

+ + +

CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME XI
July 3, 1928 - March 1, 1929

+ + +

Coolidge Collection

ny
+ 077

+ 1923-29

v. 11

Tuesday, July 3, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The surplus for the fiscal year of \$398,000,000 was just about what we had figured it would be. Sometimes some money comes in that hasn't been expected and sometimes there is some that has been expected and it doesn't come until after the 30th of June. But the surplus was secured, of course, by very careful management of expenditures and will enable us to retire about \$900,000,000 of the indebtedness for the fiscal year which would mean a reduction in interest of some over \$35,000,000. You can see how important that is, if you recall that that is about the amount we expect to appropriate yearly for the purpose of taking care of the flood relief in the Mississippi Valley.

I don't know that there is anything relative to my visit with Dr. Work yesterday that he hasn't already given you. He is retiring from the Cabinet and handed me his resignation to take effect at its acceptance. I expect to accept it very soon. I haven't taken any definite action relative to the appointment of his successor. The Department is very well manned with assistants and subordinates and can go along perfectly all right, if a short time elapsed between Dr. Work's resignation and the appointment of his successor.

I have no definite engagement to meet Mr. Hoover. I have no information of any kind or description as to whether he is coming here. I should assume, though, that if he was coming he would say something to me about it. I want to thank the press correspondents here for their birthday congratulations. It was very nice, I assure you, to receive them. I am having a wonderfully pleasant time up here. I hope the correspondents are equally fortunate.

Friday, July 6, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am going to have the Friday conference hereafter at 10:30, so that I will be able to get home to lunch.

Of course, I have given some thought to a successor to Dr. Work, but haven't yet determined about any one.

I presume some recommendations have come in relative to a successor to Judge Smith of the Board of Customs Appeals, but I haven't any of them in mind just now. When there is a vacancy of that kind it is quite reasonable to suppose that different suggestions are made. I haven't had an opportunity to take up the matter yet. There is no particular hurry about it.

I don't know of any petition coming here relative to clemency for Malcolm Howard, a colored man that has been sentenced to be executed in the District of Columbia Monday. The petition would naturally go to the Dept. of Justice.

Mr. Sanders: Nothing has come here, Mr. President.

President: I haven't made any final decision about going to Cannon Falls, Minnesota, on the 29th of July. It is possible that I may go over there, but not to make any extended address if I go. I might speak eight or 10 minutes, but quite naturally I came up here to get a little respite from the ordinary procedure of making speeches and so on, and I don't want to start in on it.

Secretary Kellogg indicated that he would come up here some time. I don't know just when he is coming. No final arrangement has been made about it.

Tuesday, July 10, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There are quite a good many people in general under consideration for Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Commerce, but nobody in particular. I don't know just when I shall accept Secretary Work's resignation. Secretary Hoover's resignation, which was given out the other day, has been received and will be accepted. Just what date, I don't know yet.

I haven't definitely accepted, as I said the other day, the invitation to go to Cannon Falls on July 29th. I would like to go over to Minnesota some time when I am here, and that seems to be an agreeable time and an interesting occasion, so that I think I may go, but haven't finally decided. If I do go, I shall go by train, so members of the press here that might want to go with me will have accommodations of that kind.

I do not think that at the present time I have any intimations from members of the Cabinet or members of the House and the Senate that they will visit me here, but of course there will be visits of that kind running through the summer.

Question: When do you expect General Lord?

President: Well, I am not sure when he comes. I should think some time around the first of August. The estimates come in from the Departments on the 15th of July and they will have to be gone over by him, but I should suppose it couldn't be earlier than the 1st of August and it might run on the 15th.

I have commuted the sentence of Malcolm Howard, a colored man that was sentenced to be executed in the District of Columbia, to life imprisonment in some penitentiary to be designated by the Attorney General.

2.

I am rather expecting to attend the opening of the Head of the Lakes Baseball Tournament on July 26th. I have an invitation to go and participate by throwing out the first ball.

Question: Where is it, Mr. President?

President: Here in Superior.

Friday, July 13, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am expecting Roy West, the National Committeeman from Illinois, and Secretary of the National Committee, an old friend of mine who has stayed at the White House at Washington, to come up and visit me. He may get in tomorrow and will probably stay over night.

Question: Will Mrs. West be with him?

President: No, I don't think so.

Question: Until Monday, sir?

President: I say he will probably stay over night.

I have a telegram from Secretary Kellogg stating that Germany has accepted the multilateral treaty without condition and France has notified him that they will send a note within a few days, probably Saturday, stating her willingness to sign a treaty, which is all very encouraging progress on that important proposal. He also states that Chile and Peru have both unconditionally accepted his suggestions to renew diplomatic relations, and that means that there will be an exchange of Ministers.

I haven't formally accepted Secretary Work's resignation. He and I are busy getting the appointment of the experts on the Boulder Dam, which are appointed by him subject to my approval. We went over the list when he was up here. He has been communicating with the members that were then selected, and I have a wire from him this morning that they have accepted, so I suppose I will get formal notice of his proposal to appoint them, to which I will give my consent and approval.

Mrs. Coolidge and I have spoken of a possible trip to the Yellowstone this summer, but nothing definite has been done about it.

My wife's mother's health, as you know, is very poor. She has not been quite so well for the last day or two. That, we always have to consider in any question of going away.

There isn't anything that can be said about recognizing the Nationalist Government of China. We indicated I think from time to time that we would be glad to recognize a government of China that seemed to be a real government with jurisdiction over the country and the usual powers to protect the lives and property of our citizens there, and we are hopeful that such a condition may soon arise in China. That is as far as we can go about that at the present time.

I haven't had any direct indication from Secretary Jardine that he might come here during the summer. He had planned to go to Alaska, where the Agricultural Department has some interests, and it is possible that on his way out or back he may stop here. I haven't made any definite and final decision about going to Cannon Falls on July 29th, other than I am expecting to go and hope to. I don't know just when I shall accept the resignation of Secretary Hoover or Secretary Work. Very soon, I expect.

I don't know of any plan of Secretary Work to make another visit up here.

Some of the people connected with the school here have made me a present of a tackle box this morning and it is done up in purple and white, which happens to be the Amherst College colors.

Mr. Bayne was in to call on me. His father used to be the clergyman in Hadley, Mass., and he lived there for some time. He is the publisher of the News-Tribune. Mr. Murphy, who was in to call on me a day or two ago, also lived in that part of Mass. I think he told me he was born in South Deerfield. He lived in that region and was formerly connected with the Springfield Republican

3.

in its early days. I see they have two Massachusetts pictures on the wall here, Whittier and Holmes, so I feel quite at home out here.

Tuesday, July 17, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have had a very pleasant visit with Secretary and Mrs. Hoover. The press was out there yesterday morning and after they came away we had lunch and the Secretary and I went fishing for a short time in the afternoon. He is a more expert fisherman than I am. I can't tell just when I shall accept Mr. Hoover's resignation. I expect to do so very shortly. There are some things in relation to his Department that have to do with the Pacific Coast that I want him to look into a little, so it will be some time after he gets out there before I shall accept his resignation.

I am not going to make any extended address, as I have already indicated, at Cannon Falls, and I don't know just when it will be ready to give out - sometime early next week.

I have had quite a good many invitations to go to other places and a committee is coming in this morning to invite me to some dedication of the game refuge that we have established up and down the Mississippi for the wild life of the Mississippi River and a fish refuge. I suppose it is a good thing to have a fish refuge, but the fish with which I have been acquainted have always been able to take pretty good care of themselves. But of course for propagation purposes and the preservation of our wild life is why we are having this game refuge and I think it is a very desirable enterprise. Then I am invited this morning to go down to Wausau at the State Meeting of the American Legion, which comes between the 10th and 15th, as I recall it, of August. I don't know whether I can get down there or not.

The members of the press have been out to the Lodge a couple of times and I think now probably from their own observation they will be able to report

2.

that the mosquitoes are not very deadly. Did any of you get bitten by mosquitoes yesterday?

(No answer)

Then there must have been some error in the reports that have been sent all over the United States that mosquitoes eat every one up, and it might be a graceful thing if the press would report that as a result of personal investigation the mosquitoes have entirely disappeared. That is an old story that always goes the rounds when I go into the country. The newspaper men have nothing to write about for the first two or three days, so they elaborate on the mosquito stories. I don't care anything about it particularly, but when people have been kind enough to put at my disposal a very beautiful and enjoyable place, as I have had the advantage of having for the past two or three years, to have reports sent all over the country that it is a very bad place and uncomfortable for any one to live in, it can hardly be very pleasing to the people that own the place, and if the press could report that which is the fact, that the mosquitoes have entirely disappeared and that the place is very beautiful and very enjoyable, I think it would be a courtesy that perhaps is due to the owners of the property.

Mr. Sanders has suggested to me that while I have been a candidate for office in a great many previous campaigns for a good many years, with the exception of the fall of 1908, and have been constantly elected to something, that this time the only thing I was a candidate for was retirement and apparently I am going to be successful in that. That seems to cover the requirements of the morning.

Oh, I got a wire from Secretary Kellogg that he is in such almost daily communication with other countries relative to his ~~renew~~ treaties that it will probably be impossible for him to come up here in the near future. Secretary

3.

Wilbur is expected to come and it is possible that Secretary Jardine may stop here on his way west. He is coming out this way about the 29th of July and expects to land in Minneapolis on that day, and I am suggesting to him that possibly he may join my train that day at the same time we are going through St. Paul and Minneapolis to reach Cannon Falls.

The Attorney General expects to come some time during the summer, but I am not sure just when.

Question: Have we authority to quote your remark about Mr. Hoover's being a more expert fisherman?

President: No, - no.

Friday, July 20, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I had learned from Secretary Kellogg that various governments interested in the proposed treaties were considering meeting in Europe, so that they might all be signed at the same time. I think the suggestion has been made that such a conference would be held in Paris. The State Department has that proposal under consideration, but while it looks on it with favor hasn't come to any definite conclusion.

I am not familiar with all the details of it, but so far as I am informed I am inclined to think that such a conference might be very helpful in giving it a setting and emphasizing the importance of the proposed treaties.

Question: Has any one suggested holding it in Washington?

President: I think not. It is so much easier for one man to go to Paris than it is for all the countries concerned to come over here that I think it is more probable that if such a conference is held it will be held in Paris, rather than in this country.

I think the appointment of the Boulder Dam experts has already been given to the press. Has it Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: I think so. It has probably been given out in Washington, not here.

President: Yes. Secretary Work made the appointments, which I confirmed a few days ago, and I am sure that their names were published at that time, and it is my understanding that they will begin their work right away.

I haven't received any particular details from the Shipping Board relative to the operation of the new shipping bill, though before I left Washington they told me that under its terms it was expected that there will be a much better market for the sale of ships that are owned by the Government and much more in-

2.

centive for private enterprise to go into the shipping business.

I am appointing Roy O. West of Chicago to be the Secretary of the Interior in place of Secretary Work, who has resigned, as the press knows.

I have received a very interesting invitation this morning to attend a log rolling contest. It was brought to me in a log, enclosed in the bark of a log, on paper made of a log, rolled up around a log.

Tuesday, July 24, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The situation in Nicaragua seems to be progressing very satisfactorily. The operations of Sandino apparently have entirely ceased and the different bands of bandits have pretty much surrendered. It is reported, as I understand it, that Sandino has left Nicaragua. There is no absolute certainty of that, but that is my information. There is no active or armed opposition to what the country is trying to do, so far as we know at the present time.

I haven't very much information about China. That which I have is favorable. There is no interference so far with our nationals and order is very well preserved over there.

I had a letter from Senator Curtis saying that he would like to come up here very much, but he was so busy with political matters that he doubted if he would be able to get away to come.

The visit of Mr. Cochrane is without any particular significance. He hasn't been very well for about a year I think. At the time we were in the Yellowstone last year he went West. His visit here is of the same nature, mainly social.

Considerable consideration has been given to a successor to Mr. Olds, Undersecretary of State. It is not probable that a career man will be used for that purpose. It is my impression that that would sort of take him out of his career and leave him somewhat stranded. What is needed there is a person well versed in international law, a somewhat different type of man than a career man.

I want to go out on the Lake some time. I have no special plans about it. I am not particularly interested in lake fishing. I fish, as I explained before, because it gives me some reason to be in the open air. I like to catch a fish once in a while, often enough to keep my interest up. But it is a matter of recreation rather than of getting fish.

I think it is very improbable that I shall go to LaCrosse to dedicate the wild life refuge. I have done what I could to promote that legislation in Washington, and have been successful in it, and will let somebody else celebrate the dedication.

I am accepting Dr. Work's resignation this morning with a communication which will be given to the press, to take effect on the qualification of his successor. Mr. West is leaving today I think for Washington and will reach there tomorrow morning to take up the duties of the office.

I had an invitation to go to the circus at Ashland. That is quite a distance from here, about the same distance from Cedar Island as Superior is. You can keep in touch with Mr. Sanders about that to see that appropriate arrangements are made for the entertainment of the press, if I go out there.

Question: What day would that likely be?

President: Sometime in August, I think about the second. I had a wire about it this morning. Perhaps Mrs. Coolidge will go, if I don't.

Friday, July 27, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know just what the State Department is planning as to a recognition of the Chinese Nationalist Government. Those details are in their hands and they haven't sent me any information about it. I suppose that making the treaty with a government usually, if not necessarily, constitutes a recognition of that government. It might not, but generally does.

There isn't anything new that I can say about Mr. Hoover's stay in the Cabinet. It is likely to be terminated almost any time.

I don't know just what the plans of the State Department are, either, as to the early conclusion of the peace treaties. I haven't any idea whether there will be any opposition to the treaties in the Senate. There is usually some opposition there to everything, but I understood that the responsible leadership of both parties in the Senate had been participating in these treaty matters and that the action of the State Department had their approval.

I haven't any speech making program for the rest of my administration. The President is called on to speak at casual occasions, such as I am doing up here - the little address I am making at Cannon Falls. If I go down to Wausau I shall probably make a short speech there. Things of that kind constantly come up. The occasion at Wausau is the State Convention of the Wisconsin Legion.

Question: Do you recall the date?

President: That is the 13th, isn't it, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: I think it is.

President: About that time. Occasions of that kind are constantly arising, so that the general plan of the President is to avoid making speeches, rather than to lay out a plan for the purpose of making them. What I mean by

that is that the Pressure on the President to make speeches is so great that he doesn't have to lay out any plan to make speeches. He has to make those that seem necessary as the occasion arises.

Any trip to the Yellowstone Park is very improbable. Since I commented on it at the press conference the other day I have looked up and find we are only about half way up there. It would take a trip of about 36 hours to reach there. It would be a rather long and tiresome trip and while the park is an exceedingly interesting place and is a location I should be delighted to visit as often as I could, having been there last year I doubt if it would be possible for me to receive a visit there this year.

Tuesday, July 31, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I didn't talk with Secretary Jardine very much about agricultural conditions, other than the crop prospects which he reported were very good. I didn't go into details with him about that.

I haven't had a chance to talk with Governor Gilmore very much. As far as I have talked with him he indicated that conditions in the Philippine Islands were very promising. The sentiment there seems to be good. The relationship between the officials of our Government and the officials of the Islands are exceedingly harmonious and there is every indication of a desire for full cooperation.

My son John has no plan to go to any military training camp for this summer. He is expecting to stay here for some little time and will then try to find some place to go to work.

I should think it would be very doubtful if it would be possible to take up at a short session of the Congress anything in the way of tariff revision, unless something could be agreed upon in advance by the responsible elements of both parties. That of course would be impossible during the conduct of a Presidential campaign. It might be possible after the campaign is over, but would not be very probable. The opening up of the tariff opens up the entire law and all its schedules, and tariff revision is a very long process, usually a good many months.

I don't know of any engagement for Mr. Ford to visit me here. I think he has a yacht on the Lakes and it may be possible that he would be cruising around in this section, or he may be taking an automobile trip. He was taking one several years ago and during that trip made a call on me at Plymouth, Vt.

I have had an invitation from the Isle Royale Expedition to visit that Island. Such an invitation has a good many attractions, but I don't know how far

away it is and whether it would be possible to go there. I should consider it very doubtful.

I haven't had any word from General Lord. You haven't heard anything from him have you Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No.

President: As I before indicated, I should expect he might be up here around the middle of August.

I haven't any plan for any particular activity during the campaign. I have been active during the interval that has accrued between the 2nd day of August, 1923, to the present time undertaking to so conduct the affairs of the Government that the record made by my party might commend itself to the voters of the nation. I am continuing in that hope and the conduct of the office at the present time.

I am expecting to go down to the State Convention of the Wisconsin American Legion at Wausau probably on the 13th of August.

Mr. Sanders: I think it is more likely on the 15th.

President: Yes.

Mr. Sanders: It runs three days. I think the 15th is the more likely.

President: It will be some day about that time. We shall probably leave here the night before by train and I shall deliver a short address and return that afternoon. The trip down there takes about 8 hours.

Friday, August 3, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

THE PRESIDENT:

I am glad that the French and British have made an agreement relative to the limitation of auxiliary warships, if that is true. I have no information concerning the terms of the agreement, so I could not express any opinion as to whether it would interest us in any way or not.

I have only incomplete advices from Postmaster General New concerning the financial situation of his Department. Congress overruled a veto of mine -- two vetoes -- that considerably increased the expenses of that Department, and I should presume it is very probable that the result of that action by the Congress might make it necessary to increase postal rates, but whether that is going to be necessary or not I do not know. I think the law is mandatory on the Postmaster General requiring him to fix rates as near as he can on certain classes of mail which will bring sufficient income to pay for the cost of the maintenance of that particular branch of the service.

I think I would prefer to let other people comment on the outstanding achievements of my Administration rather than try to comment on it myself. Most of you who have been in the service of the press during the entire

time that I have been President -- some of you in Washington -- you know what the record of my Administration is perhaps more intimately than I do myself.

I have thought of trying to go to the Apostle Islands but I do not know whether I can make that trip or not. It is quite doubtful.

As I have said a great many times before, my position relative to farm legislation has been set out in all of my messages to Congress and in several of my speeches and in one or two statements given to the press.

Is there anything else this morning, Mr. Sanders, that might be of interest to the conference?

MR. SANDERS: I do not know of anything, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I had a very delightful trip yesterday. I was much interested to see the beginnings of so much of the iron and steel industry of the United States. I suppose that that represents some of the most successful scientific mining operations that there are in the world. I was particularly impressed with what one of the officials told me about the development of the steam-shovel that has come about through the experience that they have there. That is the headquarters for all of the improvements in the use of the steamshovel in the world. Any manufacturer that wants to get any points on the development and improve-

ment of the steamshovel goes to these mines to work out his ideas. When they began there the steamshovel was rather in a crude condition. It has been developed into an instrument of great precision and great efficiency and of perfectly enormous capacity.

