that was made by the Commission in 1923 I think assembled all the information that was available at that time, and I do not know of any change in conditions that would bring any new element in the situation that was not taken up and investigated and carefully considered and reported upon in the very comprehensive effort that was made by that very able and efficient commission.



Friday, February 3, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The only information I have about the fire at Fall River which has not already been published is the fact that I have sent a wire to the Mayor of Fall River telling him that I have directed the Naval forces and the Army forces in that vicinity to give him any assistance he may wish.

There are quite a good many of the members of the conference that don't seem to be able to comprehend just what these conferences are held for. They are not in any sense interviews to be given out by the press, or statements. They simply furnish a background, so that <sup>if</sup> people who are writing for the press desire to write on a certain subject they may have the proper information with which to write their story. They ought not to be referred to as statements from the White House and there ought not to be any reference to the fact that there is a newspaper conference here. Constant practice of that kind by the men who write for the press hamper me very greatly in the help that I might give them. Every time I make a statement that is of any particular importance as news, those who undertake to write a story about it give it out as though it was a statement that I had made or an interview that I had given, so that I had to refrain from saying anything that might be reported along that line. So I suggest to you that you exercise more care about that and remember that these are not interviews and not statements from the White House, but simply information that I give to the press in order that it may intelligently write reports and comments about the subjects that I dealt on.

Tuesday, February 7, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not see much prospect of being able to address the Indiana Editorial Association on the 9th of March at Indianapolis.

There has been no further decision relative to the appointment of a Judge to succeed Judge Hoehling of the District Supreme Court Bench of the District of Columbia.

I have not heard any rumors that the Republican National Convention will not be held in Kansas City. I have seen by the press that there was some question about accommodations for the Convention and members of the Convention and those that might go there to be present when the Convention is held, at hotels, etc., which I understood was in process of adjustment.

I haven't any plans relative to flood relief, other than those that are represented in the report of the Engineering Board of the War Department. There is no very material difference in the plan advocated by the Engineers and the plan advocated by the Mississippi Flood Commission, the Mississippi River Commission, rather a difference in detail, but in the main I am told that they are in agreement. I am, so far as I know, willing to approve a bill embodying the recommendations made by the Engineers. There are some bills pending up there that at the present time I do not look on with favor. My position, of course, relative to flood relief was set out in considerable detail in my message. No reasons have been advanced, so far as I am aware, for any radical change in the principles that I indicated ought to govern the draft and passage of any bill that had Mississippi flood relief as its object. Some of the members of the Committee have conferred with me and indicated that they were somewhat disturbed at the trend that the hearings had taken and the probable position of a majority of the Committee. Such



information as I have received has indicated that there is more and more a disposition to look with favor on the report and recommendations of the Engineering Board. I feel considerable confidence that that situation will develop. I think they have presented a very good plan, and as it is studied more and more I think it will more and more commend itself to the members of the House and the Senate. There is evidently a considerable attempt to bring pressure on the Committees and members of the Congress, a quite extensive propaganda. I think there have been already considerable newspaper advertisements and something in the way of circulars, and I believe posters. I doubt if this is a question that can be solved by that method. It ought to be solved by candid consideration of the elements involved. I think it is capable of a very reasonable solution.

I have very little information relative to the proposal to establish a line of dirigibles, which would run I believe from London to New York. I think one has already been built, which it is estimated would carry 100 passengers and make the passage from London to New York in 38 hours. As I recall it, the fare would not be very high. I can't tell just how much that was.

Press: \$400, Mr. President.

President: Yes, I was going to say that, though I mentioned that in the Cabinet meeting this morning and some one said he had heard it was \$5,000. I told him he was probably wrong about that, and that it was less than that. I think the Navy has already indicated that they would permit the use of our landing mast, which is located somewhere in New Jersey. The capacity for freight, as I understand, is 10 tons, and the ultimate plan would be for an American company and a British company to cooperate, one of them as I understand owning the dirigibles that would go from here to London and the other the dirigibles that would go from London over here, so as to have joint action. It is almost entirely a matter for experts, and

beyond that would be a matter for experiment. It looks like a practical proposal and I have indicated to the Secretary of Commerce that I should be glad to have that Department make any investigation required and offer any cooperation that they thought might be helpful to the American interests of the project.

There is very little that is new, as I understand it, in the arbitration treaty that was recently signed with France. I regard all treaties of that kind as of importance, as signifying the peaceful intent of the countries involved and the declaration made in the solemn method of a treaty of the desire to adjust all differences by negotiation, conciliation and arbitration. In a way, they provide a method before controversies arise by which controversies may be adjusted.

I have only the merest outline of the plan for the construction of trans-Atlantic ships that would make the passage in four days. It looked to me as though it was presented by a responsible concern and would appear to be feasible. I should like to have it carefully investigated. It looked to me like a method of extending reasonable assistance to shipping and a recognition of the services that are rendered by shipping to our national defense and general welfare on the part of the country. The main contribution that is asked is in harmony with the present law of extending credit - I think the law now provides for extending  $2/3$  of the cost of construction and this would be  $3/4$  of the cost of construction - but there is another element that comes in that would provide that such credit should only be extended to a concern that was responsible and provided with adequate working capital. There is some question about mail contracts, the details of which I do not know, because I haven't been able to consult with the Post Office Department. I think that could be worked out.



Friday, February 10, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am planning to go over to Alexandria on Washington's birthday. The Governor of Virginia is having a reception for Mrs. Coolidge and me. On the advice of people in Alexandria especially, I am going down on the Mayflower. I am inviting the two Senators from Virginia and their wives, Representative Moore, whose district I am visiting, and Mr. Slomp, whose province is all of Virginia.

Mr. Sanders: And former Representative Carlin.

President: Yes.

I think it has already been announced that I appointed Colonel Latrobe to be my Aide. He is a Baltimore man, who, as I understand, went down to Cuba and helped the Cubans in their contest with Spain before we went into the war and after that was in the service. I ran across him when I was out to South Dakota. Some of you probably remember seeing the detachment of cavalry go through Rapid City that he was taking from Fort D. A. Russell near Cheyenne to Fort Meade. I liked his appearance so much that I asked him to come on to Washington, and when he came here Colonel Winship seemed to be the most available man to go to the Philippines with Colonel Stimson, and so I am making that change.

Mrs. Coolidge has been confined to her room for two or three days. She has had a pain in her side, but a careful examination doesn't reveal any functional difficulty and no bacteria. The Doctor thinks it is a local irritation caused by cold, perhaps, and what she needs to do is to stay in her room and rest up a little.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Tuesday, February 14, 1928.

There do not seem to be any important developments in the business conditions of the country. It is apparently going on about as it did last year. Some lines show some improvement, some perhaps are not improving. Some concerns are taking on men, some are not running with quite their full quota.

Mr. Harley P. Wilson came in to say that he has been engaged in working out some plan that he was to lay before the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia relative to the merger of the two traction companies here. I think he will have that ready for presentation within two or three days. I didn't have opportunity to go into the details of it, but --

Question: Have you looked into it any more since it was up before? You said you had just a general idea.

President: No, I haven't gone into the details of it.

I have talked with one or two members of the House Naval Affairs Committee to see how they were getting on with their naval bill and they have asked me what I thought were the more important features of the bill, and I have told them that I think the cruisers are the most important. I do not mean by that to minimize the importance of the rest, but if one were to lay out priorities of what they would prefer first, what ought to be constructed first in order to round out our Navy, it is my understanding that the answer would be that it is cruisers. I have a list of the cruisers in the Navy and we have 22 old cruisers, all but 5 of which are already out of commission. 11 of them are comparatively small cruisers and 11 of them are large cruisers. Those large ones I mean are all of them over 8,000, and 8 of them are about 14,000; 2 of them are about 10,000. Now, the building program, as I understand it in re-



lation to the cruisers, is for the purpose of laying out a plan that the Navy will work toward in the future to replace these cruisers, and that there would be 3 additional new cruisers. So it isn't so much an addition to the Navy as it is a replacement program. I don't know as that has been quite understood by the press and the country. The airplane carriers and the destroyer leaders and the submarines are important, but as I said I would put the first importance on the cruisers. That is substantially the comment I made to Representative Darrow and Representative Britten. I don't want to be understood by that as suggesting that any part of the work should be abandoned, but the question arises as to what we need most, provided the Committee and Congress didn't think it was wise to authorize the whole program that was presented by the Navy. Of course, the program as presented doesn't have in it any time limit. It seemed to me that that was quite important, because I didn't regard it as necessary to proceed right away in the execution of a large part of this program. We are gradually going to pay off the debt that we have, and as that is paid off the amount of interest that is necessary to be paid is reduced, and that gives us a margin with which to make expenditures for other purposes. We have been building the 2 airplane carriers at a large expense. They are completed. And we also have on hand the building of some cruisers. Those would naturally go forward before the Congress would take up the matter of appropriations for carrying out the additions and replacements that are contemplated in the present bill. I am not, of course, an expert at all on what is the type of ship that we need most, but I am advised by the Navy that it is in the matter of cruisers that we are most deficient. I have understood that there was something of a propaganda under way against any Navy building program. That, I think, always happens whenever the Congress starts in on building additional naval vessels. There are opinions about that, of course, on both sides. There are some letters being received here at my



office against the building program and some communications are being received in favor of it. But I think if it is understood that this is a plan toward which the Navy is to work in the future as funds become available, and that so far as the cruisers are concerned it is to quite a large extent a matter of replacement, that a good deal of the opposition on account of the financial aspects and so on, that has been expressed, would probably be withdrawn. If this program were carried out, it would leave the Navy ultimately with about 43 cruisers, it having at the present time 40. No, I have given you the wrong number. We have at the present time of finished cruisers 32, and 8 building. That is, we have 18 cruisers built and building, besides the 22, so that when we get through we would have 43 instead of the present number of 40.

Question: Of that 40 are 22 old cruisers, all but 5 of which are out of commission?

President: Yes, so that it really does not contemplate, so far as numbers are concerned, any very great ultimate increase in the Navy. These new ships will be a good deal stronger and more powerful than some of the old ones and not of so large a tonnage as 8 or 10 other old cruisers.

It is difficult to say whether the delay in the Senate jeopardizes the passage of the tax bill this year. In one way it does, and in another way it doesn't. If it could have been taken up immediately and passed in accordance with the recommendations of the Treasury Department, I think it would have been helpful, but on account of a very wide divergence of opinion about the amount of reduction that could be made it didn't seem to be possible to do otherwise than wait until what the tax returns showed; and looked at from that angle delay probably enhances the probability of the passage of a tax bill at this session, because after the reports come there will no longer be any opportunity to have a divergence



of opinion about the condition of the Treasury. For that reason, as I say, the delay probably makes more probable tax reduction this year.

I have conferred with some of the members of the House and the Senate relative to the flood control bill. I think they are gradually coming nearer to agreement in relation to it. As I understand it, there isn't very much divergence of opinion now concerning the engineering features; still some divergence of opinion about the financial features of the bill. But I think that can be worked out in some way to maintain the principle of local contribution without placing a burden on any communities involved, which is disproportionate to their ability to meet.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Friday, February 17, 1928.

Here is a suggestion that says that W. C. Lusk, President of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce has issued a statement urging encouragement of the consumption of American farm products as a means of absorbing part of the surplus. I haven't any advice as to the specific possibilities in that direction, so far as it might relate to any particular products, but that is a subject that in a general way of course the country and the Government, as represented by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, are working at all the time - finding new uses for different products of the farm and different products of the factories and the mines. That is a very sensible suggestion and one in which I believe there are growing possibilities. I am sorry I didn't have time to take that up with Agriculture and Commerce to see just exactly what they are doing. If any of you care to follow it up by making inquiries of those Departments, I am sure you would get some interesting information.

