

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

April 3, 1917, 10:00 a. m.

William J. Harris, Chairman
Joseph E. Davies
William B. Colver
John F. Fort

A letter from Attorney General Gregory, bearing date of April 2, 1917, stating the attitude of his Department in reference to holding criminal proceedings against certain print-paper manufacturers in abeyance was submitted. Mr. Heney, who was in attendance, stated that such letter was called to his attention on the afternoon of April 3d, and in the absence of the Commission he thought it proper to send a personal reply, a copy of which reply was presented, and after discussion approved and ordered filed.

The matter of transmitting a formal reply on the part of the Commission to the above letter was then considered, and after discussion Messrs. Davies and Heney were directed to prepare a draft of a letter, setting forth the Commission's views regarding such matter for submission to the Commission. (See file 8235-86.)

A letter from the President of the United States, dated March 31, 1917, with which was enclosed a letter from Commissioner McChord, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, to Hon. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary, Department of the Interior, in reference to a shortage of bituminous coal, and inquiring with reference to the investigation into the bituminous coal industry by the Federal Trade Commission, was submitted, and after discussion the matter was referred to the Advisory Economic Board for consideration and report. (See file 8329-2.)

At 1:00 o'clock a recess was taken until 2:30 p. m.

William J. Harris, Chairman
William B. Colver
John F. Port

The Commission reconvened at 2:30 p. m.

Mr. Colver reported orally in regard to his conference with Mr. Frank A. Scott, of the Council of National Defense, and others interested in such matter, and also submitted a copy of the report of the Advisory Economic Board, which was furnished Mr. Scott, setting forth plans by which manufacturing plants, or their products, might be taken over in case of war, at a fair and reasonable price; and also submitted a copy of a letter transmitting such report to Mr. Scott. Approved.

Mr. Colver further reported that the Secretary of the Navy was inter-

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ested in the matter, and a copy of such report, together with his letter to Mr. Scott, was ordered transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy.

(See file 8508-586)

On motion, the letter from the President of the United States, bearing date of March 31, 1917, in reference to the bituminous coal situation, was referred to Mr. Fort for a personal conference with the President, if necessary, and with directions to report to the Commission preliminary to the preparation of a formal reply to such letter by the Commission.

(File 8329-2.)

Thereupon, at the hour of 6 p.m. the Commission adjourned to meet Wednesday, April 4, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.



Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.

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Mr. Davies presented a draft of a letter directed to the Attorney General of the United States, in reply to a letter from him bearing date of April 2, 1917, relating to the matter of the position of the Depart-