I think that is everything this morning.

The President called the newspapermen back and told them that General Lord would leave Washington Saturday evening and spend Monday here, returning Monday evening.

Tuesday, August 7, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am expecting to go over to Duluth some day. I think they are planning a sort of a drive for me around there. I don't know just when I shall go. I have been so busy out at the Lodge catching fish - there are 45,000 out there - I haven't caught them all yet, but I have them all pretty well intimidated. They have had to restock one lake.

I haven't any definite information or figures relative to the treasury receipts for the present fiscal year, which began July 1st and ends at midnight on June 30th next. Of course, the tax reduction will make some difference. We get about \$600,000,000 from the tariff. That of course is not changed at all and depends of course on the dutiable goods that are imported.

Question: Ordinarily in tax reduction it has usually resulted in increasing revenues, and this time with a reduction in corporation taxes, I wonder if that will bring up the revenues.

President: Well, no. That wouldn't have that effect on the corporation tax at all. Corporation income will undoubtedly be the same, except for an indirect effect. Now, the indirect effect comes from a stimulation of business, taking the burdens off of them. There is another tax reduction that usually brings up the revenue, and that is the one in relation to capital increases. That is, persons buy land or they buy securities and hold them. When the tax is very high they don't sell on account of the feeling that if they sell they have got to give so much to the Government that they had better hold it. And when taxes were reduced on that item of income it resulted in a considerable increase, because then people thought the amount the Government was

going to take from them was more fair and they made the sales and closed up their transactions. Undoubtedly, there was some waiting last winter and spring to see whether there might be some reductions in items of that kind. I think there were none and knowing that there would be no more in the immediate future those transactions will usually now take place and profits will accrue which will be taxable. But in general the income of the Government depends to quite an extent on the profits that are made in the transaction of all the business of the country, salaries, agriculture and commerce. Business is running very well and that would indicate an expectation of a fair return to the treasury, but, as I say, I have no figures, and nobody knows what expenditures the next session of the Congress will authorize. It goes without saying that I shall not approve bills calling for expenditures that are in excess of the income of the Government. Sometimes Congress approves bills that I have vetoed.

I haven't done anything further relative to Mr. Hoover's resignation. I have made no decision as to his successor.

I have no reports relative to the political prospects, other than those which are already public.

I don't know of any appointments that I now have for members of the Cabinet and Government officials to come here, but there undoubtedly will be several before I leave.

I am planning a trip to Wausau; that is on the 15th, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes, sir.

President: And I spoke of going to Duluth. I would like to go out to the Apostle Islands some time, but it is rather unhandy to go out there.

Friday, August 10, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information from the State Department about any other countries adhering to the peace treaties, except the expression and the hope that others will adhere.

I don't know just what date I am going to visit Duluth. Arrangements are being made by the office here and the secret service men and the same about the trip to the Apostle Islands. That is being looked up to see whether it is feasible. I do not expect to go to the log rolling contest at Washburn.

I think that the court has appointed a U. S. Marshall for the western district of Wisconsin and that being so I don't expect to take any action in relation to it until the Senate is in session, so that they can make a confirmation.

I don't know about the items included in the general sums for the budget estimates for 1930. There will be so much allocated to the legislative department, so much to the different departments, and how the departments are planning to spend the sums allocated I do not know. This preliminary estimate will be sent back to the departments. I have allocated so much to them and then they take the amounts and undertake to frame their bill saying that they are going to spend so much for each activity pretty much as they desire.

It is too soon to say what could be done as the result of the peace treaties relative to our national defense. It would be better to wait and see whether the peace treaties are signed and ratified by the Senate before we begin to discuss hypothetical conditions that may arise as the result of their adoption. This of course is to be kept in mind -- that these treaties that are being made are treaties in which they agree not to attack each other and have very little to do with national defense, so that so far as our country is concerned the peace treaties

would have little effect on the Army and the Navy, because our Army and Navy are maintained entirely for defensive purposes and not with the idea of attacking anybody.

I don't know of any important visitors that are likely to come in the near future. I have had some interesting visitors this morning, but I assume the press saw all those that came in, there is a list of them there, especially the Committee of Congress which was here, and Rep. Frear of this State came up with a delegation of the Bar Association of Pierce and St. Croix counties. Mr. Frear was very helpful to me last spring on the flood control bill.

I haven't received any additional information concerning a proposed naval limitation between Great Britain and France that would enable me to add anything to the comment I made the other day, which was to the effect that I was pleased to know that France and Great Britain were able to agree on a limitation and I do not know whether it would be of any particular interest to us.

I don't know the purpose that the British had in submitting the proposed peace treaty to the League of Nations. Perhaps it was with a view of interesting the different governments that are signatories of the covenant of the League of Nations to join in this treaty. Not knowing what the purpose was, it is not possible for me to comment on it. There is a provision in the league covenant that requires all treaties that members of the League make to be filed at the Secretariat of the League, but I think it does not apply to the treaty until it has been made. And there are certain limitations I should say in the covenant of the League concerning the kind of treaties that can be made. Perhaps this was submitted with the idea of finding out whether the League had any objection to the members of the League, certain members, entering into a treaty of this kind. I can't conceive of any objection that could be raised. The claim of the League has been that it is an

3.

instrument of peace, though some opponents of the League have not always viewed it in that light. I should suppose the members of the League, whether it was proposed to include them in this treaty or not, would be delighted to see the great powers joining in a treaty of the kind that is proposed.

Tuesday, August 14, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The Mississippi Flood Board report has been approved by me just as far as I can approve it at the present time. There are two copies of it here and it is rather long. It is so long that it would not be printed in its entirety by the press anyway, I imagine, and so long that it is hardly feasible for my office staff to make copies for the press, but the two copies can be open to the members of the press that desire to see them. The report is unanimous and it recommends the use of floodways and spillways. It doesn't differ very materially from the plan that was filed by the Board of Engineers and made a public document.

Question: Could you say how high they are going to make the levees? The original Jadwin plan was about 3 ft.

President: Yes, I think that is the case. The differences are not great between the Mississippi River Commission and the Engineers' plan and there was not any great difficulty in harmonizing the two, but in general it uses the plan of the Board of Engineers. The Mississippi River Commission provided for some control spill ways, which have not been adopted and which would be very expensive.

I have just prepared a telegram to be sent to Secretary Hoover regarding his speech and its acceptance by the country, which will be given to the press.

I think the trip to the Apostle Islands is very feasible. We can get there from the Lodge in two hours and one-half or so. It is a little longer from here and I should expect to make that trip some time in the near future. I haven't given much thought to attending the Tri-State Fair in Superior. Perhaps I can go.

I don't remember receiving any communication from the State Department regarding the situation in China recently, which contained anything further than what is already in the press.

I do not know when I shall return to Washington.

2.

I haven't received any further information, as I recall, about the situation in Nicaragua which would indicate that everything is proceeding as harmoniously as could be expected there. When I begin to get reports on matters it usually means that there is some question up for my decision. When I do not get reports it means everything is going all right.

Question: Will that Apostle Islands trip be a day or night trip?

President: It is only a little over two hours to go and two hours to come.

Day.

Question: Where to you leave from?

President: From Bayfield. When I go, if the press wishes to go too, you will get from the office here the time when you will need to reach Bayfield.

Friday, August 17, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have no additional information as to the Anglo-French agreement about limitation of naval armaments. I understand it is more in the nature of a proposal than an agreement. I am not contemplating at present taking any further steps about the limitation of armaments. There is a preliminary conference going on that has been going on for some years, which we have been attending. There isn't anything outside of that that I know of which is contemplated at the present time with a view to securing further limitations.

There is nothing new in the Department of the Navy. The work of the Department is proceeding very satisfactorily. I don't know whether any definition of the Monroe Doctrine is within the scope of the League of Nations. We would have to examine the covenant of the League to find out whether it is. As we are not a party to it, any definition that might be arrived at would not be binding on us.

I am having some flowers sent to Admiral and Mrs. Eberle, former Chief of Naval Operations, who is retiring today under the age limit.

I think some requests have come in, as they always do from private sources, relative to the threatened strike of trainmen and conductors on western roads, but looking after that matter is in the hands of our Board of Mediation and I am leaving them to keep in touch with the situation and keep me informed if they consider any action on my part to be necessary.

I don't know about the extent of the flood in Georgia and the Carolinas. So far as I know, they are not anything but what can be taken care of by the local governments and such assistance as the Red Cross always extends in cases of that kind.

2.

I haven't given much thought to recommendations to be made to the next Congress. My position in relation to Muscle Shoals and Boulder Dam has been set out in various messages. The new element that might come in in relation to Boulder Dam would be the report of the Commission that Congress has established. I should of course take into consideration any report and recommendations that they might make. Whether I should adopt it or not, I don't know. I should certainly give it very careful consideration.

The same would be quite true about the public utilities, and especially the power concerns. There is an investigation of their activities being made by the Federal Trade Commission under the direction of the Senate, and I shouldn't want to come to any conclusion about that until I find out what the conclusions and the recommendations of the Federal Trade Commission may be. Of course, those concerns are, so far as I know, entirely state concerns. The only place that the Federal Government touches them is in the granting of permits for building dams on navigable streams. I imagine that most problems that arise in relation to these utilities are problems that would be solved by state legislation, rather than Federal legislation, because they do a very small interstate business. So that would not be considered as interstate commerce.

I am appointing Reuben Clark of Utah the Undersecretary of State. He is a man that has been in the service of the United States off and on and he is taking the place of Mr. Olds who retired a few weeks ago. Mr. Clark is one of the leading international lawyers of the country.

Question: Has the commission been signed?

President: No, but I think his commission is on the way up here. I have determined to appoint him, so I thought I would give it out.

I have seen very little of the press, so that I haven't any better idea

3.

than the members of the conference concerning the reception of the speech I made at Wausau. So far as I have seen, it has been favorable. The members of the press have the same access to information of that kind that I have. I prefer to have them make up their own opinion about it.

I have received a letter from Governor Dillon, of New Mexico, brought up by Master Boyd Jones, who made the entire trip on horseback from New Mexico up here, inviting me to be present at the intertribal Indian ceremonies at Gallup, New Mexico, August 29th to 31st. I don't expect to be able to attend.

I have received here a letter of greeting from the Postmasters Convention of the State of Wisconsin. You may like to look at that.

Question: Does Admiral Hughes leave today.

President: Yes, he is returning on the afternoon train.

Question: Going back to Washington.

President: Hes, he is going back to Washington.

I have received from Cottenham, England, a specially bound copy of the Bible and a photostatic copy of some of the records of the baptisms of that church. It sets out that in 1604 John Coolidge, the son of William Coolidge, was baptized.

Question: That is one of your direct ancestors?

President: Yes. Some day in September. I can't read that date. He was the original ancestor of all the Coolidges in this country that I have come in contact with.

Question: What is the origin of the presentation? Was it a society or something?

President: No, the rector. I imagine it is the church of England. They are having a restoration thanksgiving service on the 16th of September, which is the 324th anniversary of the baptism of my ancestor. So he was baptized on the 16th of

4.

September. I think he was born in 1603. He came to Watertown, Mass., in 1630.

Question: Is that the one whose place we went to see at the cemetery, Captain Coolidge?

President: Well, I don't know that he was a Captain. It says that the Bishop of Ely has promised to preach on that occasion, so I judge it must be the Church of England.

Friday, August 24, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The Secretary of War, as the press knows, was sent to represent our Government at Hawaii, and that leaves General Summerall as the directing force of the War Department - though of course we have an Assistant Secretary - but General Summerall is the directing force and so I have had the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Hughes, up to visit me and talk of naval affairs and I am asking General Summerall to come up. He will be here tomorrow to talk with me about the Army situation. There isn't anything special I expect to discuss with him, except the general situation in relation to the Army.

I haven't set any time to return to Washington. Of course, I would not go to New England and then come back here. If I go to Vermont, it will be some time after I return to Washington. I do not know that John has made any final decision about the work he will enter on.

I haven't any further expectation of making any address at the Tri-State Fair in Superior. I may attend there. I expect to. I hope to some afternoon on some day that will be determined on later.

I am expecting that Eugene Meyer will call on me when he is up in this region. When is it that he is coming, about the 1st of September, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Well, about the 1st of September. He is coming through here in connection with his duties. That reminds me that I had a very interesting report this morning from Mr. C. E. Danielson, President of the Greater North Dakota Association, and Mr. Milloy, the Secretary of that Association, in relation to the situation in North Dakota. They are having one of the largest crops in the history of the State and he tells me that diversification has proceeded there very rapidly under the inspiration of the cooperation that I had set

up I think in 1924 or 1925 for the purpose of making loans to provide capital for diversification such as cows, hogs and sheep. That is administered to quite an extent by Mr. Jaffrey, President of the Soo Line. Some of their Vice Presidents were in this morning and I was speaking to them of that and they said they would put 25,000 sheep next fall in South Dakota. They have already a great deal of livestock in there. But to get back to my story about Mr. Danielson he said that they would sell in the last year and this year about 2,000,000 acres of land at an average price of about \$31 an acre, which of course goes a very long ways towards cleaning up their marketable land, or rather land that was on the market.

As the press knows, I am making a little trip down to Lewis, Wisconsin, to visit Mr. Lewis. I shall return tomorrow. I don't know whether any of the press is going down or not. Are they Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes, arrangements have been made for some of the press to go.

I had a very pleasant visit on the Apostle Islands the other day. It was a very interesting place to visit. I don't know as I have ever commented on the remarkable reception that was given us during our visit to Wausau when I went down to attend the State Convention of the Wisconsin American Legion. Their arrangements were also very fine and I never went to a place where the arrangements were so perfect for the reception of the President and the carrying out of the plans for the day. My only regret I had down there was that I didn't have enough time to stay longer and to have visited some interesting points around Wausau. I should like to have gone over to Stevens Point, which is the headquarters for making flies for fishing, and they have in their immediate vicinity a very celebrated fox farm that I should like to have seen.

I had an invitation this morning to visit the State Convention of the

3.

American Legion of the State of Illinois. That comes about the 10th or 12th of September. I rather doubt if I could go there, but I told them I would take it under consideration.

Question: Where is it to be held?

President: It is somewhere this side of Chicago. Do you recall Mr. Sanders?

Sanders: I don't know, Mr. President.

President: It seems as though it was Waukegan.

Tuesday, August 28, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I saw a headline in regard to what General Lord had said about the prospects of the Government finances showing a deficit of \$94,000,000 for the current fiscal year. That has very little to do with the present budget. That result will come about from the budget that was passed last session. What I shall have to do when I get to Washington is to call in the heads of the departments and see what we can do to cut down our expenses for the rest of the year.

Question: That will be for running between now and next June?

President: Yes, the 30th day of next June. That is our current fiscal year. Of course it would have this effect on the current estimates, that there is going to be a deficit unless we cut down our expenses for this year, and it means that the estimates for the next fiscal year, which will begin the 1st of July, 1929, would have to be very carefully made in order to avoid a deficit for the fiscal year which closes the 30th of June, 1930. But this fiscal year has to do with the expenses that are to be incurred under the budget which was passed last winter.

I haven't much information about other countries adhering to the peace treaties. I did receive word from Mr. Kellogg that some countries had, through their representatives at Washington, expressed to him the expectation that they would adhere. I think those are some of the South American countries.

The fishing season closes in the public waters the 31st of August. It doesn't close in the lakes that are private reserves out at the Lodge, so the conference will have to keep on thinking up fish stories.

Question: That will take you off the Brule River itself?

2.

President: Yes.

Question: We didn't have a chance to ask you to tell us about that prize fish you caught yesterday.

President: There is nothing special to tell about it. It was a rainbow trout that weighed $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The largest fish I caught out there.

Question: Did it require much effort in the landing, Mr. President?

President: Yes, a fish of that kind plays in the water longer, but the landing of the fish depends on how well he is hooked. If you have a big fish that is well hooked, it isn't as difficult to land as a small fish that isn't so well hooked.

I don't remember having accepted the Tri-State Fair invitation. You can talk with Mr. Sanders about that.

Mrs. Goodhue's condition remains about the same. The hot weather they have been having has been somewhat trying for her. The last few days she doesn't appear to be quite so strong.

I don't know just when I shall go back to Washington. I think some time about the middle of the month. I should judge that it would not be earlier than the 10th and not later than the 20th. Some time between those dates.

There was nothing special in the reports I got from General Summerall. He thought the Army was in good condition. The enlistments are very satisfactory and the summer camps have been especially good. The maneuvers for the season had worked out very well. The building up of the air service is going on very satisfactorily. He wants to strengthen that a little at Panama, which is part of the program that is being worked out in the five year program provided for in the winter of 1926.

3.

Secretary West is here. I presume you have seen him. He is on his way to look at some of the reclamation projects in the West and naturally stopped off here. He says his Department is going on all right.

Friday, August 31, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't decided when I shall go back to Washington - sometime, as I have indicated, between the 10th and 20th.

Question: Did you notice the temperature has been in the 90's, 94, the past few days?

President: No, I didn't notice that.

Question: I don't want to go to a hospital like some have.

President: Well, I think you are well cooled off up here and you can get along very well for a week or two. You ought to have sufficient energy stored up here on your vacation in this comfortable climate, so that two weeks of hot weather wont put you in the hospital.

John hasn't any position that I know of.

I don't know of any engagement to speak that I have in the near future. I guess I have got plenty of invitations and some of them under consideration. I haven't made any definite arrangements about any.

While I suppose that I can't fish in the river, fishing is open to me in the Lakes at Cedar Island, so I don't think I will have to invade any of the neighboring states to get a chance to fish. There are plenty of other things I can do, anyway.

I haven't any plan about going to Vermont. I would like to go up there. ~~Will~~ I want to try to go some time after I return to Washington.

I haven't any particular information about the political situation in Michigan or Ohio. I think Mr. Warren saw the members of the press while he was here and Mr. Brown is here. I don't know whether he has any information about Ohio or not, but if he has the press can get it first hand from him. Also Mr. Warren. Mr. Warren mentioned incidentally that Michigan would go Republican.

I haven't talked with Mr. Brown about the political situation in Ohio. I talked with him more about the work of the Department of Commerce, which he says has been going on very well.

Mr. Slomp was coming up some time ago, but something arose that made it impossible to come at the time he had expected to come. I don't know whether he is planning to come some time in the future or not. It has been left open.

Mr. Murphy, the Editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, and Mrs. Murphy were in. They will take lunch with us.