I have not modified my position relative to local contribution by the places that are to be benefitted by flood relief. I have indicated to some of the interested parties that if it isn't possible for the Congress to make a finding as to what contributions should be made, if some localities are better able to make contributions than others, that one way to solve the question would be to authorize some body of business men to make a survey to see what different localities could contribute and make a report to the Congress on which Congress might act. Meantime, of course, the preliminary work and such work as could be done during the first year of operations would go on.

I haven't any information about the resignation of Walter Jones, the Collector of Internal Revenue, at Hawaii. I think this morning I signed an order



suspending him from the 20th of February, because of some information that came to the Treasury Department relative to him. The Department said he ought to be suspended until certain information that had come to them relative to him was cleared up.

I do not know of any particularly new developments on the proposal for a four-day line of ships to Europe. I have understood that Mr. Wilder was working with the House Committee to draft some legislation.

I can't claim any great familiarity with the plan that Mr. Yoakum is now presenting for farm relief. I talked with him a short time. He submitted to me some proposals which I sent to the Dept. of Agriculture. Some of them they thought might be helpful and some they thought would not be.

I haven't seen the plan that the Senate Agricultural Committee is proposing to report, so I couldn't comment on it in detail. I am afraid that in its essentials it isn't materially different from the bill that was sent to me last year by the Congress, and which I was not able to approve. But I hope that they will be able to work out a plan that will be acceptable.

Mr. Morris, George K. Morris, of New York, State Chairman, was in town and dropped in to see me. Our talk was mostly incidental, speaking of the work that he has been doing. I was glad to see that he was very much improved in health. The last time he came through here he was on his way South to try to restore his health after quite a prolonged sickness. He says he is feeling very much better.

I can't recall whether Rep. Snell referred to any possible "pork barrel" features that might creep into a Mississippi River Flood Control bill. I use that phrase because it is a phrase here in the question. I think he and I did discuss the possibility of the bill being too ambitious and undertaking to

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commit the Government to building levees without any local contributions on all the rivers between the Appalachian boundary on the East and the Rocky Mountains on the West. I think the legislation should be confined to that area that suffered from the disaster of last spring.

Senator Johnson came in at my request so that I might talk with him about the appointment of a judge in California.

There is always danger that the Congress will be too liberal in the matter of appropriations. It doubled the appropriation that I proposed for the Shipping Board and I think added \$6,000,000 or \$8,000,000 to the Army bill, and it is true that if it goes on at that rate there won't be any surplus with which to meet tax reduction. Of course, according to my best judgment, there should be added to the sums I have already mentioned \$65,000,000 that has been put into the tax bill, which is in excess of what I believe tax reduction ought to include.

Mrs. Coolidge is very much better. She says she feels entirely well. Two or three days ago she had some pain, but has not had any for a few days and doesn't expect to have any more.



Tuesday, February 21, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am attempting to lend what assistance I can to the problem of flood control through the Engineering Department and through conference with various members of the House and Senate that are particularly interested in it. I am afraid the present bill that has been drawn by Chairman Reed of the Flood Control Committee wont work out in a practical and satisfactory way. It doesn't seem to adopt any plan. It sets up two or three gauge levels and authorizes the expenditure of money to try and make those gauge levels effective. I am advised by the Engineering Dept. that that would probably cost about a billion and a half. I am going to get a report from the Engineers on the bill and take it up further with Mr. Reed and some other members of that Committee to see if his bill can not be reshaped. The bill apparently wouldn't do any more about flood control than is contemplated in the plan proposed by the Engineers and would cost 4 or 5 times as much. Then it leaves the decision of a great many details to the President. It is quite obvious that it would be rather difficult for the President to make decisions of that kind. The only thing he could do would be to rely on the report of the Commission, and if the President is going to do that, which it would be necessary for him to do, it might as well be left to the Commission in the first instance. I am not very much in favor of creating a new commission for this purpose. The plan under which we have been proceeding, the present Mississippi River Commission, and the action of the War Department through its Engineers, has been working out satisfactorily as far as construction is concerned. The work that they have done there was proven in the last flood to be of a very solid and substantial nature. Then the bill does contemplate starting in on projects on all the streams between the Appalachians and the Rocky Mountains, which if put

into effect would involve us in an expenditure greater than contemplated by any other piece of legislation since the Government was founded, with the possible exception of the Declaration of War against Germany. It would cost more than the Civil War cost.

I have been very much gratified at the outcome of the Pan American Conference, which is just closing its sessions, and have directed the Secretary of State to send a telegram of congratulation to our delegation on the work that has been accomplished by the Congress.

I have seen references in the press this morning to some possible proposals from Japan relative to further treaties with the U. S. to maintain our peaceful relationship. I don't know of anything that has come to the State Dept.

I haven't given any thought to a summer vacation. It is nice to be reminded that there is going to be one. I don't know of any place that I would enjoy more than I have the last three summers, one at Swampscott, one in the Adirondacks, and one in the Black Hills, but having been to those three places I would like during the coming summer to find some other part of the country, not too remote from Washington, where I might gain new contacts with the people of that locality in a way that might be helpful to me and the administration of the office of President.

I doubt if Mrs. Coolidge will be able to go to Alexandria. She is sitting up and having her clothes on about the room, but hasn't been out yet. I presume that the doctor thinks she better not go out on so hard a journey as that might be. We are going to have a reception over there and a review of a parade.

I have no information about ~~far~~ the future plans of Colonel Lindbergh.



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I do not think there is any foundation at all for any rumors that Justice Sullivan contemplates retiring from the Court. He has been a most valuable member of the Court. While his health has not been of the best, I have seen him recently at dinners and receptions at the White House and he seems to be very much improved, and I judge and hope that he is in such shape that he can prolong his useful service to the country on the bench.

Friday, February 24, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I talked with Mayor Thompson concerning the problem of flood control. There was nothing special that I said to him other than what is contained in my annual message to the Congress. We talked more especially about the financing of the cost of flood control. I told him that if it was merely a matter of taking care of the lower reaches of the Mississippi River and its immediate tributaries there, that is that part of our water system that caused the flood last year, I wouldn't make any very strenuous objection to the U. S. Govt. undertaking to bear all the financing, but I didn't want to set the precedent that would be used all over the U. S., because I do not believe that it is the duty of the U. S. Govt. to go out and protect property against floods. It is rather the duty of the property that is to be benefited to pay the expenses. But that I thought the members of the Committees and those interested are coming closer and closer together on the question, that Senator Jones has a bill that is not far from what I have been advocating and that General Jadwin is working out a bill, and that I felt sure the subject could be worked out in a fairly satisfactory manner. I have suggested that there be a Committee or a Commission to investigate the financial and economic condition of the territory that is interested and make some estimates of the benefits to be conferred and the ability of the different localities to make payments, and report to the next session of the Congress, and on that report the Congress would have information on which it could legislate relative to the apportionment of the cost. There is a disposition in some quarters to have it first determined that the U. S. Govt. is to pay all the cost and then after that is done to sit down and determine what is going to be done. I do not think that is the way to go about it. I think we should first determine what is going to be done and on that we can base some foundation of who ought to pay the



expense. If it is once decided that the U. S. Govt. is to bear the entire expense the demands for work to be done and the requirements for the payment of damages to property taken will probably be in excess of the cost of doing the work. I think that would be a very unfortunate outcome. So I think we ought to proceed in the other direction, which would be in harmony with the plan that I have suggested of passing legislation authorizing certain work to be done and then having a commission of experts, probably appointed by the President, and, if they wish, confirmed by the Senate, make an investigation to see what they would recommend relative to the payment of the cost. I think we have made quite a good deal of progress in one direction. It is generally understood now that this legislation is to be entirely confined to the relief of that part of the Mississippi Basin that was flooded last year and not to include a lot of extraneous projects.

I haven't very much information about the shipping of Russian gold to the U. S. I assume that is for the purpose of making payment on goods that have been purchased here. It is no different than any other commercial transaction, so far as I know. Trading has been going on constantly between Russia and the U. S. Goods have been bought here and payment made for them, and our people have bought goods in considerable amounts in Russia. That makes necessary setting up some method for payment. I suppose this shipment of gold is for that purpose. It would not indicate anything new in the relationship, simply a continuation of what has been going on for a number of years.

No final decision has yet been made about a judge for the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

I think I have already spoken of the bill that has been prepared by Senator Jones.

The naval bill which is said to include 15 or 16 cruisers and 1 aircraft

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carrier, is not of course of the dimensions that the Navy indicated would be required to meet what they believe would be the needs of this country for national defense. About all that can be said about it is that it is a beginning and probably provides for as many vessels as would be laid down in the immediate future of 4 or 5 years or more. I think it would have been better to lay out the entire program for the Navy, than to try and indicate what they were ready to do just now and leave up to some future time the finishing up of our naval defense. I am told that the bill undertakes to provide a time limit. I have not favored putting any time limit into the bill. I do not think that is necessary. Of course it is not binding on any future Congress. Any future Congress, if the building is authorized, can go ahead and make such appropriations for the carrying out of the program as they may wish to do.



Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I understand that the Senate Committee is starting in to draft a flood control bill. I have talked with various members of the House and the Senate that are interested in this legislation with a view to seeing if I could not compose the differences that exist in the House and the Senate and some differences between what I would like to have and the desires of some members of the House and the Senate. My position, as I suggested the other day, was fully set out in my message, wherein I stated that I thought the property that was to be benefitted ought to bear some portion of the expense. Now, it has been suggested to me that there are some localities that are unable to bear any expense, others that can bear some of it, others perhaps that could bear all of the proposal which I made of 20%, which was 20% of 180 odd million dollars, not of the 290 odd, because there was 110 million dollars of the Jadwin plan that applied especially to navigation and only 180 odd million that was specifically for flood relief. That, as I stated, would make the 20% some \$35,000,000, which would be payable over a term of years, probably running as high as 10 years in some localities, and make the contribution about \$3,500,000 a year, which reduced to an acreage charge was about 3¢ per acre, per year, which made me think that it wouldn't be an onerous burden. But no survey has ever been made to determine just what the economic conditions are and just what communities can bear the burden and what communities can not. So I suggested to the three senior Senators from Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, that that question might be determined by the appointment of a Commission that would make an economic survey and determine what each community could contribute, how it could be contributed, and how their costs would be financed - perhaps by the Treasury taking their bonds or something



of that kind, and that is a proposal that I would like to see worked out. I don't know but there was some confusion the other day in my not making my statement entirely clear. Of course, the matter of \$35,000,000 spread over 10 years is rather a negligible amount, so far as the U. S. Treasury is concerned, so that I said that if this Mississippi flood problem was the only thing that was to be considered that I wouldn't make very much argument about the contribution down there. It isn't the only thing that is to be considered, because there are now proposals for the U. S. Government to build levees and afford flood protection for practically all the rivers in the United States, which would be a very great cost, and for that reason I was quite anxious to maintain the principle of local contributions in the lower Mississippi. Some of the bills that have been drawn up have a section providing that the bearing of the entire cost by the U. S. Government is not to be considered as a precedent. I suggested to one man that was in that if it could be done in this case any one else that wanted flood control could also bring in a bill and put that clause in his bill that it was not to be considered as a precedent. It seems to me that the decision about that would be this - that this is something that the U. S. Government ought to do. If it was a good thing to do, to bear all the cost would be a precedent, and if it wasn't a good thing for the Government to do then it ought not to be done. But, as I stated before, I think the people interested are getting closer and closer together and will undoubtedly reach some conclusion that is fair. I wouldn't want the statement to go out too strongly that I had changed my position. The only addition that I have made to my position was the suggestion that this question might be determined by a commission that would go into the details and so take care of any communities that were not able to contribute. But of course the question comes in here of whether the land isn't already burdened with bonds and mortgages and obligations, that is all that it can



