

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.