Question: John, Mr. President?

President: No, Fred.

I have had several other delegations this morning that I guess are on the list. I think that is all.

Tuesday, September 4, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

No time has been set yet for my return to Washington, but I expect to return very soon. And I would like to caution the conference not to print the date of the return. I wish you would observe that caution. It has usually been observed. I think it wasn't when I started to come up here, but I wish very much that you would.

Question: In that connection, for our own information, have you any idea how long you will remain in Washington before you go to New England?

President: I haven't made any plan about that. If I go up there, I should think it would be soon.

Question: In that same week?

President: Not that same week, but within a week or ten days.

I do not intend to go to the State Convention of the Illinois American Legion. The only State Convention that I have attended since I have been President, of course I have been invited to almost all of them, is the one down here in Wisconsin. I wanted to show my appreciation of the hospitality of the State by making some acknowledgment while I was here. Also the speech in Minnesota. That is why I made those two addresses.

My son John has no definite future plans. He has started for home and will look for employment. He hasn't taken any yet. He doesn't hold any public position. It might be just as well for him if all his goings and comings were not published in the press.

Senator Schall came in to pay his respects while I was up here. He had no particular errand. I do not know whether the press has had a chance to see him. Did you see him?

Mr. Young: I had a brief talk with him and I understood him to say he was supporting Mr. Hoover and predicted his election.

President: Well, I understand that is so. But his errand here seemed to be one of courtesy and to express his thanks for the consideration that I had given him in the performance of his duties in Washington.

I didn't receive any definite reports about things from Secretary Davis of the War Department. He said he had a very interesting and he thought profitable journey to Honolulu. He reported that conditions out there appear to be very good. Mr. Meyer stayed over night and then went down to Minneapolis. He is making a visit out here and an inspection to keep in touch with the farm banks of this region, and he reported to me that the farm banks were making very commendable progress. There is a call for some more money. The banks are making plans to furnish further financing for agriculture and those banks that he found were not in so good condition as he thought they ought to be when he took office are gradually getting back into better shape. I think the press already knows that I am expecting to attend the Fair tomorrow, isn't it Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: Yes, tomorrow afternoon about 2:00 o'clock.

President: And I believe the newspaper men and picture men are coming out to the Lodge tomorrow morning. It may be a little wet out there in the dew. You better bring some rubbers along with you to keep dry, if you are coming out early in the morning.

Mr. Young: 8:30.

President: Yes.

Mr. Young: It isn't likely you will say anything tomorrow at the Fair?

President: No. I am just going as an exhibit.

~~Mr. Young:~~

Press: Did you see the advertisement of the Mayor, which had that import?

President: No, I didn't see that. Well, if anybody goes and buys a ticket on that account they will have to take it up with the Mayor to see whether he secured money on false pretenses. I like to go to fairs. I enjoyed them very much when I was a boy at home. I enjoy it very much more when I don't have to make a speech.

Press: Where did they hold them up there? At Rutland?

President: At Woodstock. They had fairs at Rutland, but we seldom went there. There is a very old agricultural association at Woodstock which has been in existence for a great many years, a very mature organization. They have a large fair grounds and I went there.

Press: Ludlow didn't have a fair?

President: No, they didn't have a fair there. They had desultory attempts at it, but didn't have any regular fair there. But Woodstock always had a fair. That was the Windsor County organization.

Press: Did you ever exhibit any?

President: No.

Friday, September 7, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't laid out any detailed plans about going to Vermont. I expected to go in case they want me to come. I have written to the Governor since I have been up here. I don't know whether he made any detailed response or not. Do you recall, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: I don't think it reached that stage.

President: If we go we shall probably either on our way up or back go to Northampton to see how Mrs. Goodhue is.

Representative Newton has been in this morning. He talked with me about the recurring subject of navigation of the Mississippi. The barge line they are putting in there is developing fairly well, and I am interested too in future action regarding the depth of the channel. That is something that will come up for consideration, probably not during my administration, but very soon. And he is conferring with Mr. Sanders, who was director of the Speakers' Bureau four years ago for such information as he could get from him. Of course, he thinks the speaking end of the campaign is being satisfactorily laid out.

As I indicated to the pressconference the other day I have been undertaking for the past five years to give an administration that might commend itself to the country. I am proposing to continue that up until election day. I haven't any plans for any other special part in the campaign. I do not know what may develop along that line.

I have the thanks here of the press members of Superior and Duluth. It has been a pleasure to have them come in and a satisfaction to cooperate with them in getting the news of the Presidential office for the local press. I am very glad to have an opportunity to thank them for the many courtesies that the local press has extended to us, to myself and my family and the office force, since we have been here in this part of the country.

Newspaper Conference, Friday, September 14, 1928.

The President: I am very glad to have a chance to welcome the members of the White House Press Association again. I hope you all had as pleasant a summer as we had in Northern Wisconsin.

I haven't made any definite decision yet about a trip to Vermont. I have received since I came back a wire from Governor Weeks of Vermont renewing his invitation and I think it is very likely that I shall go up there. I do not intend to make any addresses while on that trip. It is more for the purpose of visiting the State.

Query: Did Governor Weeks invite you to any particular occasion?

The President: No; it is just to make an inspection trip around the State.

I have been in conference with the Red Cross concerning the situation in Porto Rico and they are getting up an expedition of four or five men to go to Charleston and thence by Navy boat to Porto Rico. They have no direct report on the damage in Porto Rico although the Chancellor of the University of Porto Rico has reported ~~xxxxxx~~ to the press association that it is serious. If in the meantime it should develop that it is not very serious they would abandon their expedition there.

I talked with Mr. Hoover some yesterday about the course of his campaign and talked with Mr. Mellon about the business and economic condition of the country and the state of the Treasury. I do not know whether the members of the press conference recall that the figures I gave at the business meeting of the Government on June 11th, just before I started for Superior, were

figures that indicated a deficit this year of \$94,000,000. That came out in the press some time in the immediate past. There was nothing new about that. It was merely a repetition of the figures that I gave at that time. I have taken up with the various departments at the Cabinet meeting this morning the question of what they could do to make enough savings in the expenditures between now and the 30th of next June so as to take every precaution against a deficit. That is being worked on by the various departments, and I do not expect that there will be any deficit.

The next in command in the Panama Canal Zone will be appointed Governor. I have forgotten what his name is.

Correspondent: Governor Burgess?

The President: I think so -- the next in command to Governor Walker.

I suppose there will be reports from now until the end of my term concerning what I may or may not do after I cease to be President. I do not know anything about reports of that kind and haven't given the matter any particular consideration and do not expect to. As I have indicated to the conference a great many times - if you want to make a scoop you will be pretty likely to make one if you say that the report that the President is going to do so and so is untrue.

One of the correspondents inquired if the President had reference to any speeches that he had in mind, to which the President replied:

I made that general observation. You can apply it any way you want to.

I have here the first suggestion that has come to me relative to the possibility that commissions may be appointed -- the news coming from Geneva - to consider the questions of evacuation and questions of the debt and reparations of Germany. This is the first information I ~~have~~ have of anything of that kind, so I could not make any definite comment about it. I don't know what is really involved in it. We should not consider in advance any answer to an invitation that might be sent to us before the invitation is received. I would say in general that the question of evacuation and the question of reparations, each is pretty much a European question with which our policy would be not to interfere. But I don't want to undertake to say what would be done in advance of definite proposals made to us.

I haven't any new information about the Anglo-French naval agreement or its implications - nothing to add to that which I have already said. If the French and the English have been able to make an agreement about their problems of disarmament, we are very glad that they have been able to agree. Of course, that does not mean that their agreement affects any one but themselves. Our policy concerning the agreement on the limitation of armaments is wellknown. If two great European countries, like the French and England, have been able to make an agreement for their own limitations, we are very much pleased to know that that has been done.

It is not probable that I shall take up the matter of appointing judges before the Senate convenes. That would be my general policy. Oftentimes I might want to appoint some one already holding an office. If I should undertake to make the appointment in vacation time that person would have to

resign his office and take a chance on confirmation, which is always problematical, whereas if I appoint such a person after the Senate convenes why then that person goes on holding his office until he is confirmed or rejected, and if he is rejected it doesn't make any difference; it would not have any bearing on his present position. There may be some special reasons for some special appointments between now and the first of December but I don't think that will be the case.

I think the idea that I might go hunting in Kentucky arose from the fact that the bird dog that was given me in Superior I had Colonel Starling send down to a friend of his in Kentucky, who is a very fine trainer of dogs. I presume that all the hunting I will do in Kentucky will be done by proxy through this dog. I haven't thought of going down there myself. I should think it would be a pleasant journey, and one I would like to make, but I do not suppose there is any chance for it, although there might be after the fourth of March.

Correspondent: You said you did not think there would be a deficit. Will you give the reasons?

The President: Well, I think we could make enough savings in the departments. There are always some shifts both ways. Of course, that \$94,000,000 has been added to by the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission increasing the pay of the railroads. On the other hand, there have been some plans for appropriations that probably will not require any expenditures during the current year. So that I think we can reduce our expenses enough so there will not be a deficit. If you gentlemen will encourage business as much as you can that will increase our revenues

Newspaper Conference, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1928.

The President: I haven't had any report from the Tariff Commission relative to the cost of production of flax in this country and the principal competing country abroad. I shall be guided very largely by what they might report to me in relation to it.

I am, as the conference knows, visiting Vermont and I suppose some of the members of the press are going along. It is probably quite a little cooler there than it is here, and you need to pack some comfortable clothing to take with you. I expect to be in Plymouth on Friday, arriving there Thursday night and be there Friday morning. I am planning to leave there soon after noon.

Query: At what point does the Governor join you?

The President: He joins me at the station that is nearest Montpelier -- Montpelier Junction -- and goes to Burlington with me. Some of the Representatives -- I don't know whether we have heard from the Senators. Have you heard, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No, we have not.

The President: Both Members of the House will be at the station.

Query: Will the Attorney General go with you too?

The President: The Attorney General is going with me. I expect Mrs. Sargent will probably join us at Bellows Falls or White River Junction.

Of course, I shall be glad to see any of our old neighbors around Ply-

mouth who might want to drop in on Friday forenoon.

I have been in touch this morning through the Cabinet and through other sources with the storm condition in Porto Rico and in Florida. The storm is very violent there. We are expecting that the Red Cross people will arrive late today or early tomorrow at Porto Rico, and we will then get more detailed reports as to what is necessary. It has already been reported that I have deflected two Army transports loaded with provisions and supplies, and plans are being made to send food there through the Red Cross. The Department of Labor, through its Immigration Commissioner, Mr. Nichols, has put their services at the disposal of the efforts being made to give relief; and also the Department of Commerce.

The wind is still rather bad in Florida and is being followed by heavy rain storms. Last night they had eleven inches in Savannah, and it is expected that some damage will result from the rains down there. It seems to be going up the Coast, but it is thought that the wind-storm is pretty much dissipated. We are making plans for whatever relief we can furnish and whatever may be necessary.

Newspaper Conference, Tuesday, September 25, 1928.

The President: There isn't anything that I can add to what I have already said concerning the Anglo-French naval agreement.

I haven't any specific information about the oil controversy in Colombia. If there is anything about that it can be secured at the State Department.

We have no invitation or any knowledge that an invitation is to be sent to a tri-partite conference to consider the English and French disarmament agreement. When we had anything to propose in the way of limitation of armaments we asked for a conference of the powers that were interested and proposed it there. Some came that we invited -- some did not come -- refused even to discuss the question. I think that would be the proper tribunal before which to have a discussion and present our views rather than to try to carry on a discussion through the public press.

I haven't any knowledge as to what probable action Congress will take on the Naval building bill that is in the Senate. I have assumed all the time that it would probably be taken up and passed.

I haven't made any final decision about extending the Saturday half-holiday to Federal employees. It has been customary to have two months -- July and August -- on the theory that the weather in Washington at that time was warm. Last Spring I extended that to include June

and September. My offhand impression is that that is as far as the President ought to go. If something further is done I think it ought to be done by legislation rather than by any stretch of the authority of the President. But I haven't made any final decision about it. Our Federal employees now have thirty days of leave, working days. They have their sick leave -- I think they have another month for sick leave in case of necessity. And they have the usual holidays. Almost always when those occur there is great pressure for an extra holiday either for the day before or the day after. Of course, to extend a Saturday half-holiday would mean an addition of twelve percent of labor cost to the Government -- that is, to extend a Saturday half-holiday throughout the year. So that my offhand opinion is that if anything of that kind is done it ought to be done by Act of Congress.

I haven't taken up for final consideration the appointment of a Federal Judge in Louisiana.

I understand that the Board of Mediation is in touch with the railroad situation on the Western roads where that is an unsettled request for increase of wages on the part of the conductors and trainmen. I think there is a fair chance that it may be adjusted. If it is not adjusted, the next thing would be the appointment of a board under the statute. In case of failure to bring about an adjustment, I suppose it would be the duty of the President to appoint such a board; but I have every hope that some adjustment may be made.

I have been invited to visit Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the 19th of

October and have that under consideration.

Query: What is the occasion?

The President: It has to do with the dedication of the battlefields there. There was a bill passed by Congress to establish a national military park at and near Fredericksburg, Virginia, and to mark and preserve historical points connected with the battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, including Salem Church, Virginia. They want to begin the work under that and have some appropriate exercises.

Query: If you go might you make a speech or just a visit?

The President: They want me to make a short address. I have an invitation from the Governor of Virginia and some of the members of the House and Senate.

Friday, September 28, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know as there is any comment to be made on the note that we sent to France and England on the proposed naval limitation. I don't know whether you have seen the note or not. It speaks for itself, I think. I don't know of any comment that can be made in relation to it.

The seriousness of the storm down in Florida, according to reports that keep coming in to me, seems to increase. Mr. Rahn was in yesterday. He spells his name Rahn, A. A. D. Rahn. He went down as the representative of the Shriners. They did a great deal about flood relief in the Mississippi Valley and he came in to tell me of the serious conditions that exist there, the large loss of life and the immediate need for relief, and of the intensity and the wide extent of the destruction. So it is necessary to appeal again to the country, - I don't mean in a formal way, as I have already done, but in an informal way through the press to be as responsive as possible to requests of the Red Cross for means with which to meet the emergency.

Tuesday, October 2, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

There have been and probably will continue to be efforts to make some arrangement by which the taxpayers of America may pay the German reparations. That isn't looked on with any favor in this country, nor do we see that it has any connection with the debts that are due to our country. Those have all been settled, with some trifling exceptions, and all been ratified but one. I don't see any good result to be secured by discussing it in the press. It has been my policy for a long time to refrain from any discussion in relation to it, considering it as a closed incident.

I haven't given any thought about going to Northampton to vote. I didn't go four years ago. I went two years ago. I have no present expectation of making any speech in Massachusetts.

I can't tell about the possible deficit or what arrangements may be made to prevent it until we get further reports as to the results on the income side. When we get reports in for July, August and September, we shall have considerable information that would enable us to make estimates for the other 9 months of the year, and we shall know how much it is probably necessary to reduce expenditures in order to have a balance with the income. Of course, that will be done. I don't know just how it will be done. We shall take such steps as may be necessary to accomplish that end.

Ambassador Houghton hasn't resigned. I don't know whether he intends to resign, and of course any speculation about a hypothetical situation of that kind while it might not be premature on the part of the press, which always delights in speculation, would be quite premature on my part. I have all I can do in dealing with facts and realities and leaving the press to deal with hypothetical situations. They are much better equipped

01729

to do that than I am.

I don't know what the Tariff Commission may find in relation to the tariff on corn and flax seed. All that they could find would be this - the difference in cost between production here and production in the principal competing country, and all that the President would be authorized under the law to do would be to put on an increase or a decrease in tariff, so as to balance up that difference. Now, that would mean that a foreign competing country and our own country could only be put on a basis of equality. That is, if it costs \$1 to raise a bushel of corn here and it costs 90¢ in a foreign country, then under the tariff law the President would have the right to increase the present tariff not more than 50% in order to make up any discrepancy. He couldn't under the law take any action that would be unfair and unjust to any foreign country, because all he could do would be to put the United States on a basis of equality, so that the foreign producer and the domestic producer would stand on the same basis in approaching the market. I presume that isn't well understood in some foreign countries. If it were well understood, I doubt if they would feel any trepidation at a possible change in our rates of duty, because it can't be anything that is going to be unfair to their producers and oftentimes it might still leave them in a position of advantage. I have forgotten what the present tariff on corn is - it isn't large, and it only authorizes it to be increased 50%, so that the situation might very well arise where after an increase of that kind had been made, if it should be made, the foreign producer would still have a considerable advantage over the domestic producer.

My wife is returning today from Northampton, I expect. I had a letter from her saying she was expecting to leave there this morning and reach here this evening, unless mother Goodhue is very much worse. I have had no wire

3.

from her this morning. I expect she is carrying out the plan mentioned in her letter. She wants to be here the 4th of October, because that is the anniversary of our wedding which took place in 1905. It will be the 23rd anniversary.

Friday, October 5, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am expecting to make an address of welcome at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which they are holding in this city, and I shall speak Wednesday morning, October 10th, at 10:30 o'clock. I am also expecting to speak at Fredericksburg the 19th, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the battlefield ceremonies.

Question: Is that right in the city or outside?

President: It is up at the outdoor auditorium. Oh, outside on the battlefield. I think up at the Cathedral they have an amphitheater where the Episcopal services will be held, and should it be stormy they will be in the auditorium.

I am getting a very fine response from the different departments and bureaus to my suggestion that they make a careful canvass to see what savings can be made in the expenditures for the year. While I haven't definite figures yet to give out, the response is encouraging enough to lead me to expect that we can avoid a deficit at the end of this fiscal year next June.

Tuesday, October 9, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

So far as I know, Ambassador Houghton has not indicated that he would or would not tender his resignation, because he is a candidate for Senate in the State of New York.

I haven't seen what President Machado of Cuba may have said relative to the Platt Amendment. I have a great deal of confidence in the President, but I don't know as any helpful result could be secured from my undertaking to discuss that subject in the press.

I haven't any very definite information concerning the situation in linseed oil at the present time relative to the amount of duty that is imposed on imports. Some time ago, oh two or three years I should think, a report was made to me by the Tariff Commission relative to certain linseed products under which I could, if I had thought it would be good policy for the country, have made some reduction in the rate of duty. I did not think it would be helpful to the flax industry at that time and I therefore did not make any reduction. Now, whether there has been any change in the situation, in the comparative costs at home and the principal competing countries abroad, so that the Commission could find that the difference in costs are not already compensated for by the tariff, I do not know.