bear, and if it is so burdened 3¢ an acre, which would in the course of years run into \$35,000,000, might in some instances be more of a burden, it was argued to me, than could be borne. There is another angle to this - that if the U. S. Government is to pay all the costs the demands will be greatly enlarged. I should expect that under any commission that might be set up or any agency that might be used for the prosecution of this work, that it would be done in a business way. But it is very easy to get into something different and start out on the prosecution of a plan that as it progressed would reveal itself as one which was so ambitious that it might break down. There will be enlarged demands if the U. S. Government is to pay the cost. Some railroad men came in to see me yesterday that said that the cost to certain railroads down there, by putting these plans into operation, they estimated at about \$70,000,000, and they wanted whoever was to bear the cost to reimburse them for such expenditures as they were required to make minus any benefits that might accrue to them. Of course, if their roads were put in a position where they will not suffer from floods, that would be a distinct benefit to them and might be set off against some of the cost. They have had flood charges for repairs and damages of an ascertainable amount running over a series of years, and if they were to be entirely relieved of those of course that would be a credit to be offset against the expense of putting them in a position where they wouldn't suffer any more from floods. I merely mention that as an example of one of the things that will constantly come up as the plans progress. I think it would be the best plan, so far as I can judge, to proceed to do this work in accordance with the present law; that is, through the War Department, the Chief of the Bureau of Engineers, and the Mississippi Flood Commission. That is merely a matter of opinion. If some one can present a better method of carrying on the work, I should be glad to adopt that. But this method has worked out very well in the construction of levees and dikes. The work has been done in a businesslike



way. I think I have suggested before that there is only one of the standard levees that gave way and all of the rest held during the last great flood. The plan of having a commission, of course, undertake to determine damages would not hold up the work at all. The work could go right on and the commission report to the next Congress, and on that report the next Congress would then legislate.

Question: How would that commission be selected?

President: Ordinarily it would be selected by the President and approved by the Senate.

The first that I knew of any suggestion that I might go to Ottawa to be present at the laying of the corner stone of the American Legation building came to me through the press. I would like to go to Canada some time. You gentlemen know the difficulty, however, that there is for the President to travel and especially the difficulty about going out of the United States. The calls in this country are so great that I only would consider going into any other jurisdiction as responding to a matter of very great importance. It has been very gracious of the officials of Canada, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, and other officials, to visit the United States from time to time and helpful in the continuation of our very friendly relations. I assume it would be helpful for me to go to Canada. I haven't been able to find any time to go up there and this has been made merely as a suggestion.

Several representatives of church organizations came in yesterday to present to me some views that they brought in their representative capacity relative to the building program of the Navy. I assume that they gave to the press the statements that they made. I told them, of course, that they would be taken into consideration. I judge, though, that the views that they presented to me were in relation to the program that had been proposed by the Navy and not in re-



lation to the bill that has been reported by the House Naval Affairs Committee. Whether that would make any difference in their position, I am not able to state. I think perhaps it might modify it some. I did suggest to them that the bill as now reported by the Committee was for the purpose of a building program that was not in excess of the minimum that we had suggested at the Geneva Conference. Our suggestion there was 300,000 tons. If this program were carried out, it would leave us with a little under 300,000 tons, and on that I suggested to them that instead of alarming any other country as to its size it would probably be regarded by other countries as very moderate, because when we presented to the Geneva Conference the suggestion that the limit be 300,000 tons it was suggested to us that that was altogether too small. I think the British at that time stated that their requirements were for 595,000 tons. So that if we were engaged in a moderate building program of this nature that I did not see that it could possibly alarm any other country.

I have made some inquiries about reconditioning the Mount Vernon and the Monticello. That could be done, I am advised, at a cost of some more than \$12,000,000, but it was thought that when they were reconditioned that they would be usable vessels. I had understood that one of their sister ships, either of the Monticello or the Mount Vernon, had been reconditioned by the Germans and then discontinued after two or three years of use. I am not sure about that, but there was a rumor that had come to me from a source that I think would have been informed about it. It looks as though the Mount Vernon and the Monticello would be usable for a considerable longer term of years than that.

Question: What service are they in now?

President: They are tied up at Newport or Hampton Roads. I am not sure which. I mean down here in Virginia. They could be used now, but they were used for troop ships during the war and of course received rather hard usage, so that they

would hardly be usable now for passenger service.

Question: You don't recall their German names, do you?

President: No, I don't.

Business conditions seem to keep along about the same. There has been some increase in some lines. I think the different steel companies report increases in their business. There was a report published by the Federal Reserve Board a day or two ago that reported increases in certain lines of merchandise, some increase in movements of freight. I think the department store business was reported as not quite so good.

They are now holding, or about to hold, a continuation of the Disarmament studies in Geneva. That is the one that is held under the League of Nations. We attended that for some months last year and are proposing to continue our representation there. I do not know of any suggestion for a special Naval Conference before 1931. That is the Conference that is to be held, I think, in accordance with the Washington treaty.

That reminds me that of course I suggested to the representatives of the different church organizations that I had done what I could to secure further limitation of naval armaments, and while I had not been successful in it the building that was proposed both by the Navy and which is now included in the House navy bill was not in excess of anything that we would have been able to secure had we entered into some agreement at Geneva, so that the outcome of that conference had not involved us in any larger building program than that which would have been necessary had we been able to make any agreement there which was within the possibilities of the situation.



Friday, March 2, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Several recommendations have been made to me for filling the vacancy in the judgeship. I don't know whether any recommendations are of people outside the District. Of course, I should consider any recommendation that was made of any one that was legally eligible, but I should not go outside the District unless I thought he was a very much better man than any one that appeared to be available in the District. Very likely there would be objection also to the appointment of anyone that lived outside the District. If that was the case, I should have to give that very careful consideration.

I stated at the last Conference that the Monticello and the Mount Vernon were not usable as passenger liners in their present state. They had been used for transport ships during the war and subjected to very hard treatment and could not in their present state be used as passenger liners. If they were reconditioned, then of course they could be used as passenger liners. I do not know with what success. I refused to recommend to the Congress in the Budget any appropriation for reconditioning these two vessels. Nevertheless, the Congress has gone ahead without saying anything to me by any one up there and made an appropriation for their being reconditioned. I don't know what I shall do with the bill when it reaches me.

I understood from my conference with Senator Jones that he has drafted a flood relief bill which is very similar to some suggestions that he made to me last week, and the bill has very many good features. It adopts the recommendation of the Engineers, it appoints the Chief of Engineers and the President of the Mississippi River Commission, and a civil engineer to be appointed by the President to have charge of the work and make incidental changes in the plan

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which may be necessary to carry it out, and gives them authority to make changes as broad as those which would cover the differences between the Mississippi River Commission plan and the Engineers plan. It is estimated that the cost would be \$325,000,000. There is almost no provision for local contribution. There is some provision for that for the purpose of doing some work on the present levees that go up and down the Mississippi River. There is no provision for any contribution to be made on new levees that are to guard the spillways. Those new levees run through territory that I suppose much of it never made any contribution to the building of levees. I am not certain about that, but I judge that to be the case. Some of it is timberland owned by lumber companies, which I should suppose were perfectly able to make a contribution. Those are the chief features of the bill, as I recall them.

I talked a little with Sen. McNary and Rep. Purnell to see what progress is being made on farm legislation. They didn't know just what was going to be done.

A telephone communication was received today from Northampton stating that Mrs. Goodhue is not so strong as she was the other time my wife saw her. But so far as her sickness is concerned, it did not seem to be at the present time critical.



Tuesday, March 6, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have had presented to me the report of the Secretaries of State, of Commerce, and of Labor, relative to the quotas for immigration under the Act of 1924. I haven't had a chance to go into it in detail. It was requested by an order of the Senate that it be transmitted to the Senate for their information. That has been done. I understood that that was with a view of legislation. So that pending some decision by the Congress I haven't taken the matter up to make any final decision about it myself. I can make a proclamation on or before the 1st of April, if it would seem desirable. Meantime, I am waiting, as I said, to see what Congress may wish to do.

I do not think that the increases in the appropriations over what I submitted in the Budget estimates made up to the present time would jeopardize a moderate tax reduction, and I am told by Mr. Madden that while some increases have been made he expects there may be savings in other directions, so that the total Budget appropriations will be about the same as he estimates which I submitted to the Congress. Of course, if the Congress goes ahead with a large amount of new enterprises, it would make tax reduction impossible. We shall not know about that until we get the tax returns, which are to be made on or before the 15th of March for the incomes that accrued during the year 1927. I do not expect that the incomes for 1927 will be quite so large as they were for 1926, though probably not very materially reduced. Some concerns are making some more money and other concerns are not making quite so much. Then, of course, we have the Alien Property Bill, which will take \$50,000,000 out of the treasury. Probably most of that will come during the present fiscal year, which is before June 30th. Then I think there are plans pending for an increase of pensions,

which will cost some money. Of course, the Mississippi flood control will make an additional appropriation for 1929; that is, the present budget that is being passed, of \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000, - \$10,000,000 already in the present budget and there will probably be added to that \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 for work to be prosecuted during the fiscal year of 1929. There is a bill pending for \$10,000,000 I think to put on barge lines on the Mississippi River and I think some of its tributaries. That might not all be expended in 1929, but a considerable amount of it would. There are various bills for increasing wages. There are bills for retirement of military officers, and I think there is a bill for the retirement of civil employees. Those are not by any means all, but a very small fraction of the bills that are pending to increase the expenses. I am anxious to have those held down as low as possible, and if that is done I don't see any reason why we can not have the amount of tax reduction of \$225,000,000 which was recommended by the Treasury Department.



Friday, March 9, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have several departments making a study of the Alien Property bill. The Treasury Department reports to me that it isn't so good a bill as the one that they prepared, but I have not received their formal report on it. There is one thing in the bill that hasn't been overlooked. Three salaries have been raised.

Question: Could you say what they were, Mr. President?

President: I think they are two drafting clerks of the House and the Senate that have been put on the same salary as the Solicitor General of the U.S., and some person in the Treasury Department. Those are all people that have access to the Ways and Means Committee of the House and whenever any bill goes through the Ways and Means Committee of any particular importance it usually has a way of raising somebody's salary. So you can see that the Alien Property bill has some merit in it. (laughter)

Question: Was there any other feature?

President: I think that is the outstanding feature. (laughter)

Of course, I haven't any idea when I might be able to get away for the summer. My wife's mother is very ill. Where I could go, and when, might depend quite a little on her condition. Quite naturally I should stay here until Congress adjourns, unless for some reason it is to stay way into the summer, and I don't know when that will be. I am glad to report, however, that the supply bills, the appropriation bills, are going forward, and other legislation is apparently to be determined very soon, so that it looks as though Congress might adjourn by the middle of May or so. I am quite certain it can if it wishes. Then there is the Budget meeting that comes in June. I think the plan is to have that this year about the 11th. And so I shouldn't want to go away until after that had been taken

care of. But the whole thing, as you can see, is entirely uncertain. A certain date there is the Budget meeting, which we have on the 11th of June. It will be some time after that before I could go.

Question: Are you getting many suggestions and invitations for your summer vacation?

