

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.