So far as I am advised, we have no official information relative to the action which the French Government is reported to have taken relative to an American newspaper man for publishing some articles relative to the English and French naval agreement. That may be entirely a domestic matter and as such this Government would not be warranted in interfering in it. Of course, we do undertake to protect the legal rights of our citizens when we find on representation that they have been

infringed.

I do not know of any comment that I can make on the trans-Atlantic flight of the dirigible Count Zeppelin, which is scheduled to start to day, other than that I wish it may be successful and my hope that it may be an experiment that will be helpful in the development of aviation.

I don't know exactly what General Hines proposed relative to a separate department to handle all matters connected with the war veterans, but I rather think from a conversation I had with him it probably referred to hospitalization especially. There are some reasons why hospitalization could be done more successfully, if it was all under one directing head than under the situation we now have, when part of it is under the Bureau of the Budget and part of it is under another commission. I do not think it would make very much difference with the expenses. There might be some instances when it would be possible for the Veterans Bureau to place men in hospitals that are now under another jurisdiction, but I think that is going on quite steadily at the present time. I should think it would be more a matter of convenience of administration than it would be in greatly reducing the cost of administration.

I have no information about a suggested action, which I think has been published, other than what I have seen in the press relative to the proposal of certain of our diplomats abroad holding ministerial positions that they would not submit their resignations at the end of my administration. That, of course, would be a matter for the incoming administration to decide. As I recall it, both Ambassadors and Ministers are appointed for an indefinite time, but I think the custom has been for them to submit their resignations at the end of the administration that appointed them. I don't see that that would have any practical effect one way or another. The Constitution places the conduct of foreign relations in the

3.

hands of the President and the Ambassador and Minister might be said to be very largely the personal representative of the President in carrying out his instructions, and if he does not resign and the President wishes to make a change he would undoubtedly have the power of removal. There is an aspect of this, though, that is interesting. It is a recurrence of the disposition that is manifest in the Government service on the part of people in the service to undertake to make their body a self-perpetuating body, so that no one can come into the service unless he has a certificate of approval from those who are associated with them in the service, and after he is once in to undertake to make some arrangement by which it would be impossible for him to be displaced. That is not in accordance with our Constitution and laws, and of course would not work at all in relation to our foreign service, where the representative is peculiarly a representative of the President. We have undertaken to build up a permanent service in our foreign representation, and if this proposal is merely a suggestion that we should continue our efforts to that end the proposal is all right. If it has the other desire, the building up of a self-perpetuating body, I don't know of any way that it could be done, and if it could be accomplished it would not work out well. The foreign representatives must necessarily represent the position and opinion of the President as it may be transmitted to them through the State Department.

Friday, October 12, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have no information other than what is generally public relative to the flight of the Count Zeppelin. I should expect to send a message of congratulation when the flight is completed.

There has a report come in, I think, from the Tariff Commission on fluor-spar. For the information of my stenographer, rather than the press, that is spelled f-l-u-o-r-s-p-a-r. That is being handled in the regular course. We usually send those to the Department of Commerce and find out what effect a change in the tariff rate might have on our commerce, and then after that it would go to the Treasury Department to ascertain whether the papers are properly drawn. That is what is being done.

I don't recall having any report from the Shipping Board indicating that they were having any difficulty in interpreting the provisions of the new Shipping Board bill with respect to dealing with applications for payment for carrying foreign mail. That is a matter that is dealt with by the Post Office Department and the Shipping Board. There are some contracts, I think, that are practically ready for acceptance, and those are going forward in the regular course. I have had some rather offhand conversations with one or two members of the Shipping Board in relation to the results under this act of the proposal to build new ships. Those results seem to be very satisfactory. I asked Chairman O'Connor about it. He said he couldn't tell exactly, but he counted up 12 ships that are going to be built. I think later some member of the Board told me that there were 18. That is my recollection, though my mind isn't entirely clear as to the number, but a very considerable number, indicating very good results in the way of getting American ships built. That is one of the things we especially want to encourage private enterprise

engage in, building ships and putting them into operation.

The result of the effort to cut down expenditures and the investigation into income, as I indicated, by three months experience have been encouraging. We evidently can make considerable savings in our expenditures and there are some items in our income that are larger than we thought and some not so large. We have not yet, by reason of the reduction of expenditures and the increase in some, been able to make an estimate that entirely balances the budget, but we are near enough to it so that I think it can be done. That, I am reminded, is one of the reasons that we are waiting for the time being on some of these mail carrying orders. Those contracts have not been made and we are waiting to see what the prospects of income may be. That is being helped out in certain respects by the sale of ships by the Shipping Board that will result in considerable savings. They are disposing of some lines that are being operated at a loss and when that is done, of course, the loss that is made by the Shipping Board is wiped out and the cost of getting the mail by reason of the new private contract is not so much in some cases as the Shipping Board loss, so that we are making some savings in that direction. But I think we have gone far enough to say that unless some unforeseen things come up and Congress makes appropriations that require expenditure before the 30th of next June, there will be savings and we can balance the budget. It will be necessary to make some more savings and for the Congress to refrain from spending money between now and June 30th next.

Tuesday, October 16, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have just learned within the hour of the death of Benjamin F. Strong, the Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, of New York. I have sent a message of sympathy to his son expressing my appreciation of his service and of the high position that he held in the financial world, both in this country and abroad.

I am not enough of an expert on ocean flights to make any comment that would be very helpful as to the proper result of the flight of the Zeppelin. It appears to have demonstrated that it is possible to fly across the ocean with some degree of safety, but too soon to determine whether such flights are going to be commercially practicable. There is very little I could add to the telegram of congratulation that I sent to the master of the ship.

I am advised by my staff that we have had some communications relative to the power development at Cumberland Falls, which have been referred in the usual course to the Power Commission, who have exclusive jurisdiction over the granting or the withholding of permits for power development of that nature.

I am speaking, as I think the conference already knows, Friday at Fredericksburg, Va. at 3:00 in the afternoon. There will be an opportunity for members of the press to go down on the train with me, if they so wish. Admiral Hughes is going, General Summerall would go, but he is in the far West, and I have invited General Lejeune. And Saturday evening at 9:00 I am giving a short talk over the radio in connection with the conferring of the medal that the Congress voted to Thomas A. Edison. It would have been the usual course for him to come to Washington and have the medal presented by me, but his health is such that it did not seem expedient. So Mr. Mellon is to make the address of presentation, and I am to make a few remarks of appreciation to Mr. Edison of the great work he has done in invention and discovery in the field of electricity and its allied fields.

Tuesday, October 23, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I didn't see the address that General Lord made at Chicago. I doubt very much if he went on record as saying that there would be a hundred million deficit at the end of this fiscal year. It is probable that he said unless there were savings in the expenditures and increases in receipts we might face a deficit of practically that amount. That would be in harmony with what I said in my budget speech in June. At that time the figures were \$94,000,000. Since that time we have made some efforts in savings and there have been some increases in the expectation of receipts and some decreases. But on the whole a little balance of increases in receipts and some decreases in expenditures. So that we have been able to close up that gap somewhat.

We have had no official advices about a committee that is about to be organized in Europe to consider German reparations, and until we get such official advices it will remain a hypothetical question that we probably would not assist the European situation in undertaking to discuss as to what attitude we might take in relation to it.

It isn't possible to say whether, now that the English and French naval suggestions have been published, it would be probable that any further naval limitation agreements can be reached before 1931. I think it is fair to say that so far we have been advised concerning the agreement made between France and England didn't seem to advance the probability of further agreements about naval armaments. The only advance it could be said to have made was a certain change of attitude on the part of the French and English relative to limitation, but it was a change of attitude with which we were unable to agree. I do not understand that either Italy or Japan agreed to it. But they did not set out their position with the

fullness of detail that we did. I think their attitude in relation to it, so far as it has been disclosed, is very similar to our attitude. Not exactly like it, but along the same lines. That means two countries have indicated that they might agree to something, if others would agree, but it is apparent that other countries do not agree to it, and so there hasn't been much of any progress made. The encouraging part of it is that France, which didn't attend the naval conference I called in 1927, and the English have indicated that they were willing to change their attitude and they might be willing to change it further.

I haven't had any report from the Tariff Commission on the corn schedule. I understood that one was likely to be made some time in the near future.

I am expecting to speak here on the 11th of November at an Armistice Day celebration held under the auspices of the American Legion, and I am also expecting to speak a few days after that, I think on the 16th, at the National Grange Convention that is to be held in this city. Those are the only finally scheduled speeches that I have agreed to make in the near future.

Report of the Newspaper Conference,
Friday, October 26, 1928.

I don't recall the details of the estimate submitted by the Federal Trade Commission, as to whether there was an item of \$250,000 to continue the public utilities inquiry. I have no doubt that whatever may appear to be necessary to carry on that inquiry will be recommended in the budget. The budget is not made up until it is ready for submission to the Congress, so that no decision has been made on that or any other item that would be in any sense final. We make some preliminary estimates along in the summer, which I made when General Lord came up to Wisconsin -- I should say preliminary allocations, and of course there was a preliminary allocation made for the expenses of the Federal Trade Commission. Whether it did or did not include that amount I can not say, but I have no doubt that such estimates will be presented to the Congress as the Commission is able to demonstrate will be necessary to carry on the inquiry. I think it is an inquiry made by direction of either both houses or one house of the Congress and that being the case it would carry a very strong implication that the budget would recommend certain appropriations that might be necessary.

The action of the Filipino legislature in passing a bill for importing tobacco and sugar into the Islands at the same duties as are applied for similar imports in the United States has never been brought to my attention, so I have no information about it. The legislation passed by the Filipino legislature does not come to me unless it is something that is passed over the veto of the Governor. If the Governor vetoes and then his veto is not sustained by the legislature, I think the matter comes to the President for his action. I should think the probability of any item of this kind coming to the President would be very remote.

I haven't seen any reference to an address made by Wickham Steed, an Englishman, so I don't know what he may have said or may not have said. I doubt very much if he quoted me relative to what this country might do or might not do in case a blockade was declared by the League of Nations, because I am quite certain that I have never made any statement relative to it and quite certain further than that that this Government has never indicated ^{what} it would do or would not do relative to any blockade that might be declared by the League.

I am expecting to go to Northampton to vote. I haven't finally determined about it, but that is my expectation at the present time.

The report of the Tariff Commission on the duty on corn has come to me and is being handled in the usual course. I don't regard it as an item of supreme importance. I think the imports of corn the last few years have averaged about 2,000,000 bu. a year. The import duty now is 15¢. The greatest change that could be made up or down would be 50% of 15¢ or $7\frac{1}{2}\%$, so that considering the rather light imports and the rather limited change that can be made it is not a matter of great importance at the present time. If corn were selling high, so that a good many imports were coming in, it would be of more importance, but at the present price of corn there isn't any profit in importing it. But this will be taken up and handled in the usual course and such decision will be made as the facts seem to warrant. I will determine it in accordance with its merits.

I have had a report from Mr. Fieser, who has recently returned from Porto Rico, that is encouraging. Fine progress is being made down there in the relief work. A more careful survey has indicated that while the damages are very large, they are probably not so much in value as at first had been thought. They are still having to feed about 250,000, but it was expected that that number will now rapidly decline. Purchases of lumber and materials for rebuilding habitations of the people on the

3.

land are going forward and the whole situation is being organized in a very satisfactory way. Some \$5,400,000 have been received from subscriptions by the Red Cross for this relief, and while they will probably need some more money it seems to be coming in in a very satisfactory way.

Tuesday, October 30, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have received the report of the Emergency Board on the western railroad wage disputes, which I have here, and which has been given to the press this morning for distribution. It seems to me that it is a very complete and painstaking investigation and I very much hope and expect that its conclusions are such that when they reach the parties at interest it will bring about the desired settlement. Their conclusions are not very much at variance with the proposed adjustment that was arrived at at the conference held here in Washington, so far as the amounts go. There are some other things that are quite different.

I am going to Northampton to vote. I haven't determined yet just when I should leave or just when I should return. Mrs. Coolidge's mother, of course, is very ill. No doubt she would like to stay with her for a short time. But she will be obliged to return with me because of some entertainment at the White House on the Thursday following. I think we are having a Cabinet dinner at that time. It comes on Thursday evening following the election.

I have been keeping in very close touch with General Lord on the question of a possible deficit at the end of this year. That of course would depend, as I explained before, on the receipts of the Government and on the expenditures, and the receipts of the Government depend very largely on the business conditions. Our imports are keeping up, especially are our exports keeping up. The exports of course do not bring us in direct revenue, but if exports are large it is an indication that business is good and profits will accrue on which the Government will collect income taxes. The general business condition of the country seems to be remarkably strong. The foundation of it must be particularly secure not to be

shaken at all by the occurrence of a Presidential election. All indications that we get seem to show that business is somewhat better on the whole than it was a year ago, so that I am very hopeful in the expectation that the tax returns which are to be made on the 1st of January for the business of this current year and the revenues that will come in in March and June will be sufficiently large to take care of any possible deficit, notwithstanding the reduction in taxes that was made at the last session of the Congress. We have two or three extra items that are to come in like the increase in the rates of pay for carrying the mail, then there will be an increase in the appropriation for the Mississippi flood control, probably work will be more completely under way, and for the fiscal year beginning next June, of course, there will be a greater expenditure than for the present fiscal year. Should some legislation be passed in relation to Boulder Dam that would require an additional expense, probably not very large for the first year, but something. There are some other items of that kind that have to be taken into consideration. But on the other hand, there are items that will go out. I think that the work on the Ohio River has progressed so far that the appropriation will practically finish it, and the appropriation for the next fiscal year will be entirely eliminated or else be very small. There will be a balance of enough of things of that kind so that the prospect of getting through this year and not having a deficit and being able to balance the budget for the coming fiscal year is getting better and better all the time, if business keeps up and keeps in a very strong position.

shaken at all by the occurrence of a Presidential election. All indications that we get seem to show that business is somewhat better on the whole than it was a year ago, so that I am very hopeful in the expectation that the tax returns which are to be made on the 1st of January for the business of this current year and the revenues that will come in in March and June will be sufficiently large to take care of any possible deficit, notwithstanding the reduction in taxes that was made at the last session of the Congress. We have two or three extra items that are to come in like the increase in the rates of pay for carrying the mail, then there will be an increase in the appropriation for the Mississippi flood control, probably work will be more completely under way, and for the fiscal year beginning next June, of course, there will be a greater expenditure than for the present fiscal year. Should some legislation be passed in relation to Boulder Dam that would require an additional expense, probably not very large for the first year, but something. There are some other items of that kind that have to be taken into consideration. But on the other hand, there are items that will go out. I think that the work on the Ohio River has progressed so far that the appropriation will practically finish it, and the appropriation for the next fiscal year will be entirely eliminated or else be very small. There will be a balance of enough of things of that kind so that the prospect of getting through this year and not having a deficit and being able to balance the budget for the coming fiscal year is getting better and better all the time, if business keeps up and keeps in a very strong position.

Friday, November 2, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

The International Conference on Civil Aeronautics meets in Washington on December 12th, 13th and 14th. I am today appointing a list of delegates which will be given out. There are representatives of the four Departments that are interested in aeronautics -- Commerce, War, Navy and the Post Office, and some people around the country. Those names will be handed out to the press after the conference.

I don't know of any reason that has come to my attention for sending a commission to the Philippines to make a study of the cost of production of sugar. It may be that something has come up in relation to that question in Government circles that hasn't yet reached me. I don't know of anything.

I haven't made any selection of a successor to Ambassador Houghton.

Some of the members of the conference were asking the other day what fluorspar was. That is it (holding up a piece). Someone that had some of it sent a piece in for a paper weight. It looks like a rather poor piece of glass.

I had the smallest Cabinet meeting I think this morning on record. It started with 3 members, but finished with 4. All the rest are ~~on~~ the stump or on their way home to vote. Of course, as I am going to be away Tuesday there won't be any Cabinet meeting.

Enroute to Washington From Northampton,
Tuesday, November 6, 1928.

Report of the Press Conference.

No final determination has been made about the Ambassador to England. While the probabilities seem to indicate that Ambassador Houghton will be chosen Senator, I suppose every prudent man knows that every election is uncertain. It may be that he won't be elected. It isn't my practice to run ahead of events. So I haven't made any final decision about his successor. There is always work enough for the President to do, if he does it after the event calls for it.

I expect to retire tonight about the usual time, between 10 and 11, unless it is a very close election. By that time we ought to know pretty well what the outcome will be, and if it is close we wouldn't know until tomorrow anyway.

Question: Massachusetts comes in early doesn't it?

President: Well, we ought to know by 10 o'clock, unless it is very close. I don't expect to make any statement. Election day is a day when the people of the country speak. It will be particularly becoming for the President on that day to keep silent and let the people do the speaking.

Of course, I don't know whether I shall return to Northampton to live. That is my place of residence and likely to continue to be. I moved some of my bricabrac and things that have accumulated that we don't use up to Northampton today, because I suppose after the 4th of March I couldn't very well keep it in the White House. It has to be kept somewhere.

I understood that my son John voted by mail.

The press has noted somewhat the very important events that have taken place in Nicaragua, but they have been buried up so in our election here

and probably will continue to be for several days, so that I do not know that comment of mine on it would be likely to get very much space. But the outcome down there has been particularly successful and particularly agreeable to the United States Government. I think it demonstrates clearly that we were pursuing the right course. I suppose every one knows and recalls that the marines had been in there for a number of years. I was anxious to withdraw from a contact of that kind and took the marines out. They hadn't been out only about 30 days when revolution started and even then we withheld any action in relation to it as long as we could. Finally our citizens and their property were in so much jeopardy that at the earnest solicitation of the Government of Nicaragua we sent marines there to protect our interests. There was a very terrible warfare going on between the people of the country, the loss of life was very great, and in order to compose that I sent Colonel Stimson down, who made the plan which we have been carrying out and which was successfully consummated last Sunday. They held a peaceable and orderly election which apparently is an expression of the will of that country. Our policy there, of course, has been very similar to our policy in Mexico and China, of trying peaceably to compose our differences. We are succeeding admirably in Mexico, and the situation in China which was very ominous in the winter and spring of 1926 has also been composed, so much so that we now have under consideration the question of raising our legation there to an embassy. We were besought to take very strong military action against China, which I all the time refused to do, thinking that it was much more likely that they would be able to adjust their own differences if we refrained from interfering or doing any more than was necessary to protect the lives and interests of our people there.