President: Some are coming in. I had presented to me yesterday an invitation by a gentleman that has a very attractive residence near Asheville. That is within easy striking distance from Washington. It takes about 14 hours by the regular train to get out there or to come in here. That isn't toward the north, but the elevation there is about 3,000 feet, and then the town is about 2,500 ft., so that summers there are more comfortable than would be indicated by the position or the degree of latitude. Then I think I have got some other invitations. One from Virginia to spend the summer on a visit to the Virginia shore. That wouldn't really necessitate moving out of the White House. It is substantially in that position now, of course, except that I haven't in front of me any expanse of the ocean. Perhaps it would make the temperature a little more comfortable.



Tuesday, March 13, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know whether Mrs. Coolidge will go to the Speaker's dinner tonight or not. She is up and about the house. Seems to be getting along very well. But the doctor is quite solicitous that she should be careful and not overtax her strength.

The advices that I have received about unemployment are similar to those that I think were reported in the press today from the Labor Department. The survey is not all completed yet. The Secretary of Labor thought it might be ready inside of a week.

I haven't any new ideas about conditions in the bituminous coal fields, other than those I have expressed in my messages to the Congress. The fundamental trouble, as every one knows, is that there are too many coal mines and too many coal miners. I had thought that that situation might be relieved somewhat by authority of Congress to make some regional arrangements and regional contracts, but that proposal has never had the favor of either the operators or the miners. Whether it is going to meet with more favor at this time, or not, I do not know. That would be one method of helping out the situation. If some regional agreements could be entered into by the mine operators relative to the amount of production and relative to the distribution of the product after it was mined, I think it might be quite helpful. But that is not possible now under the present interpretation of the anti-trust laws. I think that is the main thing that ought to receive very careful consideration. It is about the only thing I know of that we could do in the way of national legislation, the mining of coal having been decided to be a purely state function as differentiated from a national function. That is, it is an operation that is entirely under the control of state

laws, as distinguished from one that might be put under the control of national laws. But the marketing of coal, of course, is an interstate subject and is governed by our national laws. These regional agreements would relate more particularly to the marketing of coal after it has been produced. It sometimes happens in our industrial relations that a situation has to get quite difficult before the interested parties and the Congress are willing to apply anything that looks like drastic measures, and perhaps the present difficulty will cause the working out of new Federal legislative measures to handle the distribution of coal after it is produced.



Friday, March 16, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am quite anxious to get some railroad consolidation legislation. I have referred to that several times in my messages, but I think it would be especially helpful at the present time, because there are a number of roads that if they could make their consolidation arrangements are ready to put in additions and improvements in the way of building and construction that would furnish quite a large market for materials and quite an opportunity for increased employment. The railroads have been waiting for several years for legislation of that kind and meantime their plans have been held up and their improvements and their extensions haven't gone forward, and with the increase in business that has come to the railroads they are feeling more and more the necessity of expansions of that kind. I am advised that there is a very good prospect of securing favorable action from the House and the Senate at the present session. It would be exceedingly helpful to the situation if that could be secured.

There wasn't much of anything of importance in the Cabinet this morning. The Secretary of Labor expects to have his report on the employment situation very soon. He said that his recent information was that employment, I think for February or the present employment, was 1-1/2%, about 1-1/2% as I recall it, in excess of what it was a year ago, and that wages were something over 4% in excess. I think that applied to the volume of the wages and not to the rate. But I am not quite certain about that.

It is also very desirable to have an adequate kind of radio legislation, because the present Board have not finished up the preliminary work that it was expected they were to do, and with the expiration of their powers to do this preliminary work on the 15th that work would devolve upon the Commerce Department.

The Commerce Department has authority to delegate, and I think under that authority has delegated this work to the present Radio Board, so they are going on functioning for the present under the old law. But it has developed that it is quite necessary to have an extension of their powers. There is a bill in conference for that purpose that I am quite anxious to have reported out and passed with some perfecting amendments.

Progress is being made on the flood control bill, especially I think in the House, where there has been a careful study made of the Jones bill by Rep. Reid, after conference with me to see what changes, if any, he would like to make in that bill, or whether he would like to incorporate in it any provisions of his own bill. I think I indicated before that the Jones bill, so far as it goes, is a fairly satisfactory bill. I don't mean that it is just exactly what I would like it to be, but it is seldom that as a result of legislation any one person gets exactly what they want, and on an extensive and intricate question of this kind, of course, anything of that nature would be practically impossible. The main discrepancy in it is the matter of the principle of local contributions, and I have indicated that if they would put into the bill provision for a Commission to make a survey during the present session and report to the next session of the Congress, so that Congress could have information on which to legislate as to the distribution of the costs, that I would say the bill was one that I would approve with pleasure. I think there is some movement in that direction and I hope very much that that may be adopted. It seems to me to be entirely fair. That question has to be decided by the Congress, and what I want to do is to have them furnished with information on which they would be able to make a decision after coming into possession of the facts. At present they are having to make a decision without very much knowledge of a great many facts, and I would be



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entirely content to have the question left that way, not undertaking to decide even whether there ought to be any more contribution than what is provided in the present bill. If we can have all the facts and the opinion of an informed body of men, I have no doubt it would be satisfactory to me. But I have been very anxious, and am still anxious, to maintain the principle of local contributions. Of course, the proponents of the Jones bill argue that that is already done in this bill. It is true that they provide for some slight contributions. And then they go on to add that there have been scores of millions of dollars expended for this work and that that also constitutes a local contribution. All of that would be taken into consideration by any investigation, and that proposal seems to be so entirely fair that I don't quite understand why they are not willing to adopt it all around.

We haven't matured any plan about what can be done in Nicaragua. We had expected to secure some legislation by the Nicaraguan Congress that would enable us to carry out the terms of that agreement that was made with both the contending parties down there by the President of the United States. We thought that would be the most feasible method of procedure. I don't know that it is absolutely necessary, but we felt it was very desirable. The Senate, I think, passed a bill that was satisfactory - it did not pass the House - so that we shall have to consider the situation and see what other plan can be adopted. When we went in there we were advised by the Nicaraguan Government that they were not able to protect life and property, which meant that their constitutional guarantees were practically in abeyance. We have at least been able to restore order under which the inhabitants of that country in almost every instance have been able to return to their usual vocations. We have stopped the warfare. We have collected the arms that both parties had. Some 13,000 rifles were turned over to us. So

Nicaragua has a year of peace anyway to its advantage and what is necessary now is to provide some method by which the inhabitants can express their desires for the filling of the offices that are necessary to fill in the coming election and start out again under the terms of their constitution. We are trying to help out in that direction and I rather think we can.

It is evident that there are a great many bills pending before the House and the Senate calling for the expenditure of money. I am indicating through the different departments and through the Bureau of the Budget that I am opposed to extensions of our expenditures at the present time for anything that doesn't appear to be absolutely necessary. Of course, a matter like flood control is a necessity, and there are some other bills that perhaps are in the twilight zone between expediency and necessity. Necessarily, I give a great deal of attention to bills that are passed by the Congress of the United States, and wherever there is any doubt about it I resolve the doubt in favor of the legislation, if I possibly can. But under present conditions it is still necessary to keep our expenditures down for the general welfare of the people of the country. So I am in hopes that Congress will give heed to numerous reports that I am sending up that certain bills are not in harmony with my financial program.

I am expecting to attend the dinner that the White House Press Association is giving tomorrow evening. While I undoubtedly shall be called on to make some remarks, I am not expecting to make anything in the way of an extended address.

Question: Have you any reports from the Treasury about incomes?

President: I asked Mr. Mellon about that this morning, but there are no reports yet.



Tuesday, March 20, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not sure whether any members of the House and the Senate have said anything to me about railroad consolidation legislation since I mentioned it in conference the other day. I have, though, recently received favorable assurances that Congress will take up the bill and probably pass it.

I am in favor of the Madden bill relative to Muscle Shoals, not because it is exactly what I would like in every respect, but because it goes in the right direction of putting Muscle Shoals under private operation, and it is also the bill that is very much desired by some of the farm organizations. And as I am for the Madden bill, of course I could not be for the Norris resolution.

I do not think the Secretary of Labor has finished his tabulations of his reports on the question of unemployment, but he tells me that so far as the situation has been disclosed he does not see anything that is at all serious. There are a few more people that are out of work, or were when he made his survey, than there are at some other times, some places that have some unemployment, other places where it is not possible to secure the amount of labor that is desired.

I am sending a message to the Congress relative to the Austrian debt. You may recall that 4 or 5 years ago we extended the time - put on what would be technically known as a moratorium for Austria, which runs into the early 40's. Now, Austria wants to do some financing, and has secured the consent of all the other interested governments of Europe and wishes to secure our consent. That consent is being given by the other governments on condition that agreements are made for funding the present indebtedness of Austria to the

other countries. We thought we should go in on the same basis. So that I am asking for legislation that would authorize us to grant the extension that is requested and to accept a funding settlement with Austria that will be as good as that which is given to any of the other countries.

Question: Will that message go up today?

President: It is on the way now.

I saw some headline relative to a proposal that was made by Governor Fisher for a conference for the purpose of trying to arrange some adjustment of the coal industry. If it is true that he is suggesting that representatives of the States and of the operators and of the miners and the National Government should all come together, my offhand opinion would be that such a conference would be so large that any practical and affirmative result would be very doubtful. You will probably recall that the Secretary of Labor, with my approval, called a conference of miners and operators just at the opening of the Congress, which did not result in any affirmative action. Some of the operators did not appear in person, but sent messages. If this was a mere question of wages, something of that kind might hold out more promise of effective success, but it is a question of reorganizing the coal industry. I don't want to indicate that if Governor Fisher wishes to have a conference of that kind that I should in any way oppose it or fail to have representatives of the Labor Department there. Now, it may be that he has something in mind that will be very practical and helpful. He is, of course, quite conversant with the coal industry and the coal situation, and any suggestion he made ought to be given very careful consideration. Of course, if he meant to have a small conference, that would remove some of the objections that at present appear to me, but I assume he intends to have representatives from



quite a large number of States, and if there are going to be representatives and from all the operators, /from those who are engaged as employees, it would make it quite a large gathering. The operators perhaps might send one or two operators, perhaps the employees might send one or two representatives, and in that way keep the conference from being too large.

I have just learned with great regret of the death of William F. Brooks, the Republican National Committeeman from Minnesota. The message came last night from Minneapolis. He is the third member of the Committee that has died quite recently, Mr. Keeling of Indiana, and Mr. Remmel of Arkansas. I am sending an expression of sympathy to Mr. Brooks' family.

I regretted very much the rejection of my nomination of Commissioner Esch to succeed himself on the Interstate Commerce Commission. It is never possible to secure perfect men for any place. Commissioner Esch has had long experience and was in possession of very valuable information that would be helpful in the discharge of the functions of his office. As he had already been confirmed by the Senate, I assumed that he would still continue to be considered. / He is a man of such character and attainments as would be worthy of their confirmation again. The results seem to have turned on some decisions that have been made by the Commission. I am afraid that if decisions are to be reviewed by the Senate in that way, it is going to be difficult to secure the services of men of the calibre I ought to have for that important post. It is a post of great importance. Some tell me it is second only to that of the Supreme Court of the United States. I gave Commissioner Esch a recess appointment, and I am going to ask him to remain for the present. My appointment would continue in effect until the Senate adjourns, in order that he may finish up some of the work that he has peculiarly under his control on the

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Commission. Of course, I don't want to indicate that I am thinking of giving him a recess appointment. As the Senate has decided that they do not wish to confirm him, I of course would regard that as practically final, but I am asking him to stay and close up some of the work he is engaged in and give me an opportunity to find some one for the position.



