

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 3, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

William J. Harris, Chairman
Joseph E. Davies
William B. Colver

Mr. Davies filed a written report based on information received from Mr. Frank Dunham, concerning the concerted effort of certain lumber dealers to compel him to pay a high price for lumber, etc.

On motion, the report was referred to the Docket Division, to be filed, and assigned as an application for a complaint.

On motion, it was unanimously agreed to arrange for an engagement with the Secretary of the Navy, for the purpose of discussing the Commission's recommendation in reference to opening for development certain Government lands now held in reserve.

The resolution of the Senate, directing the Commission to report why it had not issued a complaint against certain news-print paper manufacturers, was presented, and on motion the consideration of a reply to such resolution was made a special order of business for July 5, 1917.

Messrs. Davies and Colver reported that they had called at the Department of Justice pursuant to an appointment with the Attorney General, and conferred with Mr. Todd, Assistant to the Attorney General, in the matter of the application for a complaint against certain news-print paper manufacturers; that inquiry was made as to whether or no a proceeding by the Federal Trade Commission at this time would embarrass the Department of Justice in the prosecution of the news-print manufacturers now under indictment; that Mr. Todd felt that he should consult the special counsel in charge of the case, and the Commissioners agreed to supply a memorandum, which Mr. Todd was to forward to the special counsel.

Mr. Colver reported that on _____ the members of the Commission visited Secretary Baker and called his attention to the form of a resolution which had been passed the day before by a convention of coal operators, offered under the direction, or at least with the consent, of Chairman Peabody of the Coal Committee of the Council of National Defense. Mr. Baker was communicated with as the Chairman of the Council of National Defense, and was told that the Commission knew nothing of the resolution, which proposed that prices be fixed by the coal operators; that it had agreed to no such procedure, and that it would agree to no such thing.

Mr. Fort, acting as representative of the Commission,

called the matter to the attention of the Attorney General, with the result that the Attorney General directed a letter to the coal operators stating his objections to their price-fixing activities.

On motion of Mr. Davies, Mr. Colver was directed to go to New York with Dr. Walker, to meet with representatives of the United States Steel Corporation.

The invitation of Secretary Redfield, dated June 29, 1917, for a representative of this Commission to attend the Departmental cost conference to be held at 10 a.m., July 5th, was presented, and on motion the Secretary was directed to attend such conference.

Thereupon, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Thursday, July 5, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

July 4, 1917. No meeting held.

July 5, 1917.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 5, 1917, 11:30 a. m.

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

(Mr. Colver in New York City on official business.)

Mr. Fort reported that in the absence of the other Commissioners he had sent a letter to the President transmitting copy of report by Dr. Walker in reference to the exportations of cotton to Germany and her allies. Mr. Fort at the same time presented a reply to his letter from the President bearing date of July 2d. The action in transmitting the report was approved. The reply of the President was received and ordered filed. (File 8885-1.)

On motion of Mr. Fort, the following resolution directing the issuance of a complaint of the Commission vs. The Curtis Publishing Company was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Federal Trade Commission has reason to believe that the above-named respondent has violated, and is violating, the provisions of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act and of Section 3 of the Clayton Act; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission issue and serve upon said respondent its complaint, stating its charges in that respect in substantially the form hereunto annexed; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That notice be given to said respondent, as required by law, that the charges of said complaint will be heard by the Commission at its

office in the Commerce Building, in the City of Washington, D. C., on the 23d day of August, A. D. 1917, at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, or as soon thereafter as the same may be reached.

The request of the National Binding Machine Co. for six months' time in which to adjust its business in accordance with the orders of the Commission was recommended by Mr. Fort, and on motion such recommendation was adopted.

Mr. Davies reported that Mr. Colver and himself had conferred with Mr. Todd, Assistant to the Attorney General, regarding matters in connection with the News Print Paper report, and the Reed resolution adopted by the United States Senate (Senate Resolution No. 95); and also in re the application of The Rowe Calk Co. for issuance of a complaint against The Lamson Co. (File 1-225.)

The matter of calling before the Commission the retail coal dealers of the District of Columbia was called up by Mr. Davies, and on motion same was made the special order of business for tomorrow morning.

Messrs. Robertson and Haney were called into the room and reported with reference to the present status of the several investigations directed by the President.

The matter of the reply to the Senate Resolution, asking why the Commission had not issued complaints against


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certain news-print paper manufacturers, which was to have been the special order of business for today (July 5th), was laid on the table until July 6th.

Thereupon, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Friday, July 6, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 6, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Colver and Dr. Walker reported in regard to their conference in New York City with Mr. James J. Farrell, President, United States Steel Corporation, and with Mr. A. C. Dinkey, Vice President, Midvale Steel & Ordnance Company, in

Philadelphia, relative to the Commission's investigation into iron and steel. (See stenographic report, File 8910.)

The Secretary reported that he had endeavored to secure an engagement for the Commission with Secretary Daniels regarding the Commission's suggestions concerning the supply of fuel oil, etc., but had been unsuccessful.