We are very hopeful also of getting a final settlement of the Tacna-Arica controversy. It is quite apparent that there is a new spirit in Chile and Peru. They have resumed diplomatic relations, as neighbors have large mutual commercial

interests, and there is a manifest determination to make an adjustment of this question which has been troublesome for them for more than 40 years. Our policy in all those difficulties has been one of peace, conciliation, good will, patience and cooperation. While our interests necessarily have suffered some from the uncertainty and confusion, the result seems to demonstrate that the best course has been taken for their protection and the maintenance of friendly relations with all of those different countries.

We called on mother Goodhue this morning. She has apparently lost considerable since I saw her the last time. There is a more marked change in her since we were there in September than there had been at any other time that I visited her. It is gratifying to know that she suffers very little pain and is as comfortable as could be expected.

Question: Then the foreign questions are pretty well cleaned up?

President: Well, they never get closed up, but those immediate difficulties apparently are working out successfully and being closed up. We are bringing home considerable of our forces from China and will now be in a position to withdraw considerable of our forces from Nicaragua.

Friday, November 19, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

My views on farm legislation have been set out in 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 in my Messages to the Congress, to which you can refer if you want to get them in detail. I don't know of course what my next Message will contain. The Secretary of Agriculture is away for a few days. He was in the West and was going to attend some farm gatherings there or something of that kind, so that he is not returning home until after he has finished that errand. Otherwise, he would have to go right back. So I haven't received from him any report as to what recommendation he would suggest relative to his Department. Nor have I had opportunity to confer with men in the House and the Senate what it might be possible to do in the way of farm legislation. They may think that it would be better to postpone it until the special session. Whether that will be their opinion or not, I don't know. It would depend somewhat, I suppose, on the certainty of having a special session.

I haven't received the report of the experts on the engineering features of the Boulder Canyon Dam. I was thinking of that a day or two ago and wondering if it was not about time for it to be in. I am going to have some inquiries made as to when their report will probably be ready. Of course, I couldn't indicate any recommendations I might make on the subject until I got the report of the experts. While that might not necessarily be controlling, it would certainly be worthy of very careful consideration.

As has already been announced from Palo Alto, Mr. Hoover is thinking of making a trip to South America. I have wired him to advise me what he would like to have the Government do to assist him. He says he would like to have the Warship Maryland assigned for the journey and that his purpose in making the journey is to evidence the good will and desire for mutual cooperation between the United States

and South America and to familiarize himself with the common problems. He says also that the matter hasn't been finally determined. I am having the State Department make the usual inquiries as to whether the places he is expecting to visit would be agreeable to receive him. He spoke to me about this the last time I saw him as a matter that he would like to do after election. I told him I would be very glad to afford any cooperation he might require.

The Postmaster General this morning reported in the Cabinet, which has been will be given to the press, considerable increases in the postal receipts above October of last year, 50 selected cities and 50 industrial cities running each about 10% increase. That is more encouraging than the month of September, which in many instances showed a slight decrease.

Tuesday, November 13, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Senator Reed of Pennsylvania spoke to me about increasing the tariff on glass. I have a report from the Tariff Commission that is in process of the rounds in the President's office and the other offices that I submit those reports to. So I haven't decided yet what action should be taken on it.

I shall have the short address that I am to make before the Grange next Friday in the hands of the press later this afternoon or early tomorrow morning.

I have a communication this morning from Colonel Tilson. He is coming in to see me very soon and he will return to Washington to look after the preliminaries to the opening of Congress. Also, I understand that Speaker Longworth will be back here very soon.

I spoke to the conference, I think last Friday, about the report that came in from the Post Office on the sale of stamps, and I get a similar report this morning from the Secretary of Labor that there has been quite a marked increase in the demand for labor, especially during October, that pretty much removes the fear that the Labor Department had very early in the season that the coming winter might show quite a number of people out of employment. The indications are now that the seasonal unemployment will not be as heavy as sometimes is. The situation in that respect looks very encouraging.

I am expecting, as newspaper men know, to be at Swanannoa over Thanksgiving. I had an invitation from Dr. Alderman, President of the University of Virginia, to attend a buffet luncheon at the President's house Thanksgiving Day and go to the football game there in the afternoon. I haven't decided yet whether I can do that. It is possible that I might go to the luncheon and go to the field for a short time.

2.

Question: You don't happen to know what teams are playing?

President: No, I don't know. Do you know, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: No, I don't.

President: I would hardly care to sit out the entire game and I don't know whether it would be good for Mrs. Coolidge on a cold afternoon looking at a football game.

I am also of course starting to prepare my Annual Message to the Congress. I have reports from practically all the Departments and Bureaus sending such suggestions that they want to make. I want to get the Message out, so that there will be plenty of time for the press to distribute it. Always at the beginning of a Message, I hope it will be short, but there are so many things that the different Departments want reported to the Congress that usually before I get finished it becomes a document of considerable length.

Friday, November 16, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't seen any report of a suggestion that it is said here was made in the House of Lords yesterday proposing an English-American mutual arms limitation. It doesn't occur to me offhand that that would be feasible. Of course, our country would consider any suggestion that the responsible authorities of the British Government wanted to submit to us.

Nor have I seen the speech of Premier Poincaré made in the Chamber of Deputies concerning reparations and debts, and even if I had seen it I don't think I would think anything could be gained by public comment relative to it. If there are matters in which the United States is interested, we can take them up and dispose of them much better through the usual diplomatic channels than we can by undertaking to discuss them in the press.

I am working on my Message to the Congress. I have made some progress on it. There isn't very much legislation, so far as I have been able to discover, that is exceedingly pressing that is new. We have some of the old problems that have been left over from the various messages that I have sent in before and such surveys of the country as I have received from reports of various departments indicate that the country is in very good shape. I want to get the Message done so that it can be early in the hands of the press and that leads me to make a suggestion that is born of my past experience, that the advance copies that are given out are given out exclusively for the use of the press. But each year they turn up in the hands of the people that are in no wise connected with the press like legislative agents in Washington, brokerage offices in different cities, so that I think the news reporters or news agents to whom my message is to be given here for press release

ought to warn people to whom they may send it that it is exclusively for newspaper use and not for general distribution before it is presented to the Congress. It is almost a slight on Congress to have a message generally distributed promiscuously around the country before it goes to the Congress itself. For the purpose of assisting the news distribution we make these early deliveries of the message. I hope this year it can be kept confined exclusively to news services and not fall into the hands of others.

I think I spoke at the last conference about spending Thanksgiving season at Swanannoa. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns will accompany us. I think they will be in Washington at that time. Mr. Stearns is returning to Boston for a few days tonight, but he will be back before I leave here for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I have received quite a good many comments from people in this country on the address I made on Armistice Day. It was exceedingly well received and apparently was helpful in clarifying the public mind on the questions that I discussed.

Question: Could you say if you have received the Boulder Dam report yet?

President: No, I haven't received it yet and my information is that it won't be completed until about the time Congress convenes. I am expecting to receive some suggestions as to the probable tenor of it which might assist me in formulating my program in my message. But I am certain that the completed draft of the report will not be ready before about the time Congress comes in.

Tuesday, November 20, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Mr. J. W. McIntosh, the Comptroller of the Currency, has tendered me his resignation. It has not yet been accepted, but I expect to accept it very shortly. He has been a very efficient officer and I am sorry to lose his services.

The summary of the report of the experts on the economic and engineering feasibility of the Boulder Dam has been received. I haven't had an opportunity to examine it, and I should not feel at liberty to publish it or disclose its contents because it was sent to me for such use as I might need for it in making my message. The full report, as I understand it, will be ready for the Congress when it comes in.

There isn't anything new that I can say relative to farm legislation. My views have been set out a good many times in my messages to the Congress on the positive side. On the negative side in some of my vetoes.

I see that we have present some of the visiting journalists from England, whom I am very glad to welcome again. Perhaps for their information and such use as they might like to make of it some time in the future, I might say that these conferences are held twice a week on the day that the Cabinet meets, Tuesdays at noon and Fridays at 4:00 o'clock. It is very seldom that I make any suggestions to the press other than to comment on inquiries that are filed with me in written form before the Conference is held, and always with the understanding that the President is not to be quoted directly. That may account possibly for some misunderstandings that might arise in the foreign press. I think it has given rise to very few misunderstandings in our domestic press. I do sometimes have difficulty in getting correct reports abroad of what I do and say, so that when I am making an address that deals with foreign questions I have adopted the custom of sending it abroad beforehand and having

it distributed over there just as it was given out here, in order that the foreign press may have a correct copy.

Is there anything else, Mr. Sanders, you think I ought to mention?

Mr. Sanders: You might say something about when your Message will be ready.

President: I am working on it and expect to have it ready about a week before Congress assembles, so that there will be ample time to send it by mail across the continent and distribute it to all the press of the country.

Friday, November 23, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't seen what the State Department may have said in their comment on the Cumberland report on Nicaragua. I did notice from a hasty glance at the report that there was some suggestion in it of some supervision of the finances of Nicaragua by American citizens. I have forgotten whether they were to be selected by the Secretary of State or just what the process was. That is a suggestion that is frequently made to this Government and one which we always desire to avoid. Several times we have been compelled to disapprove of suggestions of that nature and undertook to say that if credit is extended to countries like Nicaragua that it should be extended on a fair and equitable basis and one which does not interfere with the usual freedom of their government. Our Government would not want to undertake any supervision of that nature. I think, from what I know of Mr. Cumberland's reputation, that he is a very able man and made a good investigation of the finances of Nicaragua and one which is worthy of confidence. Of course, if people are going to lend money, they naturally like to get all the guaranties they can in relation to it, so they often resort to suggestions that our Government should intervene in some way, that the people of that country should relinquish their own rights and turn them over to some one else.

I haven't made any plans for my actions after the 4th of March. I think I suggested the other day that very likely you will see a great many press reports and suppositions as to what I might do, but there is nothing that I am considering. I don't expect to make any decision until after that date.

I have been invited to go to Mountain Lake, I think, in Florida, along about the 1st of February to dedicate a bird sanctuary and carillon that is being

2.

established there by Edward Bok. Of course, all my engagements have to be tentative, but I have got that under consideration. That is the only one, I think of now that will take me out of town between the first of January and the 4th of March.

I have had no discussions concerning any reservations to the peace treaty. I do not think any reservations ought to be attached to it. I can hardly comprehend the nature of any reservations that any one might think would be desirable. I think the treaty itself carries all the reservations that are necessary to protect our rights and protect our interests.

I haven't any plan about doing any hunting at Blue Ridge. I am advised that they have some fine clay pigeons down there. I may shoot a few of those.

Tuesday, November 27, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't been able to confer with many members of the House and Senate, so that I could form any judgment about what plans they wish to pursue and until I got that information I wouldn't have any opinion as to whether it would be feasible to pass any farm legislation at this session. I don't know whether they are planning to have a special session or not. They may feel certain that they would have a special session and they may feel that it is a matter that will go over until that time. Of course, whether they can pass a bill at this session would depend to a considerable extent upon what agreements can be reached in the Congress relative to it. If it is a matter of long drawn out debate, they might not have time to take it up. On the other hand, if they could reach a substantial agreement among the members in the Congress and the people on the outside that are interested in that legislation they might be able to put one through. But it is more a matter for the Congress to decide than it is for me. I don't know what their plans may be in relation to it.

I am starting for Swannanoa tomorrow. I prefer that the time of my departure shouldn't be published of course, and I think the press already has this list which to a certain extent you know is confidential. I don't take it that the members of the party--that there is anything confidential about that. Of course, Mrs. Coolidge will accompany me, and Mr. and Mrs. Stearns are expected to go. Mrs. Stearns has not been feeling very well for a day or two and there is some question as to whether she may feel able to take the trip. My two aides, Col. Latrobe and Captain Brown, and Col. Coupal, my stenographer, Mr. Geisser, and the housekeeper and secret service operatives, and of course some of the servants at the house, and there will

2.

be representatives of the press, both the reporters and picture men. I don't expect to have any invitations or accept any on Saturday. It is my intention to attend church at Charlottesville, the First Baptist Church there, at a union service, which I think all the churches in that town join on Thanksgiving morning about 10:30. I shall probably go from there to President Alderman's house, President of the University of Virginia, who is to have a buffet lunch, and after lunch I am not sure whether I shall go to the football field. We may go and stay a few minutes.

Question: Is that Alderman or Alterman?

President: Alderman. The members of the press may recall him as the man who made the memorial address on President Wilson at the House of Representatives shortly after President Wilson's death. He made a very fine address which received very favorable comment at the time.

Tuesday, December 4, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know of any plan for any immediate change in the Comptroller of Customs of New Orleans.

I haven't any plans for the Christmas holidays. I have had several suggestions come in and some invitations, but I really haven't given it any thought yet. It lay in my mind that I would like to be at the White House on Christmas day. We have made it a practice to have the singing of Christmas carols at the White House on Christmas eve. Very likely we should like to continue that.

Question: Do you think there will be any extra holidays for the Government employees?

President: Well, don't you think you ought to ask Congress about that? This is perhaps as good a time as any to comment on what I think has grown into an abuse. Congress makes holidays and every time there is a holiday it is the practice for one department to telephone over to another department and say we are going to have an extra holiday in this department and what is your department going to do about it. Of course, the message is taken to the head of the department and we have usually been put into the position that it has been expected that in addition to the holiday that is furnished by law the President would furnish one or two more. If it comes on Saturday, they want a holiday on Friday, and, of course they couldn't come back and travel on Sunday and so they want another holiday on Monday to get back on, and while I like all the employees of the Government to receive such holidays as can be given, if that practice is to continue I think it ought to be established by law and let Congress say by law when there is to be a holiday giving Government employees additional leave of absence. I haven't any plan as to what may be done at Christ-

mas and New Year and Washington's birthday. I don't know whether Lincoln's birthday is a holiday. I think it isn't. Those are the only three that are to come up during my administration. But it really ought to be taken up and regulated by law, in order to prevent the President and the departments being subjected to pressure every time there is a holiday for additional leave of absence, because those are holidays that are fixed by law and everybody knows they are to come. There are times that an emergency arises. Some great event is to be celebrated or some catastrophe arises, so that the President is justified in having the departments closed. That would be the case in the death of the President or the Vice President, but in the case of events that everybody knows will occur it ought either to be provided by law or not provided for at all.

I have a statement here that says there is confusion in Boston brought about by conflicting reports relative to the Boston postmastership. Now, I don't feel any blame about that myself. If that situation has arisen, I think the blame is probably on the newspapers. I haven't said anything about it and there has been no change in the situation there, so far as I know. If the newspapers have nevertheless commented on it the responsibility is theirs. If I had anything to give out I would have been perfectly willing to give it out. There hasn't been anything to give out and I haven't given out anything. If the members of the press want to write about it, they will of course have to write about it on their own responsibility. If there is anything to be given out, I am always glad to give it out.

The general news for this afternoon and tomorrow I suppose will be the President's message, so perhaps you will be sufficiently provided with copy if I don't make any further comment this morning.

Friday, December 7, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not know whether or not the Committee meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate this morning was public. However, I think the attitude of the Committee was favorable to the treaty. The thing that both^{ered} the Committee most was whether the provisions of the treaty required a specific act of the United States if the treaty were violated, and of course the Secretary's answer to that was that it did not. I think I have already stated that if the treaty were violated it would leave the United States in the same position that it would be without the treaty, and Congress would determine as usual what action would be taken. A positive violation would occur if a nation attacked the United States and a negative violation would occur if a nation attacked another nation, not the United States. I am getting a great many letters favorable to the treaty, about 200 today, and am sending them over to the State Department. Mr. Kellogg told me that they had a special staff and certain stenographers for taking care of these letters. I think Mr. Kellogg told me he is receiving about 600 letters a day.

Question: Is the Secretary going back?

President: Yes, he is going back. He started there this morning and will go back.

Question: Are the letters coming in uniformly favorable?

President: I haven't seen one that is in opposition. Of course some of them are in the nature of propaganda, evidently having been made by people that were asked to write, but a great many of them are voluntary expressions of their own desire to see a treaty of that kind. I hope I haven't violated any of the niceties of Senate procedure by revealing the Secretary's statements before the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, but if that is the case I have suffered so much in the same respect that perhaps they will reconcile themselves to it.

Report of the Newspaper Conference,
Tuesday, December 11, 1928.

I haven't made any further plans about the Christmas holidays, so I don't know what may develop in relation to that. Every time I go into the South anywhere I am received so hospitably that I am always tempted to go again. As you know, I have also had a similar experience in going into the West, though the West isn't a place to tempt one so much in cold weather. It is possible that I may make some short southern trip for the holidays. The only plan I have about going to Mountain Lake, Florida, is to go there and make a short address dedicating a bird sanctuary and the chimes and return. I have had some suggestions about stopping at Savannah and some other places in Georgia. That is under contemplation, but I haven't made any plan about it. It will depend something on the pressure of business and the Congress.

Would that trip be at the Christmas holiday season?

President: No, that is the first of February. I think the plan is to have the dedication on February 2nd. Is it Feb. 2nd, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: It was the 1st, I think, Mr. President. Feb. 1st.

President: Yes, Feb. 1st.

Question: What are the chimes you speak of?

President: It is a singing tower. The European name with the English pronunciation is carillon. They are to be about the finest set of chime bells that are in the United States. Some of you may recall visiting a tower of that kind that had been donated by Mr. Barron at the time I was up in Massachusetts.

Question: Is anybody donating these chimes?

President: Yes, Mr. Bok. Mr. Edward Bok.

Mr. Bok is giving the bird sanctuary as a tract of land at this place. He is dedicating it as a bird sanctuary and putting up these bells to interest the birds in music.

I don't suppose that my son will be here over the holidays. He is busily engaged, as I understand it, working for the railroad.

Question: When you said you might be tempted to go South, is that definite at all?

President: No. I have had invitations to go along down the coast, North and South Carolina, and down off the Georgia coast, but nothing definite has been decided.

I took up with General Lord this morning, Governor Towner, Senator Bingham and Rep. Kiess of Pennsylvania the matter of relief for Porto Rico, which I had recommended in my message, and a bill has been prepared which has my general approval. I am not familiar with the details of it. So far as I know about it, I approve the principle of it. And I have also signed to go up today a supplementary estimate for tax refunds, which is about \$55,000,000 more than the Treasury had figured their tax refunds would be, so that if that is taken up at this time the \$37,000,000 of surplus that I had expected would be in existence on the 1st of July or the last day of June would be exhausted. That is a reason for very careful consideration by the Congress in making additions that will call for expenditures before the 1st day of next July.