Friday, March 23, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any connection between the possibility of the construction of one or two new vessels by the Panama Railroad S. S. Line and construction by the Shipping Board. This Panama line is one used entirely by the War Dept. for the purpose of serving the defensive means of the Panama Canal. It does carry some commercial freight. That is primarily for defensive uses of the Canal. I don't know whether those ships are to be constructed or not. It is true they have asked for bids. I think the matter is to be held up pending some investigation.

I think it is possible to have a tax reduction of \$225,000,000, with the way things stand now. Of course, if the Congress goes and spends all the surplus we have for some other purpose then we can not have a reduction in taxes. I should think it was quite apparent by now that it would be impossible to have a tax reduction of \$289,000,000, but we have not received the figures yet from the tax returns for March. They will probably be available very soon.

I haven't seen the bill that it is said here has been reported by the Commerce Committee of the Senate relative to flood control. If it contains the provisions that it is said to contain in this question, I should think it was not nearly so good a bill as the original Jones bill.

Tuesday, March 27, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't in mind at present making any further representations to Congress on the subject of the Navy bill. I don't see that anything is likely to arise in relation to that which would call for any further expression of opinion to the Congress. Very likely I may talk with different members concerning it to find out how it is going, or something like that, but I have no present intention of any formal communication.

I do not know what the proposals were that were made in the Cushendun letter, the British representative at Geneva, other than some reports that I have seen in the press. Of course, if a communication of that kind comes to our State Department, it will be taken up and considered there, and previous to its receipt I would not care to make any comment in relation to it.

I have no information about the bomb explosions in Chicago, other than some of the headlines I have seen in the press.

I do not know what Secretary Mellon is going to decide in relation to the amount of tax reduction that would be practical. I stated at the last conference that so far as I had any information at that time I was still holding to the \$225,000,000, but I coupled that with the statement that the reports for the tax returns that came in during the period between March 15th and January 1st, or perhaps it would be a little better to phrase that between January 1st and March 15th, had not been collected and studied, and until that was done no authoritative decision could be reached. I am advised that those reports will be tabulated by next Monday or Tuesday, and that at that time Mr. Mellon expects to be in a position to make an authoritative recommendation. Before he makes that recommendation I assume that he and I will confer, and that any representation that he makes will be one that has my approval. Judging from past ex-



perience, and my confidence in the accuracy of the reports and estimates of the Treasury Department, I should expect to give my approval to any recommendation made by the Treasury. Of course, that recommendation is arrived at after conferring with the Bureau of the Budget to find out what the expenses are going to be. It doesn't make any difference how large our income is, if arrangements have already been made to expend all of it.

There is little that I could add to the report made by Secretary Davis on the question of employment throughout the country, and it revealed about what I had expected it to reveal, that in some places there are people who are not employed in their usual vocations, other places where there are advertisements for labor and they are not able to secure all the labor they wish to have.

I don't recall any offer of a summer home near Charlottesville, Va. There have been several offers come in. Do you recall any relative to Charlottesville, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes. I have a letter now about that.

President: That is a very beautiful region down there. The home of Thomas Jefferson is located within sight of Charlottesville, and it is also the seat of the University of Virginia. There is some elevation there, but I should hardly think it would be enough so it would be very cool during the summer time.

The only reports I have received about mother Goodhue are that she was a little brighter this morning than she had been. The situation continues to be very grave.

Friday, March 30, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There is not much of any change in Mrs. Goodhue's condition. She is very weak and not able to rally very much.

I have been waiting for the action of the Senate on the nomination of Judge Gordon before taking up seriously the question of securing his successor. I think several suggestions have been made, all of which will now be canvassed by the Department of Justice. Probably we can reach some decision within a few days.

I have practically no information about the Welch bill. I have made one or two inquiries about it and understood it was thought it might cost about \$90,000,000 a year.

The Governor of Virginia and Mr. Slemp came in this morning to invite me to spend the summer in the Blue Ridge of Virginia. There is a very pleasant place there not far from the Shenandoah River. They said they had located two or three pools in the river where they thought fishing might be good. I think they said Waynesboro, not very far from there would be a good place for newspapermen. I am getting quite a good many invitations from different parts of the country, but naturally haven't been able to give the matter very much serious thought yet. I shall look into it a little later.

Question: Did Governor Byrd indicate whose house it was they offered?

President: It is some club, I don't know the name now.

Mr. Sanders: It is called the Swananoa Country Club.

President: I guess it is a very beautiful place, a very nice location I am sure. I didn't inquire about the elevation, but thought it was considerable and would probably give some relief from the usual warm climate of this immediate region. I don't think of anything more.



Tuesday, April 3, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There doesn't seem to be very much change in the condition of mother Goodhue. While she is gradually growing weaker, her heart action seems to keep up wonderfully well.

No final decision has been made yet for a successor to Judge Gordon to fill the position of District Attorney for the District of Columbia.

I have been over my position relative to flood control legislation a good many times with the conference and nothing has occurred that has caused me to change the views that I have already expressed, both in my message and in what I have said to the press. I am having the present bill carefully investigated to see what its good points are and what I think its weaknesses may be, with a view to undertaking to secure amendments that may be necessary in my estimation. It is true, as I understand it, that the bill calls for an indefinite amount of expenditure. Senator Simmons said \$700,000,000; Senator Jones said far more than that; I think some other Senator said \$1,000,000,000. Nobody knows what it would cost in its present form, and while it carries an authorization of \$325,000,000 the Chairman of the Committee that reported it said that the expense would be far above \$700,000,000. Of course it is a great discrepancy between that and the \$325,000,000 that the Engineering Department under General Jadwin thought would be adequate to provide the necessary control of the Mississippi flood.

I have never had any intimation that Secretary Kellogg was going to resign. I do not think there is any foundation for any such report. I judge it is one of those stories that go out from time to time resigning some member of the Cabinet or some other official. They could usually be verified by

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calling up this office, or calling up the party that is more particularly concerned, which would be the correct method, but a great many times that would be spoiling a good story.

I have only seen a brief reference to what is referred to here as the speech of Poncaire last Sunday, and I don't know of any comment that I care to make about it.

I didn't know that Colonel Lindbergh had discussed any new project with the State Department officials. He may have done so. And I have no knowledge that the Colonel contemplates another trans-oceanic flight. I have seen some references in the press stating that he was or was thought to be about to start a flight around the world, but concerning that I have no information of any kind.

Mr. Mellon is appearing before the Senate Ways and Means Committee this morning making his recommendation, which of course was made with my approval, relative to tax reduction, indicating that the reduction ought not to exceed about \$190,000,000. After going over the figures with him and considering all the conditions as they exist, I heartily approved of the recommendation he was making and think that that would be as far as we could go in tax reduction.



Friday, April 6, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The McNary-Haugen bill changes so often that there doesn't seem to be anything constant about it except its name. I haven't studied the present bill in its details. I understand the House bill and the Senate bill are not the same, though they both have the same name. And I do not understand that either one of them meets the objections that I made to the bill bearing that name when it came to me last year. I haven't changed the views that I expressed in my veto message, or those that I expressed relative to farm relief in my various messages to the Congress and the public addresses I have made. While, of course, I take every bill that comes to me and undertake to decide it on its merits after it comes, nobody has any justification in undertaking to indicate that I would sign the present bill. I don't wish you to say, because I have said that, that I am saying I would veto it, but I have indicated that I will try to determine it on its merits, though I do not understand that either one of the bills that are in the House and the Senate meet the objections which I stated in my veto message last year. Some of them, I think, have. But it is wrong to have any one say that there is any assurance that I can sign the present bill, or either one of them.

There isn't any definite change in mother Goodhue's condition. She is gradually growing weaker and no one can make any estimate of how soon the end may come. We know she is in a condition from which she can not recover.

I am glad that the press is taking up somewhat the flood control bill.

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It is a situation that is very well worthy of the study of the press of Washington. There was a very good statement about it in the Congressional Record of April 4th by Representative Frear. If any one wants to get some of the details and the objections to the present bill, there is a very carefully prepared statement in there by Representative Frear.

You will notice I have a new addition to the conference. Another dog has come in. That is a dog that is very much attached to my wife and he is very disconsolate in the absence of his mistress, but he has been willing to come over here.



Tuesday, April 10, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have no accurate information about the proposed reduction in postal rates, according to the House bill. There are some slight readjustments that might be made, but of course it would be necessary to make them in such a way as to not interfere very much with the postal revenue. The Post Office already has a deficit, and it wouldn't be possible to make any material reductions without so much increase in that deficit that we wouldn't have the money with which to meet our expenses.

It wouldn't be possible to make any forecast about what may come out of the negotiations with various countries arising out of the proposals for renunciation of war. The most that I could say about that would be that we are disposed to explore the matter thoroughly and do anything that we reasonably can to secure a helpful agreement in that direction among the great powers.

Governor Brewster was in and suggested that Bar Harbor was a very delightful place in the summer, which I know to be a fact, and that he thought they had accommodations there for myself and my family and for my office force and the newspaper men. I told him to send me a letter stating what the situation was and that I would take it up with the other offers that have been made.

Question: Mr. President, he mentioned 1200 ft. as the altitude. Was that correct for the altitude?

President: At Bar Harbor? I am not familiar with the altitude about there. Bar Harbor itself of course is right on the ocean front, so that a great deal of it is practically sea level. He didn't say anything to me, as I recall, about an altitude of 1200 ft. That must be somewhat inland.

I haven't had any reports about the progress of the tax bill before the Senate Finance Committee. Some of the members of the House came in yesterday

to discuss proposals for putting in a very large number - I can't tell whether it was 169 or 69 or something of that kind, it was a very large number - of reservoirs on the upper reaches of tributaries of the Mississippi. After discussing it with General Jadwin it didn't seem that a plan of that kind would give adequate flood control, though it would be advantageous to the territory concerned which is Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, I think souther Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico.

The flood control legislation is getting into a very unfortunate situation. I was afraid it would, when it became apparent that there was great reluctance on the part of Congress to have any local contribution. Of course, as soon as that policy is adopted, then it becomes a bestowal of favors on certain localities and naturally if one locality is to be favored, all the other localities in the United States think that they ought to come in under the same plan and have their floods taken care of. The bill, of course, is an entire reversal of the policy that has been pursued up to the present time, which was that of helping the locality. This undertakes to have the United States go in and assume the entire burden. It is so drawn that the rule of damages is a new one. It seems to confer property on people and then in another part of the bill proposes to pay them for the property that has been conferred in the way of damages. There is grave danger too that it would leave the United States to be responsible for flood damage that might be hereafter incurred, if any levees should break, or the plan is inadequate, or anything of that kind, which would be a very serious situation, and the cost has mounted from around \$300,000,000 to about \$1,500,000,000.

Question: That was the Jones bill?

President: That is the bill as it has come out of the Committee in the



House, the Jones bill with the House amendments. It leaves the U. S. Government also to pay all the major costs of maintenance, which it has never done before. It almost seems to me as though the protection of the people and the property in the lower Mississippi that need protection has been somewhat lost sight of and it has become a scramble to take care of the railroads and the banks and the individuals that may have invested in levee bonds, and the great lumber concerns that own many thousands of acres in that locality, with wonderful prospects for the contractors. Taking the management and the control and the letting of contracts out of the hands of the Board of Engineers, where it has been, and putting it into the hands of a new body that are to hold office forever would be, if not irresponsible, certainly unresponsive to anybody or anything. It seems to me we might have a flood control bill within reasonable limits that would take care of the situation adequately without the expectation of it costing five times as much as it ought to cost.

I haven't had any suggestion that the farm bill might be modified. There are some things in there that I think I suggested in my message, but not more than 6 or 8 of them I think, though the bill has been changed somewhat, perhaps, since that change was made, and there are a large number of things still contained in the bill that it was necessary to criticize in my veto message of last year. The equalization fee is still there. While the Attorney General held last year that it was unconstitutional, I don't know of anything that has been done to render it constitutional this year. I should like very much to have a measure for helping the farmer in accordance with my various messages to the Congress. It seems as though such a measure might be worked out by the various committees and adopted.