The matter of the reply to Senate Resolution No. 95 was discussed at length.

At 2 o'clock p.m. a recess was taken until 3:30 o'clock p.m.

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

The Commission reassembled at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

The Commission considered a draft of a memorandum to be transmitted to the Attorney General of the United States asking whether or not the filing of a complaint on the part of the Commission against certain news-print paper manufacturers would embarrass the Department of Justice in the prosecution of the criminal proceedings now pending in New York against such parties.


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The reply to the Reed resolution was called up and discussed at length, with the understanding that consideration of such matter would be continued at the meeting to be held at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, at the hour of 4:30 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Saturday, July 7, 1917, at 10:00 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 7, 1917, 10:00 a. m.

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

The draft of the memorandum to be sent to the Attorney General in re the application of Mr. Frank P. Walsh for the issuance of a complaint against certain news-print paper manufacturers was further considered.

The reply to Senate Resolution No. 95 was further con-

sidered by the Commission.

Thereupon, at the hour of 1:15 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Monday, July 9, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.



Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.

July 8, 1917. Sunday.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 9, 1917, 10:30 a.m.

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

The draft of the Commission's reply to Senate Resolution No. 95, relating to the news-print paper situation, was further considered and approved, and ordered sent to the President of the Senate.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 12:30 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Tuesday, July 10, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

July 10, 1917. (See page 593.)

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 11, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

The work of the Commission, especially that part directed by the President, was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that every effort be made to expedite such work.

Messrs. M. Q. Macdonald and Charles S. Moore appeared before the Commission and reported orally in reference to the progress of the preliminary investigation into the alleged practice of certain paint and varnish manufacturers

making payments to employees of concerns purchasing such goods.

After consideration it was agreed that such investigation should proceed, and that any evidence tending to show this practice employed in other industries should be fully developed.

Thereupon, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Thursday, July 12, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 10, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

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On motion of Mr. Davies, duly seconded and carried, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Advisory Economic Board, was directed to prepare a statement of the number of men employed in the special cost accounting work directed by the President; and also, the number of men necessary to complete the work so directed expeditiously; and further, to apportion the \$100,000 heretofore allotted to the Commission by the President out of the National Security and Defense Fund to each phase of the work so undertaken.

ORDERED, That the designation of Mr. Walter B. Wooden as Special Agent be changed to that of Examiner.

ORDERED, That the designation of Mr. Charles S. Moore be changed from Special Agent to that of Attorney-Examiner.

The report of Walter Y. Durand, Special Agent, concerning the present status of the anthracite coal investigation, and making suggestions for the future conduct thereof, was presented by the Secretary, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed that, if necessary to carry out the recommendations therein, Mr. Durand be reassigned to the bituminous coal investigation. (File 8755-6)

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Davies, was adopted:

RESOLVED, That a statement be prepared setting forth the facts and evidence alleged to obtain in

the files of the Commission with reference to alleged favorable discrimination given to Mr. Peabody, of the coal committee of the Council of National Defense, by the railroad coal companies, and that the same be considered by the Commission; and that if warranted in the judgment of the Commission the same be sent to the President for his information.

The matter of finding the production costs of certain materials, as directed by the President, and the assignment of particular matters to individual Commissioners, was considered, and the following assignments agreed upon:

Coal	to	Messrs. Fort and Colver.
Zinc)	"
Copper		
Lead		
Fuel oil)	"
Gasoline		
Lumber		
Cement		
Aluminum	"	Mr. Fort.
Steel	"	Mr. Davies.
Wire rope	"	Mr. Davies.

It was agreed that the several phases of the food investigation be assigned to individual Commissioners, in the following order:

Meat Packing, assigned to Mr. Davies.

Flour, assigned to Mr. Colver.

Canning and miscellaneous matters, assigned to Mr. Harris.

Cold Storage, assigned to Mr. Fort.

And further, that the Advisory Economic Board, through the Secretary, assign members of the staff to the several

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phases of such investigation, and to other investigations.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Fort, was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Federal Trade Commission has not appointed a Chief Counsel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That pending the appointment of a Chief Counsel, Assistant Counsel John Walsh act as, and perform the duties of, Chief Counsel of the Federal Trade Commission.

ORDERED, That the salary of Walter Y. Durand, Special Examiner, be increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500 per annum, the same to take effect July 1, 1917.

ORDERED, That Richard J. Clark, Clerk Class 2, be transferred from Clerk at \$1,400 to Examiner at a salary of \$1,800 per annum, the same to take effect July 1, 1917.

Thereupon, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Wednesday, July 11, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

July 11, 1917. (See page 592.)

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MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION


July 12, 1917, 11:00 a. m.

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

The Commission met, and after discussing the work of the Commission adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to attend a conference with Secretary Lane, of the Department of the Interior, in reference to certain phases of the coal situation.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

July 13, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

The minutes of meetings of July 11th and 12th were read and approved.