There are some suggestions being made that the incoming President might not find enough money in appropriations with which to carry on the work of the Government. Of course, if that should develop, he could apply to the Congress that comes in a year from now, which would leave him the six months ^{of the} appropriations now

to be made to increase them. It doesn't occur to me that the incoming President is going to be worried about not having enough money to spend, so much as there is danger that he will be worried about the prospect of a deficit. If it should transpire that there hasn't been enough money appropriated and there are funds with which to meet a larger appropriation, why supplementary appropriations could be put in the budget and when the Congress reconvenes in regular session next December, or if there should be a special session, it could be taken up then. But if Congress should appropriate more money than the Treasury has funds with which to meet the appropriations, he would be faced with a deficit, which would be very difficult to take care of.

I have been very much interested to see the comment that arose in relation to a little good will piece that I prepared for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in recognition of their 50th anniversary. It has been quite extensively reprinted by the press and considerably commented on. There has been some suggestion that it had reference to a summer White House. That is not quite the emphasis that I intended to put on what I was saying. I think a President would like to go away in the summer for a considerable period of time and visit some part of the country that he wasn't familiar with, and stay there long enough to absorb something of its atmosphere. Of course, I have been to New England some, but I went up there simply for recreation, not because I expected to learn much. I have been in the West because I expected to learn of things out there and it has been very helpful to me. What I had in mind was a place where a President could spend a week end. It so happened that I was brought up at an elevation of 1400 ft. and so I notice perhaps more than others might staying here at sea level. I would like a place where I could go in two or not more than three hours, an automobile ride, and stay

overnight if I wanted to, leave Saturday after lunch as I do to go on the Mayflower, or Friday, and get back here Monday morning in time to perform the usual office duties. So, while a place of that kind would probably be designated as a summer White House it really isn't that. It would be a place that the President might use all the year round. It would be a place in the hills somewhere that would be a little cooler and give a little elevation. There is a place that is owned by the Agricultural Department not so very far away where they undertook to establish a post for weather observations. It has a very good house on it and is well provided with out buildings.

Question: That is in Virginia isn't it?

President: Yes, I think it is about 85 miles away.

Question: In Bluemont?

President: Yes. I have never been there, but I know about the place. It is for sale because it didn't work out as it was expected. It has a good elevation and might be a place that could be considered.

Question: Have you received any letters suggesting places, and so on?

President: No, I don't think so.

Friday, December 14, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Here is an inquiry about a resolution said to have been introduced in the Senate this afternoon, which I judge undertakes to have the Senate interpret the peace treaty in its relation to the Monroe Doctrine and the Washington Arms Conference treaties, and as to what might happen if any of the parties to the treaty went to war under the league of the Locarno pacts. I haven't seen that resolution.

Press man: Mr. President, it is to be dropped in this afternoon. Hasn't been introduced yet.

President: Well, then I think I had better not undertake to make any comment on it at all. I was going to say I hadn't seen it. It will be difficult to comment on it without seeing it. I should think it would be difficult for the Senate to undertake an academic interpretation of the peace treaty and to try to decide in advance what this country might do under certain circumstances. That goes away beyond the treaty. The treaty doesn't undertake what the country is to do in advance of circumstances, any further than to say that those who have signed it are to renounce war as a national policy. The strength of the treaty lies in the fact that it leaves to the determination what is to be done when future circumstances arise for the action of the Government at that time. It leaves the Congress free to take such action as they may think appropriate. I should say in general that any proposal to modify or make reservations to the treaty as it has been presented would necessarily be regarded as an unfriendly move towards the treaty. The passing of a resolution of this kind is merely an expression of the opinion of the Senate, I suppose, and would not have any effect on the treaty one way or the other.

Press: Some folks up there say that it would put us in the same position that Great Britain was given by the Chamberlain -

President: I think we are already in that position now, so that so far as I am informed there is no occasion for our taking any action to be in the same position that all other countries are. It would be a good deal of a misfortune, if after having proposed a treaty of this kind and secured the approval of other countries, we should fail to approve it ourselves. It would leave us in a peculiarly embarrassing position. I do not think there is any danger of that. I am simply stating the position we should be in if such a contingency should arise.

I have called the attention of the Departments to the fact that the law imposes on the President the duty of submitting the budget and after the budget has been submitted it imposes upon the Departments, all the heads and subordinates, the injunction not to undertake to get the amount that the President has submitted increased. For any one connected with the Government to undertake to do that is a violation of the law and contrary to the direct and explicit direction of the Congress. The budget isn't new now. It has been in operation for a good many years. I think all the departments and all the members of the Departments know of that provision. It is their duty to observe it and my duty to enforce it.

It will be necessary to make some provision for the island of Porto Rico, which will cost several million dollars. I think the estimates run as high as $7\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars are to be expended without any expectation that the island will ever return the money, and \$5,000,000 is to be provided as a loan fund for the purpose of restoration of the area that was injured by the storm, so far as its productivity is concerned, to help agriculture with the necessary credit to get productivity started. That is a further increment to the apparent deficit at the present time.

Of course, a good many proposals are made by people that have very excellent things that they would like to have the Government do, but they come from people that have no responsibility for providing ways and means by which their proposals can be carried out. I don't think in all my experience, which has been very large with people that come before me in and out of the Government with proposals for spending money, I have ever had any proposal from any one as to what could be done to raise money, and very few suggestions of what could be done to save any money. Sometimes linked with the proposal for an immediate large expenditure is the suggestion that it ultimately will result in a saving. I think that is about the extent of the outside assistance I have had in that direction.

I noticed in the morning press some suggestion that it was thought in some quarters that the present administration didn't desire to take part, any further part, or was suggesting that action should be postponed, by the Committee of the League that has been holding the preliminary conferences on limitation of armaments. That movement is entirely in the hands of the League. It was of course instigated by them and would have to be carried on by them without suggestions from us, because we are not a part of the League. Our Government hasn't made any intimation that it wanted action postponed, and it is ready to respond at any time to any desire on the part of the League to participate in the deliberations of the preliminary conference.

I haven't heard anything further about the Christmas holidays. The reports from mother Goodhue are so discouraging that Mrs. Coolidge is expecting to go up there for two or three days next week. Mrs. Goodhue's condition is such that it isn't possible to make any plans at present about the Christmas holidays.

I doubt if I could add anything to the very full newspaper comment relative to the South American tour of Mr. Hoover. It is evident that the people of the countries

that he has visited have been pleased to receive him and are appreciative of his visit, and I have no doubt that it will result in an increased amount of good will. It is especially a demonstration on the part of the man whom we expect will be chosen when the electoral college meets to be the next President of his desire to have a thorough knowledge of the conditions in those countries, his appreciation of the value of their friendship, and his wish for mutual helpfulness and cooperation.

Tuesday, December 18, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

From such conferences as I have had, which are not very extensive, I am of the opinion that the peace treaty has sufficient support to insure its ratification without any reservations or accompanying resolutions.

The Boulder Dam will of course take the usual procedure. When it comes here it will go in the course of business to the Department of Interior, and if it calls for an expenditure of money it will go to the Bureau of the Budget for their recommendations. I don't expect it will go to any other department or that it will be necessary to confer with any engineers, so far as I am concerned, in relation to it. I am advised by the Interior Dept. that they have made some suggestions for trifling changes, which will undoubtedly be adopted.

I am expecting to go down to light the Christmas tree for the Washington Community celebration on Christmas eve, which is the evening of the 24th of course.

I don't expect to embellish my appearance there with any speech.

I have under consideration accepting an invitation that was extended last spring to go to Sapeloe Island, which is just off the Georgia coast. It is a little north of Jekyll Island, which is perhaps better known to the newspaper profession.

Question: Can you spell that one for us?

President: Sapeloe. It is a corruption of a Spanish word Zapa(or e)lo, I think, which has been corrupted into Sapeloe. Jekyll Island is better known to the newspaper profession as it is said to be the resort in the winter of considerable of the wealth of the country. The owner of Sapeloe is Howard E. Coffin.

Question: Have you any idea when you will go?

President: Well, not until after Christmas.

Question: Have you any idea how long you will stay, if you go?

President: I shall probably return here by the 1st of January, though I am not certain about that. If the President is in town he has a public reception here on New Year's day.

I am reminded of the approach of the holidays by some of my fellow citizens kindly beginning to send Christmas greetings and remembrances to the White House for Mrs. Coolidge and me.

Senator Shipstead and I talked about the peace treaty that is pending before his Committee. I haven't any detailed information relative to the increase of the capital stock of the Inland Waterways Corporation. Whatever we thought would be necessary from the report of the War Department and a study of the Bureau of the Budget would of course have been included in the regular budget. What may have been put in there, I don't now recall.

Mrs. Coolidge is expecting to go to Northampton tomorrow. It is her present plan to return Saturday or Sunday. I don't know that you need to report the day of her going and coming. Perhaps you better not. But she is expecting to go this week and return by the 1st of next week.

The Navy Dept. tells me that they think there wont by any very serious or extended opposit on to the pending ~~navy~~ naval bill. There will be some votes against it and some debate opposing it, but not enough to jeopardize its passage.

Rep. Dallinger spoke to me about an additional house office building and I told him that that was so largely a matter for the legislature to determine itself that I didn't feel I ought to make any specific recommendation about it, that I should be governed very largely in relation to it by what the Congress might wish. He reported to me that under the present arrangement most members of the House have but one room

in the office building where they have to keep their force of clerks and stenographers and where those that might wish to confer with them have to wait while somebody else is carrying on a conference with the Representative in the same room, so that he thought it was very desirable that every member of the House be provided with two rooms, one for his office force and waiting room and one for an office where a member might have a little more privacy and be able to give better accommodation to those that might wish to confer with him on public business.

I haven't any plan about where I shall go after I retire from office. It says here that it has been published that I shall return to Northampton immediately. I presume that is as good a guess as any one could make. It would be quite natural that when I leave Washington I should go back to Northampton. We have some things that quite naturally I would carry back there. I am glad it has been published because it will advertise the town. I am glad to help the press give the town publicity and glad to do what I can to help advertise any other place or possibly any employment that might be benefited.

Friday, December 21, 1928.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't know who will be appointed to the Federal Trade Commission. Mr. Myers has indicated that he wished to resign. He has been taken off the Commission to undertake some very important service in the moving picture industry. I am sorry to lose him. He has been on the Department of Justice staff for a number of years where he had almost entire charge of prosecutions under the Sherman law, which gave him a great grasp of the administration and enforcement of that law. It peculiarly qualified him for service on the Federal Trade Commission. I would like to have him stay if it were feasible and finish up the investigation that was ordered by the Senate of the power concerns. I don't know whether that will be possible or not, or how much longer that is going to take. I think I have seen that they had resorted to some court procedure in relation to the securing of certain evidence and that might occasion considerable delay, so that he may not feel that he wishes to stay. The places on the Commission are somewhat difficult to fill and they are difficult to administer. A member of the Federal Trade Board is somewhat of an industrial policeman. People that are doing right and obeying the law don't like to be investigated, and those that are not obeying it especially object to investigation. I have a good deal of sympathy with both of them. I think, however, that they are both wrong.

We have had some suggestion that the European governments would make some representation to this government relative to American participation in a body of experts to examine the question of German reparations, but so far as I know no representation has yet been made to us, so that I couldn't make any decision about it until the representation comes and we are able to find out what it involves. We should, of course,

look at any suggestions made in a sympathetic way. At the same time this is almost purely a European question. In fact, is a European question. And while I don't want to have this country shirk any duty that it ought to perform I should certainly like it if European questions could be adjusted by the Europeans. Now, it may be that they are not able to do that in this case and we ought to step in and participate. If we do that, I hope there will be a little realization in some quarters that this country doesn't interfere in other countries unless it is obliged to, and that if the Europeans can't settle their controversy without calling on us for help and we respond I do not think that in European quarters we ought to be criticized for making a like response when we are asked to assist in Central America. I shall want to be convinced too that if we are asked to have experts participate that there is going to be an opportunity for the exercise of the judgment of the experts, and that those who go there representing other governments or those who go from the United States will all go free to exercise their judgment and not be given instructions beforehand that would hamper them in exercising their judgment. I mean by that that one side ought not to instruct its experts we can't pay more than so much and the other side ought not to instruct its experts we can't take less than so much. If they be experts, it means they are going to undertake in their own judgment what can be paid and should be free to make a judgment of that kind without being hampered beforehand with instructions.

I am expecting to go away the first of the week. Some of you I may see on Christmas day and some I may not. I want to take this occasion to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Perhaps some of you will go with me. I am not certain when I am coming back. I think it is doubtful if I shall be back here by the 1st of January, so that I will take this occasion also to wish you a Happy New Year. If I am not here - I probably shall not be - we wouldn't have any New Year's reception at the

3.

White House. We are having the singing of Christmas carols, so Mrs. Coolidge told me before she went away, on the front porch of the White House, the north portico, on Christmas eve, and the public of course is invited to attend ⁱⁿ the north grounds.

+ + +

REMARKS
by the PRESIDENT to
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

January 4, 1929 - March 1, 1929

+ + +

Newspaper Conference, Friday, January 4, 1929.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know of any immediate change that is contemplated in the office of Collector of Customs at New Orleans.

I had a very pleasant trip to Georgia. That region, like all of our South Atlantic seaboard, is a wonderfully fine winter resort. The islands that lie off the coast played a very important part in the early development of that region. They are covered with some of the oldest ruins in the United States. Apparently after the war they became almost deserted -- I mean after the war of '61 to '65. The former owners went away and did not come back for years, and when they did come back they hadn't the means for carrying out their plans. Many of them had been ransacked and burned during the war. Along the coast of that region are especially fine places for game -- a great many wild turkeys, plenty of quail; of course the pheasants there have been brought in; there are also a great many deer. That part of the coast has not been known much because there hasn't been transportation to it. When the railroads were built they went further inland because the coast there is low, and the rivers when they get near the sea broaden out a great deal. There are wide marshes. So the railroads were built a number of miles inland; and it is only recently that they have been putting in good highways. What that region needs especially is good highways. Transportation is

always a very important element, and the reason that those islands developed so was because they were on water and had good transportation. It was perfectly apparent that there is a great deal of new life in that part of Georgia, which I am told is characteristic of the whole State. Some of the larger Georgia industries have for many years been active in a business way but have not extended out in the country much. The making of better highways down there is one of the reasons for the general revival of activity throughout the State.

I am naturally very much pleased with the outcome of the Pan American Conference on Conciliation and Arbitration. They had several difficult problems. It shows a very fine spirit on the part of all the delegates, reflecting the same sentiment on the part of their governments and people that they had been able to reach an agreement on all points. It was especially fortunate that the Conference happened to be in session when the difficulty broke out between Bolivia and Paraguay. I am very much pleased that that has been adjusted as part of the work of the Conference.

I am expected to speak again at the Business Conference of the Government. I think that is set for about January 28th. Do you recall the exact date, Mr. Sanders?

MR. SANDERS: The twenty-ninth.

THE PRESIDENT (continuing): And I am speaking in Florida on

the first day of February at Winter Park. I am helping to dedicate a singing tower and a bird sanctuary, which is to be presented to the public for visitation purposes by Edward W. Bok.

I doubt if I shall be able to go to Vincennes, Indiana, when they have their celebration of the anniversary of the battle there in which George Rogers Clark commanded the Colonial troops. I presume the conference will recall that last year we passed a bill making an appropriation of twelve or fifteen thousand dollars to build a suitable memorial commemorating that event.

QUERY: When you go to Florida, Mr. President, is it your intention to stay any length of time?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I shall return at once. I haven't time to stay at all.

Tuesday, January 8, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have been approached by some of the individuals in the City of Washington who are managing the collections for the Community Chest, Frederick A. Delano, Charles J. Bell and John Poole. Their problem has been what the Departments could do to cooperate with them in the way of getting contributions from people employed in the various Departments. The only enterprise that we have permitted to do anything in the way of solicitation in the Departments has been the Salvation Army - it was permitted to have stands - and the Red Cross. Really, the Red Cross has been the only charity that has been permitted to make direct solicitations. The Salvation Army has been granted the privilege of standing at the exits and entrances with baskets or something of that kind for receiving donations. We have determined that the chief clerks or some one of that nature will be permitted to distribute envelopes among the employees and that some one representing the community chest may be stationed at the exit to receive those envelopes when the employees pass in and out. That is a method which has been adopted in some parts of the country by industrial establishments and we are going to permit it to be done in behalf of the Community Chest of Washington.

Question: Is that for any one day or period?

President: No, not for any special day. Such time, I suppose, as it may be necessary to do it.

I haven't a great amount of information concerning the business situation, but I was advised this morning by the Department of Commerce that the last six months, according to their reports, was better than the first six months

of the year 1928 and was up to the standard of 1927. So far as they can determine present conditions in business throughout the country are good and the prospect for the immediate future seems to be as good as usual.

Mr. Collier was in yesterday, Barron Collier, and left with me a nicely bound little book on the subject of how his business -- I assume that he gave a copy of that to the press, so that they have it.

The appropriation bills, I am advised by the members of the Cabinet, and appropriations are going on all right. The hearings are being expedited and the bills are being passed expeditiously. The financial situation is such that of course we have got to look with great care on all proposals for immediate expenditures of money and with great care on the appropriation bills. There are some bills pending that will call for an expenditure of money which are necessary. Those we shall have to take care of in some way. Anything that isn't a pressing necessity ought to be put off until next year, when we will have had the tax returns on income for 1928 and we will know better what the condition of the Treasury is.

Friday, January 11, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I don't seem to have any recollection of the name of Charles W. Lane of Baltimore in connection with the District of Columbia Supreme Court judgeship. It is possible that the name has gone over my desk and been referred in the regular course to the Dept. of Justice for investigation and recommendation. I don't remember that name.

There hasn't anything new developed relative to the German reparations problem. I presume the conference has in mind what the situation is; that the European governments that are interested, including Germany, would like to secure the services of two Americans to join with the experts that are to be appointed by the European governments, and we have reported to the European governments that our Government has no objection to their taking that course. It also needs to be kept in mind that it is the European governments that are making the appointments and making the selections. I think, as I indicated once before, I would be more pleased if the European governments would settle that question themselves, but if they feel that they need assistance of some Americans I don't think it would be becoming on the part of our Government to say that the people here that are willing to serve should not be permitted to do so, or rather that our Government wouldn't give its consent to their doing so. The last body of experts that was headed by General Dawes worked out what has proven to be an acceptable plan, and in its operation has been successful, so that I judge that one of the main things that is left to be considered is the final amount that Germany is to pay. If it is found that they could go on paying 2,500,000,000 marks, which is about \$625,000,000 a year, then the only question to consider would be how long they ought to keep on paying it. If it is found there is some reason for varying that amount, why that

01784

is another question, and it is for the purpose of deciding what would seem to be fair between Germany, considering its ability, and the European countries that are interested on the other side, including Japan and the trifling amount that is due us comparatively, that this body of experts will be brought together. We are returning, as you will recall, the private property of the German nationals that we held as security for the payment due us as our bill for the Army of Occupation, which is some \$200,000,000, and whatever may be found to be due by the German Claims Commission for damages which accrued to our citizens in the early part of the war, I think before we went into the war. Those two together are not very large sums, so that the amount due us is not large. That, however, would not be a matter that would be considered by a commission of experts - the amount of our bill. If there is anything to be done about that at this conference it would be done through our regular diplomatic representative, probably, as, though there are Americans on the committee of experts, they do not represent the Government of the United States.