Friday, April 13, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I think I knew about the letter sent by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Porto Rican Senate to the resident Porto Rican Commissioner here. That is apparently a matter between them and not a matter that requires any comment by me.

There isn't any particular change in mother Goodhue's condition. Just at present she is rather more comfortable, so that my wife thought it would be safe for her to return to Washington.

I haven't had any special conference with Speaker Longworth relative to the flood control measure. I had him and some other members of the House in one morning and talked with them about the bill. I understand they are trying to work out something on it in accordance with my views.

I have some speaking engagements. On the 15th, that is Sunday, I accept a statue of Andrew Jackson in the Hall of Fame, and on the 16th I speak before the Daughters of the American Revolution. On the 23rd, I broadcast the Forest Week proclamation. I think that comes in the evening, doesn't it, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes, sir.

President: On the 28th I am expecting to speak at the Gridiron dinner. On the 15th of May I expect to visit St. Johns College at Annapolis. I am not going to speak there. My mission will be visitory and not oratory. The 18th and 19th of May the Phillips Andover Academy at Andover, Mass. is celebrating its 150th anniversary. They have invited me to come up there at that time. Probably, if I go, it will be on the 18th. On the 30th of May will be the annual address, which I am very much inclined this year to make at Gettys-



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burg, instead of at Arlington, though that has not been decided. Probably on the 11th of June is the business meeting of the Government. It comes early in the evening and will be broadcasted. And on the 9th to the 11th the Dutch Reformed Church is celebrating its 300th anniversary in the City of New York. Representatives of that church have called on me several times. They were in the other day accompanied by former Senator Frelinghuysen, who has been very urgent to have me take some part in the observance of that 300th anniversary. I have that under consideration. I haven't made any decision about it. Of course, my going to Andover is more or less uncertain, but I want very much to go up there.

Tuesday, April 17, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The national head of the Disabled Veterans and Senator Phipps and Senator Waterman came in yesterday to invite me to attend the convention of the - the national convention of that organization, to be held in Denver, I think, on the 23rd of June, or about that time. I explained to them that my movements were rather uncertain, on account of the critical illness of my wife's mother. If she should continue in her present condition, I should have to stay somewhere within reach of her. If I should be passing the summer somewhere in the West, or out that way, there might be some opportunity that I could attend that convention.

And what I have said about that applies to the possibility of my spending the summer at Lookout Mountain. That is one of the places I have under consideration. It is only one. There are quite a good many others, but it wouldn't be possible to visit there under the present condition of mother Goodhue.

I have talked with some of the leaders of the House relative to the flood control bill. They are working on it with the interested parties. Of course, the plan as proposed by General Jadwin had \$110,000,000 in it for navigation of the Mississippi. The other \$190,000,000 was for flood control. The bill that passed the Senate is thought would run as high as \$1,500,000,000. Now, taking the \$110,000,000 out, it leaves \$1,400,000,000. So that bill boosts flood control from less than \$200,000,000 to nearly \$1,400,000,000, which is obviously a very large boost. That seems to be due in large part to the attitude of those that are interested in the lumber companies. That accounts for a good deal of the activity about here. And while I don't want to take any property that belongs to the lumber companies, or anybody else's - couldn't if I wanted to



under the Constitution - without giving them just compensation for it, I don't think that in passing a bill of this kind the opportunity should be seized on to put the Government in a position where it would have to endow them with very large damages. That is the difficulty about the bill; the main difficulty about it. I don't know of any proposal that has been made, certainly since I have been President, and I doubt if any was ever made, of such an extortionate nature as that provided for in the bill passed by the Senate. I don't think the Senate understood it, what its implications were, or what is behind it. It went through there practically without discussion. It had been brought out of Committee very recently. I doubt if the Committee understood what the implications were. <sup>If</sup> the administration was attempting to boost a \$200,000,000 proposition up to \$1,400,000,000, I think there would be a wide discussion in the press and a good deal of criticism. I should think it would be a fruitful source of exploration for anybody that had the opportunity to look into it, investigate it, undertake to find out what is behind it, and what the motives are that are supporting it.

I am going to make a short address of welcome at the Mayflower on May 16th to the joint Convention that is to be held there of the American Federation of Arts and the Association of Museums. I didn't happen to mention that the other day.

This evening I am expecting to attend the concert of the Hampton Institute that is to be held at the First Congregational Church. Mrs. Coolidge will not be able to go, but I expect to go.

Friday, April 20, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

It hasn't been possible yet to make any further plans regarding the summer vacation.

I am not quite satisfied with the provisions of the revised flood relief measure. I think we ought to have a little more assistance from the locality that is to be benefited. It would not run into a great deal of money for the locality, but might be of very material benefit to the U. S. Treasury. I have just been conferring with the Attorney General and also with General Jadwin to see what changes in phraseology and in substance ought to be made to conform to what I think would be correct. I expect within a little while to confer again with Colonel Tilson and Mr. Madden.

Question: Does that mean tonight, Mr. President?

President: Yes. They are coming in about 4:15. I don't know as I can go into any discussion of the different phases of the revised bill. Perhaps there isn't anything further that I can say about it at this time. Quite naturally I want to take up the suggestions that I have to make with Colonel Tilson and Mr. Madden before submitting them to publication. They will be in very soon and so I think that when they go out they will be able to give to the press any changes that I may have suggested, with their reactions.

I have known in a general way that the suggestion in my message that an exploration should be made of the subject of consolidation of street railroads in the City of Washington was being carried on by the Congress and the Commission in Washington that is intrusted with that. I know very little about the details, but it is an important subject and I hope very much that we may be able to work out the details in such a way that they can pass legislation



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which will be fair to those that own the property and equally fair to the public that is going to have the privilege of using it in the future.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Tuesday, April 24, 1928.

No information has come to me concerning the increase in rediscount rates, except that which I have seen in the press. That is a matter entirely for the Federal Reserve Board, a matter that I wouldn't happen to know anything about.

I haven't made any final decision, but I am rather expecting to make a Memorial Day address at Gettysburg. If I go up there, I don't know whether I would go by automobile or on the train. Would any of the members of the conference that might wish to attend have any preference as to which method of travel was adopted? Who is the head man of this conference?

Press: I have been over the railroad Mr. President. I recommend auto.

President: Well, that might be an easier method of travel. I didn't know whether it would be as convenient for the members of the press that might like to go.

Press: The train makes one grade up there sometimes, and sometimes not.

President: With the press aboard, I take it that the railroad would be solicitous in getting us there.

Mother Goodhue's condition continues to be about the same. The only thing we can say about her is that she apparently gets a little weaker.

Some of the amendments which the House has incorporated in the flood bill improve the bill. The main feature of it is in relation to the method of adopting plans and letting the contracts. That I think is in fairly good shape. The other main feature is in relation to the payment of damages and securing rights of way. That has not yet been put into acceptable shape. I very much hope that it will be done. It is in that particular that the Government will stand a chance of having to pay a very great sum in damages, which I



do not think are necessary. What I desire to have done is for the localities to furnish the rights of way on which the levees are to be built. That would be little or no expense to them and probably be a very considerable expense to the United States Government. I am willing that the U. S. Government should assume responsibility for damages that might accrue by reason of the water that would go down between the new levees in the spillways, and of course expect the Government to pay the expenses of the erection of the levees. That is, I want the U. S. Government to pay any damages that may accrue by reason of its taking any constitutional rights that the owners of property in that locality now have. I don't want to have it endowed with new rights in one section of the bill and have then ~~for~~ the Government pay them for the rights in another section which we have just legislated upon them. I haven't any expectation of sending any special message to Congress dealing with flood control. Something might occur that would seem to make that desirable, but I don't know of anything now.

I was informed this morning that our exports are about what they were last year and especially our exports of manufactured goods. One of the main reasons for that is the increasing prosperity of the rest of the world and the stabilization that has come from their getting their finances into better order and securing reforms in their currency, getting back onto a gold basis and stabilizing their currency. This increase in exports is going to almost all the countries of the world.

Friday, April 27, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am not very well informed about the House Merchant Marine bill. If it does have a provision that 5 of the 7 members must join in order to sell any ships, I should regard that as very unwise. It undertakes to make a minority of the Board a majority and substitutes for the usual procedure in this country of majority rule a minority rule.

Question: Was the original, Mr. President, just one member?

President: I don't know about that. I think they have got some suggestions of that kind, so that one member of the Board would be a majority. Now they are proposing to make 3 a majority. That isn't quite so bad as it is to make one. Nor do I know about the provisions that authorize the Board to remodel and improve existing vessels. I think they have that authority now, if they can get an appropriation for it, so I imagine that isn't very much of a change in the law. It is a matter on which I do not believe, though, that we should spend very much money.

I haven't sent any memorandum to Senator Jones on the flood bill. General Jadwin and I made some notes on it and I think that the General was going to confer with the Senator relative to the notes which we made. As I said the other day, except for the administrative feature, the bill as it passed the House is no improvement over the bill that passed the Senate, and so far as the expense is concerned it is a more expensive measure. I have noted a tendency on the part of the dispatches that go out from Washington now to refer to this as the \$325,000,000 Jones flood control bill. That is a very extreme euphemism. The bill as it is drawn would cost nearer \$1,500,000,000 than \$325,000,000, and all for the purpose of doing what the best engineering advice I can get indicates could be done for about \$300,000,000.



I don't know whether the conferees can agree on a bill which I can approve or not. I hope they can. I want to have a reasonable flood control bill. I don't see any reason why one shouldn't be passed by the Congress and laid before me for my approval. I have very little difficulty with the people that live down in the region that is to be benefited. The main difficulty seems to come from those that do not live in the region, but who own property down there which they wish to sell to the Government. There are a good many features about the bill as it passed the House that I regard as very objectionable. I have tried to indicate those to Senator Jones with the hope that they may be amended.

I was very much shocked to learn of the death of Representative Madden. Of course we all knew that he had a weak heart, and might drop away at any time, but his going was none the less a shock to me. I have prepared a message to Mrs. Madden of sympathy, and an expression of the high estimation in which I held Mr. Madden. That message will be given to the press.

The tax reduction bill, as I understand it, to be reported to the Senate is fairly satisfactory as to the amount. I think it is a mistake from my point of view to repeal the automobile taxes. We had already repealed 40% of them. We might reasonably look to that source of revenue for the expenses which the Federal Government is incurring in road construction. Road construction by the Federal Government, of course, is a new proposition. It is done especially for the benefit of the automobile owners. I think it would be ultimately for their benefit to have revenue accruing from that source, which would be applied for that purpose. I recognize, however, that the kind of taxes that are to be levied, and the sources that are to be looked to for revenue, are peculiar ones for the Congress to determine, so that my main

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concern is for a bill that doesn't deplete the revenue too far. Of course, that is one of the advantages of the automobile tax. It is a pretty certain source of revenue, which wouldn't be reduced very much if there should be a considerable reduction in taxes on incomes and corporation profits. But I think that the amount they have set is fairly satisfactory. It is a little too high, but if the Congress is discreet in the amount of appropriations it makes in other directions I should say that it was not so high that the Treasury couldn't meet it.

The farm bill meets 3 or 4 of the objections that I raised to the bill of last year in my veto message. There are a great many other objections that I raised that the present bill doesn't meet. I am advised that the claim is being made that all the objections that I raised have been met, with the exception of the constitutional objection to the equalization fee. That doesn't appear to me to be the case. I hope that none of the members of the Congress will be misled by any rumors of that kind. I hope they may pass some reasonable farm legislation, but I am afraid that the present bill will not meet what I held to be the requirements.