I have had an invitation from Dr. Hamilton Holt of Rollins College, at Winter Park, Fla., to visit the college while I am in Florida. I think I made the mistake the other day in speaking of my trip to Florida of saying that the dedication of the Sanctuary and the Singing Tower was to take place at Winter Park. That is located at Mountain Lake and the college is at Winter Park. They are some 30 miles, perhaps a little more, apart. I am considering making a visit to Rollins College, but I have some doubt as to whether I will be able to give the time to it. I did have in mind when I accepted Mr. Bok's invitation that the college and the Sanctuary were in the same town, but I find I am 30 or 40 miles out of the way about that.

3.

So I am considering Dr. Holt's invitation. He has invited me down there several times. I very much wanted to go. He came here when he was about to be inaugurated with some prominent writer. Do you remember who that was, Mr. Clark?

Mr. Clark: No, I don't.

President: It wasn't McCutcheon. Well, it is some equally good writer, I won't say reporter.

Report of the Newspaper Conference,
Tuesday, January 15, 1929.

I know that there is some legislation pending relative to increases in pay, said to correct injustices and inequalities that have resulted under the last pay increase. One way to correct it is, I suppose, to reduce the people that have had too much. I don't know that any one is suggesting that that should be done. The usual course is to work in the other direction and increase those that think they have not received enough. If there are any real injustices and inequalities that ought to be adjusted, I should give that very careful consideration. I am somewhat doubtful about the existence of anything that bordered on injustice, and of course I am not in favor of any large increases in pay. Everybody had their pay increased last year. I started out by finally agreeing to \$14,000,000, then they came back and wanted \$18,000,000, then they boosted it up to \$22,000,000 or \$23,000,000. I didn't feel like vetoing the bill. If the committees had taken the advice that was given them by people that were qualified to give advice they wouldn't have found they had legislated in a way to give any one an opportunity to think there was injustice. They didn't do that. I have noticed in the press that I was reported as being in favor of this legislation. I don't know of anything I have said that indicated I was favorable to it or unfavorable. I am not in favor of any sweeping increases in salaries, because we have recently granted very large increases in pay, much larger than I wanted to grant, but if there are some trifling matters that ought to be adjusted I should probably take the opinion of the Congress on that.

There is further legislation pending, I think, to increase the amount that is to be paid on retirement. A bill has just been passed for that purpose which went as far as I thought we ought to go. We might very well let that act go into op-

eration and find out from experience how it worked. I felt it was sufficiently liberal in its provisions. I don't know of any reason for legislating on that subject. Of course, what I say in relation to both these bills is in a tentative nature, simply expressing the opinion that I have, with the understanding that when the legislation comes to me I will take it up and try and decide it on its merits. Concerning the retirement bill, I feel rather more certain than I do about the pay bill. I am certain a retirement bill isn't needed at this time.

I don't think there is anything further that I could say relative to the question of German reparations. I tried to indicate what the situation was at the last conference, so that the press might comment on it with an understanding of what I thought the real situation was. The Americans are to be appointed by the foreign countries, but I do not know whom they are going to appoint. . . When they make their appointments, I suppose they will be the ones that will make the announcement. And I have no information as to when the appointments are to be made. I have seen several names suggested, but I have no information concerning them other than what has been in the press. And I have no information as to the future course of Mr. Gilbert. He is the Agent of the Reparations Commission, not the Agent of the United States or its Government in any way. If he was to be indicating any expectation of what course he might pursue, of course he would indicate it to the people under whom he is serving, and not to us.

I think it is likely that the Senate will reach a vote on the treaty very soon. It is an especially important subject. In fact, I don't know of anything that has come before the Senate while I have been President that is of greater importance than this treaty. It would do more than anything else of which I know to stabilize

and give expression to the peace sentiment of the world and greatly increase the probability of permanent peace. It would be a very complete answer on our part to the criticism that our country is sometimes under, especially to any suggestion that we had any motives of aggression toward any other country. I think the Senate understands the situation very well and that they want to ratify the treaty and are especially desirous of avoiding any action on the part of the Senate that could be interpreted either here or abroad as varying the terms of the treaty by making any amendments or reservations in relation to it. And with that situation before the Senate and before the country, I feel quite certain that the Senate will act favorably on it.

Friday, January 18, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I do not recall that any report has come to me from the Tariff Commission its investigation of milk and cream. Do you recall any such, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: I don't think it has.

President: When it does come, all I can say is that it will be disposed of in the regular course of business.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover are dining with Mrs. Coolidge and me tonight.

I have been invited to the 25th anniversary of Dr. Abram Simon of Washington. It is 25 years since he assumed leadership of the Washington Hebrew Congregation. He is being tendered a dinner on January 26th. I have that under consideration. I don't know whether I can go or not. I have a very high regard for Dr. Simon. I think he served here on the School Committee and is regarded as a very useful citizen.

I was naturally pleased that the peace treaty was ratified. As I said at the last conference, the indications were that it would be ratified all right, and I think the importance of the treaty will grow among the people as it goes into operation. 12 or 15 nations have already adhered to it. I think ours was the first nation of those which signed it which has ratified it.

Tuesday, January 22, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am advised that there is a proposal on foot to celebrate at Kansas City the 75th anniversary of the Republican Party. I think there are several places that claim to be the birthplace of the party, one in Michigan, I think Jackson, and one in Wisconsin, Ripon. But I believe that while they don't agree on the place they agree on the year. Of course, they don't agree on the exact date. Without undertaking to determine - perhaps it couldn't very well be determined just where the party first came into existence, I would of course look with approval on a suggestion to celebrate the anniversary of the party, especially the 75th anniversary.

I haven't had any report for some time from the Budget or the Treasury relative to the prospects of a surplus on the 30th of June, next. It is represented to me here that there is a deficit thus far of \$375,000,000. I imagine that that comes about by reason of our expenditures for the half year and for the reason that the income that is to be paid in on the 15th of March and the 15th of June has not yet been received. You see, there will be a very large income coming in on the 15th of June and the expenditures of that would only go on to the 15 days, so that it would be quite natural that at this time or at any time as you are approaching the season for a quarterly payment that you would have a deficit which would be wiped out when the quarterly payment comes in. I expect it will be possible, of course, to finish the year without any deficit, and I shall make every effort to leave the Treasury in such condition when I go out of office that that can be accomplished. I shall take into consideration that fact in approving appropriations to be made and bills

that call for additional payments of money during the present fiscal year. But it is true that the margin is very small and great care will have to be exercised in order to prevent a deficit at the end of this year, the 30th of next June.

I haven't reached any final conclusion about the membership of the Radio Commission. I knew that their terms expire the latter part of next month. There is only one member of the Commission, and that is Mr. Caldwell, who has indicated he wishes to retire. I assume that the others would be willing to remain on the Commission, especially because their active duties would cease and, as I understand it, they would only be called into session to determine some specific question.

And it is never possible to make much of a determination in advance of what the action of the Senate will be relative to the time of securing a vote on any question that is pending there. Oftentimes it looks as though there would be a long debate and it is determined within an hour. Sometimes it is apparent that a vote will be reached very soon and something comes up that makes the question drag along for weeks. But the Senate has a way of reaching a vote when it wants to and I have no doubt that that will be the result on the cruiser bill. It looked at one time, you will recall, as though there might be a very extended debate on the peace treaty, but all at once the Senate agreed and were able to take a vote on it. Very likely, the same result will occur in relation to the cruiser bill.

If any one wants to pursue the matter of the origin of the Republican Party, I think they might get some information from the Encyclopedia ~~Britanx~~

Americana.

I don't recall that I made any recommendation about radio legislation. in my Message, to go back to that, and so I am not pressing for legislation of that kind now. I do think, though, that it might be well to extend for another year the administrative functions of the Federal Radio Commission, but that is entirely an offhand opinion. It is not a question concerning which I have any more definite information than most of the members of the Conference.

It is very doubtful if I could go to Vincennes, Indiana, on the 25th of February to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville by General George Rogers Clarke. I have been interested in that celebration and recommended to the Congress an appropriation for it, which was adopted.

I haven't come to any final decision about the vacancy on the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, but the vacancy ought to be filled, and I am going to take it up with the Department of Justice to see if a final settlement of it can not be reached.

Friday, January 25, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I made my recommendation in my Message about the cruiser bill. If any one wants to see my views in relation to it in extended form they will find them there. I recommended that the time limit that was in the bill should be taken out. Of course, that is not because I don't want to build the cruisers and build them right away, but I don't think it is good law in relation to the budget. The experts can not see in advance just what our income is going to be and what commitments therefore ought to be made. I have considerable doubt whether Congress can. I say that with the feeling that if we had a plentiful supply of money I shouldn't object to having a good deal of money expended on cruisers right away. One reason for not undertaking to build them all at once, I mean all in one year, would be the question of replacements. It wouldn't be a good financial arrangement to have a large part of our cruiser fleet becoming obsolete at the same time. It would be better to have it maturing, if you want to state it that way, part of it at a time, in order that it may be more economically replaced.

So far as I know it is a very good idea of the Interstate Commerce Commission to direct Commissioner Porter to prepare a plan for the unification of railroads. The law required that of the Commission ever since I have been President. I suppose they have done something about it, but they have also recommended nearly each year that that part of the law be repealed. One of the troubles with the Interstate Commerce Commission is to my mind the difficulty of getting any action out of it. The United States Government had a very sorry experience in that respect. There was pending before the board a case to fix the amount which would be paid for the transportation

of the United States mails. It took three years to determine it and when it was finally determined we were told that we owed the railroads \$45,000,000 for previous services. Of course, I have refused to recognize the validity of a decision of that kind and have refused to make payment. I suppose it will go to the Court of Claims to be decided whether the Commission has the right to make a retroactive finding. The question wouldn't have arisen if there had been a decision made within what seems to me is a reasonable time. While I think on the whole we have a good Commission and they function very well, I think their position would be greatly strengthened and their services would be of much greater value if they could make a decision promptly and expeditiously.

Press man: We never had the valuation of railroads yet, have we?

President: Well, they never can have that. They might just as well hunt for a will-o-the-wisp. I think that is said to have cost about \$100,000,000, and of course it can never be completed because as soon as one phase of it is completed why it is necessary to go back and complete some other phase. I think the Commission has done as well as they could on that. Then as soon as it began to turn out that the proponents of valuation had been wrong, of course the proponents didn't press for it, and nobody else was greatly interested in it. Now, I suppose the Commission will say in answer to all these things that they couldn't make their decisions faster because they didn't have a larger force to spend more money. That is the standard reply of any department, If I ask them to buy paper or pins they always send back word that they have known for a long period of years they have been in need of paper and pins, but the budget has prevented their having them.

I haven't seen just what suggestion Senator Borah has made relative to an

international conference to codify maritime law, particularly the laws of sea water. I am of the offhand impression that that would be theoretically a fine thing to do. As a practical matter I wonder just what chance there would ever be to get any Senate to ratify a codification of any kind of laws. I think any one that knows our Senate knows that such a ratification would be impossible. The maritime laws relative to sea warfare, of course relate almost entirely to the rights of neutrals in time of war, and all the developments of the last war would seem to indicate that in future war neutrals are probably not going to be accorded much of any right. Whether anything could be done by international agreement to clarify that or not, I don't know. It is a matter that I have thought of some and talked over some with the State Department. There never has seemed to be any time that it was feasible to call a conference on it. We have some work progressing in the Pan American Conference for the codification of international law, and I think that is going on very well. But the difficulty about that will be in ever securing approval of it by the Senate.

I am appointing Brigadier General Charles H. Bridges to be The Adjutant General with the rank of Major General of course, and I am appointing Colonel Archibald Campbell to be the Assistant Adjutant General with the rank of Brigadier General.

A delegation came in, yesterday I think it was, to invite me to go to Vincennes. I don't see at the present time how it would be possible for me to go.

I am expecting to attend the George Washington University celebration on the 22nd of February, where I may make a short address, and where Mrs. Coolidge and I have been invited to attend. I think they are proposing to confer a degree upon Mrs. Coolidge and me, and we are intending to go.

Mr. Sanders: They are commencement exercises.

President: Yes, commencement exercises.

Tuesday, January 29, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Mr. Sanders has compiled a report showing that during 1928 I made about 20 addresses and Messages to the Congress. I think that is 2 more than 1927, isn't it, Mr. Sanders?

Mr. Sanders: About the same.

President: It is too many, but it indicates something of the pressure that the President is under constantly to make efforts of that kind.

Question: Do you mind giving us an indication of how many invitations you have refused?

President: I wouldn't have any idea about that. A very great many.

Another member of the Radio Commission, Sam Pickard, has resigned. He has an opportunity to go into private business in the radio field and having finished up the work comparatively, speaking of the Commission, he wanted to retire from the Government service to take up some private employment.

I have here quite a long series of questions relative to further disarmament conferences. The only action that our Government is taking at the present time in relation to that subject is to prepare certain persons to attend the Preparatory Conference that is to be held in April under the League of Nations at Geneva, so that in case the next administration desires to send some one there will be some one that is prepared to go. Of course, I don't happen to have any indication as to any plans of the next administration relative to any conference to consider the rights of neutrals in time of war. That is a subject that might well be studied and on which a conference very likely could make some desirable recommendations. As I indicated the other day,

the practical difficulty would be to get an agreement of that nature approved. I indicated in my Message to the Congress, and I have indicated in several public addresses, that any action that could possibly be foreseen by a future limitation of arms conference would not have any bearing on the question of the adoption of the present cruiser bill, for the reason that its adoption would leave us well within the tonnage that could possibly be adopted as a limit in a future conference. We have at the present time 10 cruisers - they are called 7500, as a matter of fact they are about 6600 - which gives us 66,000 tons. We are starting to build 8 more which are 10,000 ton cruisers. We have 22 old cruisers, all of them more than 20 years old, some of them in excess of 10,000 tons. Most of them I think are smaller. While it isn't necessary to put those all out of commission at the present time, there are many naval services for which they are perfectly adaptable, it is necessary to build to replace them in order to have ships that would be real fighting units. As fighting units, those old ships are outclassed by the newer construction and they need to be replaced. That is the reason that I have favored a building program at this time, so that while I favor a limitation of armaments I don't see that that question has any relation to our building program, because any limitation that would be put on would certainly be large enough to include this program, and from any information that we have now it would be large enough to include a considerable larger building program than we are proposing. I do not think, as I have already indicated, that it is helpful to have a time limit put in the bill. That ought to be taken out. And I think every one ought to understand that our Government is proposing to build these ships because it feels that it has need of the ships, and if the bill passes with the time limit out I should expect immediately to transmit to Congress a budget recommendation for immediately beginning building operations.

Nothing further has developed relative to the District of Columbia judgeship.

I asked Senator Phipps and Senator Waterman to come in and talk with me about the District Attorneyship in Colorado. I had a very agreeable conference with them. I think we shall soon reach an agreement in relation to it.

I am transmitting to the Senate the report of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Agriculture and the Interstate Commerce Commission in response to a resolution of last May requesting an investigation of the factors which are contributing to the diversion of commerce from the ports of the United States to Canadian ports, and practical remedies for preventing such diversion. I am also transmitting a separate report of the United States Shipping Board in response to the same resolution.

I was very much pleased with the business meeting of the Government we had last evening. I thought that perhaps on account of the hour and the fact that this was the end of my administration there might not be the interest in the budget meeting that has usually characterized those occasions. But I found when I came to attend the meeting that the hall was filled with people. I think all the seating capacity was exhausted and some of the standing room, and there was no lack of continued interest in the important subjects that are discussed at a meeting of that kind. I am always a little embarrassed in making my budget address, because it is necessarily a record of what has been done under my administration, and while I understand and especially tried to indicate last night that a great amount of the credit for it lies with the people that are in the Government service, it sometimes has the implication of undertaking to speak exclusively of my own accomplishments. When I came to sum up the results that we have secured under the budget, I was very much gratified with their favorable character. But it is necessary to stress, as I did somewhat last night, that we can not relinquish our efforts. There are a large number of bills

pending before Congress at the present time, that if passed and approved so that they became law would land us in a deficit, and it is of course necessary for the Congress to keep that in mind in making their decisions on pending measures. I should be glad to cooperate with them as effectively as I can to that end.

February 5, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Nothing special has developed in relation to the Judgeship of the District of Columbia, with the possible exception of the elimination of one or two names that have been suggested.

I don't know just what is contained in the present bill relative to vocational education which has passed the house. There was a bill there that was considerably more ambitious than what I felt such a bill ought to be, but I understood that this bill has been much reduced in its proportions and if that is true I presume I would have no serious objection to it. We are already doing a considerable amount in that direction - I feel about all that we ought to do. But if some small addition is proposed to be made, I presume I would not oppose it.

We have been making studies from time to time both in the War Dept. and the Navy Dept. to see if something could not be done relative to the promotion problem. No very good plan has ever been presented to me. There was a plan presented that provided for buying people off, virtually hiring them to resign I think, under which some men would get as much as \$16,000 or \$18,000. That didn't seem to be practical to me. If some method can be worked out, I should be glad to see it done. But I haven't seen any plan up to the present time that seemed to be feasible.

I don't know what will be done about the cruiser bill, of course. I am not in favor of the bill in its present form. I don't want to be understood as saying positively that I will veto it. I have to sign a good many bills that I think on the whole are more favorable than unfavorable, and I can't say what will be done about appropriations. I think that some confusion has arisen in the mind of the Senate in

thinking that a proposal to take out the time limit is a proposal not to begin building. That wasn't my position at all. I am in favor of passing a bill with the time limit out and in favor of making an appropriation on such a bill. I don't say what I am in favor of doing with the time limit in, but with the time limit out I am in favor of starting construction work at once. That could have been done some time ago. The bill could have been passed any time up there in two hours, if they had been willing to take the time limit out, in my opinion.

Question: Could you say how many ships there would be in the first year's program?

President: That, I haven't decided on. I should like to begin the construction of a very substantial number, and if the time limit had been taken out the bill would have been passed, I think, long ago and appropriations would now be under way. Whether under the present method of appropriations there will ever be a bill or any appropriations, I wouldn't want to venture to prophesy.

I haven't given any attention to the resumption of football games between the Army and Navy and Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. There wouldn't be an opportunity for anything to be done about that during my administration. I have expected that sooner or later the Army and Navy would resume their games, but it is so much a matter for voluntary action on the part of the student bodies concerned that I have never felt like ordering anybody to play football or suggesting that they ought not to play, if they wanted to play in a reasonable kind of a way.

Of course, I have no judgment that is better than that of any one else as to the effect of the continued increase of expenditures by local governments on the prosperity of the country. I indicated in my last budget meeting address that I

thought it constituted a real danger. Nor could I hazard any guess as to whether the danger will be averted. It can be, but whether it will be or not, I don't know. The trouble with those things is that they go on and nobody does anything about them until they have done a great deal of injury. When it is too late to avert the injury the only thing that can be done is to make drastic reductions that will afford a future remedy. The postal receipts for the month of January showed something over 3 per cent increase over January of a year ago.

I haven't any additional information concerning the question of reparations. That, of course, will be for the interested parties to decide. Our interest is very small compared with that of other countries. Mr. Young and Mr. Morgan, of course, do not represent our Government. They are called in as experts to assist the other experts. I should prefer that some of the governments interested furnish the chairman, but that is not for our Government to say. It is for the experts from each country themselves to decide and it is for the experts to determine, of course, what questions they want to discuss. If they desire to discuss the European debts that are due to this country, I don't know of any way that we could prevent it. Our Government, would not, however, feel that any such discussion was binding on it in any way. I suppose the main question for them to decide is how much Germany can pay. I don't see that that has any relation to the amount of money that some other government may be owing us.

I had a very pleasant trip to Florida, as you know. One of those incidents occurred that sometimes occurs when the President makes an address. I think I referred in my address to nightingales. Some newspaper writer wishing to set me right about that said that there were no nightingales in Florida. I suppose there are no native

fightingales there, but my suggestion was correct, and Mr. Bok has imported a large number and they are located about the tower, so that I suppose, as I said, that their song will mingle with the music of the bells.

I had another curious incident of a newspaper setting me right, when I made an address at Williams College. At the time they brought back and reposed in the new chapel there all that was mortal of Colonel Ephraim Williams the founder of the college. He had been killed in the French and Indian War over in the edge of New York and of course in that conflict he fought under the British Flag, and the college authorities thought therefore it would be appropriate on that occasion to display a copy of the British Flag as it was when he fought under it. It hung there over the remains. In the course of my remarks I referred to the fact that he lay there under the flag under which he had fought. Some newspaper called me to account for that and said that of course I ought to know the Stars and Stripes had not been adopted at that time.

Friday, February 8, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't changed my attitude toward the cruiser bill. It is the same as that which I have already disclosed to the conference.

I have been a constant advocate of the sale of the U. S. Shipping Board ships. I don't mean by that that I have sufficient information so that I would want to express any final opinion as to the adequacy of the bid that has been received for the ships of the North Atlantic usually referred to, I think, as the United States Lines, but I was very much impressed with the fact that some people had offered to take them with substantially no payment and another concern has offered a very substantial sum, which gave me the impression that the substantial sum was probably fairly adequate.

I don't think the United States is qualified any way to go into the shipping business. It certainly can't pursue any business of any kind or description with any success, if any time it proposes to take any action it results in an investigation by one house or the other of the Congress. If the business of the United States Shipping Board is going to be transacted, it will have to be transacted by those who are responsible for it, rather than through investigations of those who have no responsibility in relation to it.

I haven't any time set at present for going to Northampton or any certainty about going there. The health of Mrs. Coolidge's mother is such that we may be called there at any time.

I don't recall any particular discussion that was had at the breakfast that I gave at the White House this morning. A breakfast of that kind, of course,

is a private matter, so much so that I think a news reporter ought to take with a great deal of hesitation the report of any one so lacking in discretion that he would undertake to make any statement about what took place. The only thing that I recall is a discussion I had with Dr. Pierce, my pastor, who told me of the success he was meeting with moving pictures that he is having at the church, that it was bringing in quite a large number of people that it was very desirable to reach, and that he was meeting with very pleasing success in preaching.

I do not contemplate any trips to foreign countries after the 4th of March. I think I have been invited to go to different foreign countries. I don't know just which ones. I think several South American countries with whose representatives and citizens I have happened to come in contact have expressed to me a desire to have me visit their countries.

Now that I am thinking of that, I recall especially the delegation that was in the other day from the Argentine, a delegation of 15 or 20 people, and the man who had charge of presenting them to me expressed a very ardent desire that I should visit that country, and hoped I might come in the immediate future. But I have no plans for anything of that kind. I always tell people that I have so many places still to go to in the United States that I don't know when those will be so much exhausted that I will arrive at a time when I can visit other countries.

There isn't any further development about the District Court judgeship.

I think I have already said that I thought we had gone as far as we ought at this time relative to the retirement of Federal employees.

The George Washington University is to have Mrs. Coolidge and me at their Com-

3.

mencement on the 22nd. I think I stated at a previous conference that they had offered to give me a degree and also offered to give Mrs. Coolidge a degree, which both of us are pleased to accept.

Question: Will you deliver an address?

President: Yes, I am preparing a short address, which is as near as I can get to something that is appropriate for Washington's birthday and for delivery before an educational body.

Tuesday, February 12, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't made any final decision about the cruiser bill. I have been having the Bureau of the Budget investigate the amount of money that it would be necessary to appropriate under it and they think that the immediate appropriation would be about \$45,000,000 to \$50,000,000 to put it into operation for the fiscal year that ends June 30, 1929 and the coming fiscal year that ends June 30, 1930. For this present fiscal year the amount would be very small. The main appropriation would be required for the next fiscal year.

I had hoped, as I think I have already indicated, that it would be possible for the experts conference on reparations now sitting in Paris to agree on some member other than a citizen of the United States for their Chairman. It did not seem possible for them to do that, so that of course I indicated to Mr. Young that he and Mr. Morgan were to use their discretion about Mr. Young accepting the chairmanship. I understand he has done so. That seemed to be necessary. It wouldn't be of any value just to permit citizens of the United States to go over there to help unless their help is to be of such a nature as would be effective. While I would have preferred to have another person than a citizen of the United States Chairman, it seemed to be best under the circumstances for Mr. Young to serve.

I haven't any information relative to the agreement that has been reached between the Vatican and the Italian Government, other than what I have seen in the headlines of the press. I don't understand that it is a matter that requires any action of any kind on the part of our Government.

I expect to leave Washington on the afternoon of the 4th of March and shall be headed for Northampton. I don't know whether we can leave early enough to reach Northampton that night. As I have explained before, the very critical condition of Mrs. Woodhull makes it necessary for Mrs. Coolidge to go to her bedside.

I am having rather more trouble in getting out of the White House than I had in getting in. There is a very large accumulation of things that a President acquires while he is in the White House. Most of them are of no intrinsic value, other than the fact that they have been associated with the residence of the President in the White House for some considerable time. It makes me desire to keep them. The packing of them up is a good deal of an operation. I think we have already reached something like over 150 boxes.

You know Mrs. Coolidge and I are very much interested in the Clarke School. She was there for two years before she was married. I am one of the trustees and we have been assisting in an effort to raise an endowment fund of \$2,000,000 for it, to which liberal subscriptions have already been made, and I think we shall be successful in reaching that amount. It occurs to me that the conference can help a little on that if it is disposed to in this way. I have recently had a bookplate made which goes into such books as I have, and there are quite a number of people that collect bookplates. I have arranged with the people that make the bookplate that they will furnish one of them to any one who wants to make a contribution of \$5.00 to the Clarke School, and such persons as have been approached on that subject, those that have written in for a bookplate, have been very generous in their response and have indicated a great satisfaction in securing a bookplate in that way.

Question: Do you know the amount that is still remaining to be raised?

President: No. We have over \$1,500,000. I think the amount has now reached between \$1,500,000 and \$1,600,000.

Nothing further has developed relative to the District Court, District of Columbia.

I think that I shall be ready to decide the matter of the cruiser bill within a day or two.

I haven't seen the Capper resolution relative to giving the President authority to put an embargo on the sale of arms. Such comment as I have seen on it indicates that it may go somewhat farther than I would think it was wise to go. The President already has power to embargo arms and ammunition against the western hemisphere when there are domestic disturbances within any of the nations, and against any other country where we have extra-territorial jurisdiction. We have that in China, for instance, and formerly had it in Turkey, but I think that has been eliminated. I think that something of that nature might be helpful. It would be extended, of course, to include cases where there was not only a domestic disturbance, but where there was international conflict. There has been a bill in the Congress by which it was proposed to enact a law absolutely prohibiting in the future any export of arms and ammunition to any country or countries that were at war. There are some objections to that. The smaller nations that do not make arms and munitions would feel that that would be a handicap on them. If they were at war with some other country, they couldn't secure arms and munitions, and the country that manufactured arms and munitions could secure them. I would look with sympathy on a proposal of that kind as far as the principle is

4.

involved, but I should want to have the details of it carefully investigated before making any specific commitments in relation to it.

Friday, February 15, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Within two or three weeks I conferred with some of the Senators relative to railroad consolidation legislation. They thought at that time it might be possible to secure the passage of a bill at this session. I do not think that later developments have been very encouraging, but such legislation is not impossible.

I have a telegram from Mayor Nichols of Boston urging construction of one of the new cruisers at the Navy Yard at Boston. I think every time there is any naval construction work to be done that each of the navy yards in the United States sends word to the Department and the President, and oftentimes their delegation waits on the Department, and urges that the work be done in their yard. All that I can say to any of those is that we will try and have the work done where it seems to be most advantageous to the country and the Navy, and also do anything we can to assist any locality. Navy yards, you know, really ought to be for the benefit of the Navy and the country. Yet, they are generally considered to be for the benefit of the locality in which they are located.

I had a call from Representative McLeod this morning. He has been very much interested in Congressional reapportionment. He is a very enterprising Representative and I hope the press will give him all the credit and all the publicity that it can.

I haven't had a report yet on the matter of making the Samoa Islands part of the United States territory. There have been suggestions of that nature from time to time, but I should want to have a very careful investigation made to see just what is involved in the proposal before making a final decision on it.

I am having some investigations made relative to the immigration quotas under the national origins measure. The investigations that were made a year ago were not very satisfactory and for that reason the provisions of the law ought to be carefully considered. I doubt if I shall have sufficient information before me on which to act before the 4th of March, but the information will be available in season for my successor to take such action as he may wish.

Studies are also being made relative to international aviation. In 1919 I think at Paris, and I am of the impression as a part of the treaty of Versailles, some international regulations were agreed to. Some have thought that it would be well just to adopt treaty provisions like those included in the Versailles treaty. I had thought that such action would probably be wise and have ^{been} advised by the Department of Commerce that they feel that further studies should be made of that question before final decision, so that I should answer this question relative to flights over the Panama Zone as requiring further study before final decision is made about it. At the present time it has been our policy ^{not} to permit flights of foreign airplanes over the Canal Zone.

I understood from the conference that I had yesterday morning with several members of the Senate and the House, including Senator Hale, that they did not wish for any money to start building cruisers in the present fiscal year. It really makes little difference whether some cruisers are started in June of 1929 and some in June of 1930, or whether some are started in September of 1929 and September of 1930, I sent up an amount of appropriation under the budget which I understood was satisfactory to the Navy Dept. It was in accordance with one of the plans they had worked out and submitted to the Bureau of the Budget and would bring the naval construction program for this year up to about \$50,000,000, next year I think up to about \$90,000,000, and so on until the program is finished.

Tuesday, February 19, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I am having the Civil Service Commission put into form the recommendations that were made by the special committee of the Cabinet relative to veteran's preference, so that I think I may be able to issue an order relative to that within a few days.

I haven't made any arrangements about any occupation after I get out of the Presidential office. Quite a number of people have suggested different lines of employment that I might undertake. Several have talked with me about writing syndicated articles. I have told them all that I wasn't in a position to make any decision about it at the present time. That of course is a very fine field, but I have a good deal of hesitancy about binding myself to any regular production. It may be that when I leave office I might write an article once in a while about something that came under my observation while I was President about my experience in life, something of that nature, but I should hesitate very much to bind myself to producing an article at regular and specified times. I have been thinking a little more seriously, though, the last few days about what I might possibly do, but have arrived at no decision.

As Friday is a holiday, Washington's birthday, I am not expecting to have any Cabinet meeting, and, as I suppose the members of the press conference will be busily engaged in observing the day, perhaps attending different celebrations that may be taking place, which they would like to report, and as the departments will be closed, unless the conference very much wishes it I have thought we will dispense with having a press conference also on Friday at 4:00 o'clock.

I am sending up an estimate of \$2,400,000 for an additional appropriation for the use of the Treasury Dept. and its prohibition work. After talking with

some members of the House and Senate it seemed best to deal with the situation in this way. They wished to be consistent up there in relation to the position they had taken, but I was willing to waive my consistency down here. While I thought that we had sent up all the money that could be advantageously expended, if it would relieve the situation to send up a small additional appropriation for some things the Department thinks they could use the money for I have been willing to take the judgment of the Department and the judgment of the Bureau of the Budget and the judgment of the members of the House and Senate in making this estimate.

Mr. Sanders: Some of the members of the press have requested a group photograph and I think a week from today would be a good day, if it is nice, and I thought the press might want to know it now.

President: If you will make a due record of that in the news story and every one that attends the conference will have it in mind and come in a week from today, I will be able to join all of you in the south grounds for a picture that will make a permanent memento of the occasion. Our press conferences have always gone especially well, and I hope they will continue in good form until two weeks from today on my account, and indefinitely in the future on account of my successor.

Tuesday, February 26, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have not made any agreement to write any article after I get out of the office of President.

As the time draws near for me to relinquish my office, I am conscious of a feeling of regret at breaking up a great many very pleasant personal relations, but of relief at being through with the responsibilities of the office. I do not know that there is one achievement of my administration that affords me greater personal satisfaction than another.

I haven't any plan for any party for the White House staff. The members of the Cabinet and their wives are dining with Mrs. Coolidge and me Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Hoover, Senator Curtis and Mrs. Gann are dining with us Sunday evening. I expect there will be a Cabinet meeting Friday, as usual.

The Civil Service Commission are working on a draft for an executive order relative to the preference that shall be given in Civil Service appointments to World War veterans and their widows. I expect that will be ready some time this week.

I am expecting to leave immediately after the ceremonies at the Capitol. I assume there will be a luncheon at the White House between that time and the time that the parade starts, but that will be out of my hands and I have no definite information about it. There is a reviewing stand in front of the White House, and I notice a walk laid from the front of the White House to the reviewing stand, so I suppose that means that those who come down from the Capitol will first go to the White House, where I assume they will have something to eat.

I haven't made any further arrangements about what I may do after the 4th of March.

2.

We still have two or three dogs at the White House, but I wouldn't advertise that because there are not enough dogs to go around for people that want them. Whether Mrs. Coolidge is planning to take them home with her or not, I am not certain.

I expect that I shall leave Washington on the Montreal express that runs through between Washington and Northampton. I think after the conference there is to be a picture in the south grounds that will make another memento of the agreeable relationship I have had with the members of the Conference.

Friday, March 1, 1929.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Mr. Sanders advises me that the Encyclopaedia Americana is one of the concerns that has suggested they might furnish me with some employment. I understand it is a very reputable organization. I am trying to assist the press in furnishing information. I am always very glad to give any possible assistance to a legitimate business enterprise. I hope the press will give them a hand.

I do not contemplate anything in the nature of a farewell address. That was done quite well by the first President of the United States, and although it is possible that we know some things that General Washington didn't know, yet his Farewell Address is so good, it discharges the requirements of a farewell address so well, that I don't feel there is any necessity for preparing another one.

Perhaps one of the most important accomplishments of my administration has been minding my own business. I have a puppy in Kentucky that is being brought up, and I have sent King Cole to Kentucky to visit that dog. The white collie is already disposed of. The smaller dog, I think it is a Scotch Sheltie, will be taken by the man that cares for our dogs here at the White House. And Mrs. Coolidge insists on keeping the chow herself. I don't know that there are any details relative to my trip to Northampton. I am going up on the Montreal Express. I expect the car that I am on will be set off there and we shall not leave the car until 8:30 or so Tuesday morning. Dr. Coupal will go with us.

I don't think the Jones bill providing more heavy penalties for violating the Volstead act has reached me. I thought from some of the reports I had seen that perhaps the object of it was being a little misunderstood. I think the man that introduced the bill in the House came in to see me one time and told me that a great many of the violators of the law were foreigners; that, as the law then stood it wasn't possible to deport for violations of the Volstead law and therefore

he wanted to increase the maximum penalties. That doesn't increase the penalties though and I understand does not make it necessary for the court to inflict any greater penalties than might be inflicted now for violation of the law, but it would give the immigration authorities the power to deport any violators of the law, because under the new provisions the violation of the law becomes a felony instead of a misdemeanor as it is at the present time. I think that is all there is to it. I may be mistaken in my comprehension of it. The main object is to make the violators liable for such a penalty as makes it a felony, so that they can be deported.

I think the record of the 70th Congress has been very good. There are some parliamentary difficulties at the end of the session that always arise at the end of the short session. I think all of those problems of importance will be straightened out between now and noon on Monday.

I am going to take the bill which increases the amount of the retirement pay of those in the Civil Service, look it over when it comes to me, and while I don't think it is in harmony with the recommendations of my message I recognize that Congress had the message before it and if they wish to do something different then what the message recommended why of course they have that power. Their judgment on matters of that kind would of course have considerable influence with me in determining what I ought to do. But I shall have to look it over and see whether their reasons appear to be ~~sound~~ sound.

Nothing special took place at the Cabinet this morning. I took occasion to thank the members for the service they had rendered to the country and to me, expressed my regret at severing my relations with them, which have been so pleasant and agreeable, and I think a paraphrase of that kind would be about all I could say to the members of the conference. You have been, I think, quite successful in interpreting the administration to the country. I have known that I wasn't much of a success in undertaking newspaper work, so I have left the work of reporting the affairs of my ad-

3.

ministration to the experts of the press. Perhaps that is the reason that the reports have been more successful than they would have been if I had undertaken myself to direct them. It has been a pleasure to have you come in twice a week and give me an opportunity to answer such queries as you wished to propound. I want to thank you again for your constant kindness and consideration. I hope you will find the years to come as pleasant to you as I have the years that are gone by pleasant to me.