Question: You said that you hoped the conferees on the flood control bill would be able to work out a bill that you could approve. In your reading of the two drafts, do you think it would be possible for them to do that without exceeding their powers?

President: I think that can be done by the Congress, if it wants to.



Tuesday, May 1, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any developments relative to the Boston postmastership.

I don't know of any particular analysis that General Jadwin has made of the flood control bill that went through the House. He and I looked over the bill together and made some marks on it, indicated some changes that we should like to have made in it. I presume that is the origin of any report that may have been made that he made an analysis. I don't know of anything that he has made relative to it that could be published. Any one could take the bill and make an analysis of it. The financial features of it haven't been improved. Every time that changes have been made it has been to make the financial features more unacceptable. As it went through the House it had the Sacramento River, I think it is, hitched on to the end of it. I haven't much of any information about the Sacramento River. I know that the Government is helping out there. If it is a meritorious project, it ought to go through on its own steam, and not be hitched on to something else. That is the main trouble with this bill, - too many interests, too many people want to ride on it, until it became loaded up with a great many objectionable features.

I haven't heard anything at all about Colonel Lindbergh's plans, whether he is preparing to fly across the Atlantic or the Pacific, or anything of that kind. He himself, of course, would be the best source of information relative to his plans. I don't know what they are. I have heard rumors that he was contemplating a flight around the world. I doubt whether that is true; but I have no information about him.

I have no information relative to proposed legislation about loans on securities. I saw by the press there was a bill pending in the House or the Senate. I don't know what it is or what the provisions of it are, or what

the discussion about it has been.

There is a bill also pending for an airport for the City of Washington. I think I have reported on that through the Bureau of the Budget that it was not in conflict with my financial program. I don't know very much about the details of it. I looked at it some when I talked to General Lord about it. If any one wants the details, the best way to do is to get the bill and get the details from the bill itself.

I am thinking of going out to the circus grounds this afternoon at the invitation of Mr. Ringling. I have some things to do here in the office, so I won't be able to stay for the show. I think he has one or two very interesting animals, or fish, I don't know which, or sea elephant, or something of that kind. I don't know whether that is the only thing you can catch with a hook and line, or whether you scare it. But he thought I might be interested in that animal.



May 4, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had a chance to talk with Colonel Starling very much since he came back from his visit to Swanannoa. About the only thing I got from him was that it seemed to be a very fine place and he thought it could be adapted to my use during the summer. Of course, there are quite a good many other places that have got to be advertised. I expect to hold a conference gratifying the local desires in that respect.

I don't know anything more about the White shipping bill than I did the other day. I think there are some very good features in it. There are some things about it that I didn't think were so wise. That is quite natural about legislation. I am of course very much interested in having legislation passed that would encourage private shipping. I think this bill is intended to do so, though some private shippers are quite critical of it.

I am having the farm bill restudied, but so far as I know the bill that passed the House and the Senate does not meet the objections that I made to the bill that was passed last year. Some of the objectionable features have been eliminated, 4 or 5 of them which were somewhat incidental. I am afraid that the main objections, the more important ones, have not been met.

The report, I think of the conference committee on the flood bill, is in today's issue of the Congressional Record. It doesn't indicate that much has been done to meet my views. I expected to have an opportunity to confer with some members of the committee, but apparently they hurried the conference to an end and filed their report without giving me any opportunity to see what they were doing or to indicate whether their actions would meet with my approval. I notice that the press dispatches still refer to this as the \$325,000,000 bill.

I don't know why they do that.

I have recommended, I think in all my messages, that the building of the dam at Boulder Canyon be undertaken. I very much hope that some solution may be found at the present session of the Congress. I want the dam built for the purpose of flood control and for the purpose of giving Southern California a better domestic water supply. Incident to that would be some power development. I do not think that ought to stand in the way of a possible solution. A good deal of the power I judge would be used to pump the water over the hill to southern California and some method ought to be devised that will meet the objections of those that do not wish the U. S. Government to go into the power business. This question has been before the House and Senate for a number of years. It has had mature consideration by the Dept. of Interior and they have provided a reasonable solution for it which I hope will be adopted.



Tuesday, May 8, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information about any proposal to purchase the U. S. Lines of shipping. That would be made of course to the Shipping Board. You will have to apply there for any information concerning it.

I don't know very much about the disagreement between the House and the Senate on the District appropriation bill. I have talked with one or two people about it a little. There seems to be more disagreement about the principle than there does over money, and as an appropriation bill is rather a matter of money than of principle I should think they would adjust it some way on a money basis. I think it is very important that the appropriation bill should pass and the conferees ought to make some mutual concessions on the things that are in disagreement, of which there are a number, and make an agreement and report their agreement back to the two houses for approval.

There hasn't anything new developed in relation to a new District Attorney for the District of Columbia.

I talked yesterday with the conferees and some others relative to the flood bill. I have been able to get that deflated some, so that I think it is a good deal better than it was when they started to work on it. It has some saving clauses in it. It isn't just such a bill as I would like, but the form in which I understand the conference is proposing to recommend its passage perhaps is as good as can be secured. The main difficulty has been <sup>over</sup> a possible payment of damages which is a new element in flood control, one that hasn't had to be met in any other efforts that have been made to control the waters of the Mississippi and its tributaries. But I think that has been put in very much better shape than it was at the outset.

I am a good deal disturbed at the number of proposals that are being made for an expenditure of money. The number and the amount is becoming appalling. Practically none of those bills have reached me yet, and it may be that the Congress won't pass all of them. Of course, there is this flood bill. It is impossible to estimate what that will cost. If it is carried out as suggested, I think \$500,000,000 would probably be the minimum. Nobody knows what the maximum might be. There is the farm bill calling for \$400,000,000. The Boulder Dam bill. I think the lowest estimates on that are \$125,000,000. Other estimates run to \$250,000,000. There is a pension bill, running \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000. The salary bill, the so-called Welch Bill, of about \$18,000,000. The Muscle Shoals bill, which I think was reported to me would cost perhaps \$75,000,000. I think that is rather excessive. That is only a part of them. I don't know just what will happen to the Treasury if we try to put all those proposals into effect. In addition to that there is the Postoffice pay bill of I think \$20,000,000, and the reduction of postage payments which has been reported in the Senate I think calls for - it seems as though it is \$38,000,000. Those two together make a difference of \$58,000,000 in the Postoffice Department, which is already running a considerable deficit. There are \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 for the corn borer. There are \$6,000,000 for vocational training. How many more bills there are, I don't know.

Question: Does this endanger tax reduction?

President: Well, there is a tax reduction bill of \$203,000,000 reported to the Senate and \$289,000,000 as it passed the House. If all these bills went through and became law I should think it would not only endanger tax reduction at the present time, but would make necessary the laying of additional taxes.



Report of the Newspaper Conference,  
Friday, May 11, 1928.

I haven't made any final plans about my vacation. The press is at liberty to go on printing unconfirmed rumors about any good town that they think might be helped by the advertising. Asheville, N.C., is a fine place. There are several places in Virginia. There is a very good place down off the Georgia Coast on an island. They would be glad to have us come out to the Black Hills again. It has been suggested that I could go up to the Adirondacks again. There are some places up near New London that have been brought to my attention. And don't forget about Bar Harbor. There is a nice place up in New Hampshire, and Vermont is full of nice places.

How about Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota?

President: That is a very good place, but lets wait until the next conference. We don't want to get in too many at once.

The flood bill hasn't come to me yet. It has been sent here and sent to the Departments as a matter of course. I have forgotten whether it has gone to the War Dept. or to the Bureau of the Budget. I expect a favorable report and expect to sign it.

It was brought to my attention today that the National Zeitung of Berlin on the 21st of April printed what they said was an article by me. I never wrote any such article and never authorized it. It was an entire fake. Yet it had a heading on it which was signed "The Editor", saying that it was my article. I tell you that so if you see it none of you may feel slighted because you didn't get the fake.

Question: Could you tell us what the story was?

It purported to be some statement by me about American conditions, international relations, and so on. I didn't read it..

Tuesday, May 15, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not recall that any report has come to me from the Tariff Commission relative to the cost of production here and abroad of milk and cream. You don't know of any, do you, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No sir.

President: I don't know just what will be necessary as an initial appropriation for flood control. I have talked a little with General Jadwin about it and I think his idea is some \$25,000,000. Of course, I don't know what work will be undertaken first. That will be a matter for the board to determine. I am going to try to get <sup>as</sup> a member of the board a civil engineer that is entirely disconnected with the territory involved, so that he may feel free to make such decisions as he would think are for the welfare of the different localities without being embarrassed in any way by any of his local connections. I want to get a first class engineer. No doubt I can find such a person.

I haven't any information about any request by the Chinese Nationalist Government, other than some reference I have seen in the press. Any information about that ought to be secured in the State Department.

The Welch salary bill as proposed by the Committee is a larger sum than I think ought to be provided at this time for increases in salaries. The House had a bill of \$13,000,000 or \$14,000,000, which I thought was reasonable, and which was as far as I wished to go. Then there seemed to be some reasons for adding \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 on to that. Now the Senate Committee apparently has increased that bill by \$7,000,000 more, which seems to me to be too large. Of course, I will take any bill that comes to me and try to decide it on its merits.



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I think there are some very good provisions in the Merchant Marine bill which would tend to benefit the shipping interests of this country. There are some things in it I don't like so well, but so far as I am informed about it the bill as a whole would be beneficial.

Nothing definite has been done toward a successor to Judge Sanborn of the U. S. Circuit Court, who lived in Minneapolis, Minn.

I have the flood control bill here on my desk and I expect to approve it today.

Friday, May 18, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have very little information about the investigation going on before the Federal Trade Commission relative to the electric power companies. I had some talks something more than a year ago with a Harvard professor, who had two or three articles in magazines relative to the organization of electric power concerns -

Question: Professor Ripley, Mr. President?

President: Yes, and from such thought as I gave the subject at that time it seemed that the matter was almost entirely one for State action as distinguished from action by the United States. This investigation by the Trade Commission may perhaps reveal facts that will be helpful to State commissions in administering the powers that have been conferred upon them for the regulation and control of electric companies and the Commission may develop some facts that would call for national legislation, though the facts that they have developed so far that have come to my attention seemed to me pretty much matters for the States, rather than for the Federal Government.

I talked with Luther Steward this morning concerning the salary increase bill. He has been very conscientious and helpful in undertaking to frame a satisfactory bill that would remedy such inadequacies as are apparent and provide for careful investigation by the Classification Board to see what further increases should be made in the future. I understand from him that the body of the Federal employees that he represents are fairly well content, and he is very well content, with the bill that went through the House, and he did not undertake to promote the bill that went through the Senate. I told him that I thought there was no doubt that I would be willing to approve the House



measure, but I thought it was very doubtful if I was willing to approve the measure that went through the Senate, though of course I didn't want to make any promise about either one of them, but that was the impression I had of the two bills. I so notified Rep. Lehlback. Mr. Steward wanted me to do that and I have done so. I haven't been able to notify Senator Dale, because he is out of town.

Question: Is the Senate bill about \$10,000,000 more than the House?

President: The original proposal was for \$13,000,000, and then that was increased to about \$17,000,000, and the Senate measure has increased that to about \$25,000,000.

Tuesday, May 22, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have every expectation of going to Gettysburg on the 30th of May. Of course, the Congressional situation makes it a little uncertain, but I think the expectation may be considered as highly definite.

I haven't made any decision about where I shall spend the summer. My views concerning the publicity of income tax returns are, I think, stated in my annual message sent to the Congress in the fall of 1926. No, in the fall of 1925. And I think that in the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury of that year you will find some comment on that same point, especially along the line that publicity of tax returns tended to diminish national revenue.

I still have the surplus control bill before me. I expect to arrive at some definite conclusions about it very soon and am writing it up as fast as I can, getting reports from the various departments that might be able to give me assistance relative to it. I should be willing to approve a bill that was in accordance with the suggestions I have made in my annual messages.

I haven't seen the conferees' report on the Muscle Shoals bill, so I couldn't express any definite opinion about it.

I think the bill for the retirement of emergency officers has come to me and has been referred to the War Department, and of course the Budget Bureau, as it has to do with finances, for their opinion, and it has not been returned.

Yesterday, there came in the first report that has been made under the present law relative to railroad wages. I appointed an emergency board, the first one that I have appointed, to consider a disagreement about wages and terms of employment in the K.C.M. & O. Ry. system. That report came in yesterday and will be given to the press, if it has not already been done by the present board. It is inter-



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esting not only because of the contents of the report, but because it is the first one that has been made under the present law. I shall be very much interested to see whether it works out successfully.

I haven't made any final decision about my summer plans. There will be plenty of time for the members of the press to prepare themselves for the journey. As soon as I make a decision about it that is final, I will let the press know and it will take me quite as much time to prepare, I am sure, as it would the members of the press, so if they start their preparations as soon as I do mine, I am sure we will all be able to get our vacation together.

Friday, May 25, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't seen the Muscle Shoals bill and know but very little about it. I will take it and look at it when it comes and try and decide it on its merits. I have discussed that problem several times in my messages. If you want my views more in detail you will find them there. I have of course been trying to get Muscle Shoals out of the hands of the Government and into private operation. I hope that this wouldn't put us any further into Government operation than we are now.

I don't know of anything more that I can say about the farm situation than what I said in my message at the opening of the session and what I said in my veto the other day. Of course, at the end of the session there is always more or less excitement in the Congress, much less this time than there has been at others. Congress apparently will be able to finish up its business in pretty good order. One of the gratifying things about the present session is the way the appropriation bills have been taken care of. I think they are substantially within the recommendations that I made in the budget. Some are a little more and some are a little less. But in general I think it is just about what the budget recommended, which is a very gratifying outcome.



Tuesday, May 29, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The Muscle Shoals bill has not come back to me yet from the Departments. It is an involved problem and we are studying it as fast as we can. Several members of the House and Senate have advocated its approval and disapproval. I am waiting for advice from the Departments before making a final decision.

The Barge Line measure has not yet reached me. While I have understood that the provisions of it were not exactly what I would like to have relative to power to be vested in the Secretary of War to make sale or lease of the property, yet it seems to be the best we can get under the circumstances. I shall probably approve it.

I haven't made any further decision about a summer vacation, and so I do not know when I shall leave Washington. I don't know that the fact that there are national conventions being held would have any effect on my movements one way or the other.

I have no information as to violations of the prohibition law at the Niagara frontier, other than what I have seen in the press, which indicated that the authorities were taking vigorous action to prevent violations and punish those who have been charged with violations.

Friday, June 1, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know yet just what time I shall leave for Wisconsin. If any of you want to go up there, if they will leave word with Mr. Sanders he will notify you. As the conference knows, I prefer not to have the time of my traveling reported in the press.

Mr. Morrow hasn't made any report regarding Mexico, other than what has already been made public a good many times. He told me of the progress they have made in adjusting the differences relative to land, both agricultural and mineralized, and they are also working on the question of the claims that exist between the two countries.

I am not going to deliver any Flag Day address. I am having to make a budget speech on the 11th. I stopped on my way west last year to make a Flag Day address in the District of Will Wood. It seems to have had a very bad effect, so I wont inflict a like calamity on any other Congressman.

Question: What happened Mr. President?

President: (proceeding without answering) I don't know what will be done about promotions or increases in salaries on the first of July.



Tuesday, June 5, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have two or three bills still before me, not of any particular importance excepting the Muscle Shoals bill, that I am still studying.

My position relative to the Cuban parcel post convention was set out in my message to the Congress, in which I strongly advocated the passage of legislation that would give the Cuban Government what it was requesting relative to importations in this country of tobacco. Such importation would be of no detriment to us and the privilege of sending merchandise to Cuba by parcel post was of great benefit to our people. The apparent advantage of the business done that way was 12 to 1 or something of that kind. It was very largely in our favor, but I wasn't able to get any action from the Congress on it, nor was I able to get any action relative to the Austrian debt situation, or the Greek debt situation. Perhaps at the next session it may be more possible to secure legislation relative to questions of that kind. It is a little late perhaps to comment on it, but I did secure from the Congress very important legislation, beginning with the Alien Property bill, the Flood Control bill, the Tax bill, and the Child Labor bill for the District of Columbia I regarded as quite an important piece of legislation. But those others were particular bills that were of importance. Some things went through the House like the Naval Building program that didn't get a chance to come up in the Senate. It was reported to me that the Senate was overwhelmingly in favor of the Naval bill, but of course it wasn't possible to displace the Boulder Canyon bill with anything except appropriations, so that the vote on the motion that was made to displace that in order to bring up the Naval bill didn't represent at all the sentiment in favor of the bill.

There are a great many people, many members of the Senate, that were committed to the Naval bill and were in such a situation that they were unable to vote to displace the Boulder Canyon bill in order to bring that up. But the results of the Congress as a whole are very satisfactory. Appropriations were kept well in accord with the budget recommendations. I think I suggested at the last conference that I would much prefer that the press didn't undertake to publish the time when I might leave Washington. It isn't fully determined yet. That is as much for the protection of the members of the press as it is for the protection of myself. After I have made a request of that kind I really don't see why the members of the conference should publish dates on which it is alleged I am going to leave. Practically every newspaper that I saw Sunday had some alleged date of my departure. I suppose one guess is as good as another, but I am not going to leave until some time next week. I will try to notify you in time so that you can catch the train.



Friday, June 8, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The petition for executive clemency in the case of Proctor, Eagles and Moreno hasn't reached me and I don't know what the report of the Department of Justice on it will show. I think I saw by the press that a stay of two weeks had been granted during which I assume the Department will make a finding and present it to me. Then, I think some one representing these defendants will come in to see me. Have they got an appointment, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Coming tomorrow.

President: I shall hear them and see what they have to say about it.

Question: Is Mr. Bigelow's law firm representing them?

President: I don't know who is coming.

Mrs. Coolidge will go up to Superior when I go. She did think a little of going up to Amherst Commencement, but she concluded that she won't do that. And I don't think it will be possible for me to go to Amherst Commencement either. That comes next week, about the time I am going to Wisconsin.

June 26, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I see there are a number of your reporters here that haven't attended Presidential press conferences before. Now, these conferences are held in order to give the members of the press a sort of background and enable them to get the facts to use in their own way and on their own responsibility. The President is never quoted and it is a fundamental rule of the conferences that no quotation is to be made of anything that the President says.

It is my recollection that Secretary Kellogg mentioned to me before I left Washington that he would probably be up this way. His home is in St. Paul about 150 miles away, and I think he is expecting to visit me as he goes up there.

Secretary Work already has an engagement to come up here, I think next week. I have no information about Mr. Hoover coming out. I have seen some of the reports about it in the press, but whether he is coming up or not I do not know. I have no direct information from him. I haven't given any thought to what I might do to participate in the coming campaign. If there is anything to be done about that it will develop later.

I expect that my son John will be up here next Saturday or Sunday. I don't know of any comment that I can make on the note that Secretary Kellogg has sent to 14 powers relative to a treaty renouncing war. The note would seem to speak for itself. I don't know of anything that I could say that would add anything to it.

I haven't any plans about the 4th of July. That is my birthday and we usually have a cake to eat. Nor have I given much of any thought about any engagements up here. I should like to go about some up here, different



places. I should like to see the country and meet the people. I am not expecting to undertake to make any speeches.

I am thoroughly enjoying my vacation. The estate where we are is very convenient and accessible and beautiful. The fishing around it is very good. There are several lakes about there that have a great many fish in them. I have fished there a little. I rather prefer fishing in the river, which has a little more of the flavor of catching wild fish. It is a very wonderful place out there. My wife and I found it very beneficial to both of us.

I noticed that the press said something about mosquitoes.. There aren't any mosquitoes out there that bother us any. Of course, you can't go into the woods without finding some, but they are not much more thick at Cedar Island Lodge than they would be on the south Portico of the White House. They don't give us any trouble at all.

I haven't been listening over the radio to the convention at Houston. I was out this morning up and down the river and forgot that the convention started today. I recall now that it does, and I think Mrs. Coolidge has had the radio on. But the radio there is over in the Lodge and I have scarcely been there this morning since I got up. Our dining room is across the bridge in another building, so when I came back from being out on the water I went into the dining room and haven't had a chance to listen to the radio.

I noticed that the press quite universally complimented me on wearing a new straw hat when I got up here. I had worn that for about a month, <sup>but</sup> on account of it being cooler up here I suppose every one thought it was a new hat. I would like to say that the weather hasn't disturbed me at all up here. There has been some rain, but not enough to bother us at all out at the Lodge. I did think at one time out there that I would like to trade that straw hat for a coonskin cap.

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I can see now why the people thought that that must be a new hat.



Friday, June 29, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

No engagement has yet been made for Secretary Hoover to visit here. It has been reported that he was planning to make a trip to his home in California and if he does that I imagine he would plan to stop here, either on his way going out or coming back. I understand that Mr. Hoover is planning to retire from the Cabinet at an early date. No decision has been made yet relative to his successor.

Secretary Work will also retire at an early date. And no decision has been made relative to his successor.

It is improbable that anything would be done about the appointment of a U. S. Attorney for the District of Columbia before the convening of the Senate. Mr. Rover is I think acting under a designation by the Court and as this vacancy occurred while the Senate was in session, if he were to be displaced with another person that person would not draw any salary unless he were confirmed at the next session of the Senate and that would be the same, should I appoint Mr. Rover.

I am not quite certain when my son John will reach the city. I should say Sunday or Monday.

I expect to attend church at Brule regularly. While it might be pleasant to go to some other churches, yet if I start in on that there are so many that it would be quite difficult to satisfy all of them. And I think it is fully as well for a person to have a church that is to be attended and go to that one, rather than try to visit around.

I haven't given any consideration to any plans after the 4th day of next March. I do not expect to give any consideration to that subject prior to that date.

General Lord will be up here some time during the summer, I suppose when he has received and digested the estimates from the various Departments. They have to be in, it is my recollection, the 15th of July. Then it would take him some time to study them over and determine what he would want to recommend as to the allotments to the various Departments. When he has come to a conclusion about that the regular procedure would be for him to come and lay his conclusions before me. I should think that would be some time the first part of August.

Question: What was the amount which you stated in your budget message for 1929?

President: I am not quite certain.

Mr. Sanders: We have a copy of that message here.

President: I haven't received any specific communication from Secretary Kellogg relative to his recent note concerning the outlawry of war. It is my expectation that during the summer we shall be able to get a treaty drafted and ready to lay before the Senate at its next session.

I am afraid if I undertook to go into any details about fishing it would only detract from the very interesting reports that the press has already sent out. Perhaps I had better leave that for the press to work on. They seem to be very successful.

I should have mentioned in the interview on Tuesday my great appreciation of the hospitality that has been extended to us by all the residents of this section and the great helpfulness of the people of Superior in furnishing us everything that was required. It has been most kind and thoughtful of them and I should like to have them know how much my staff and myself appreciate their helpfulness.