

## MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 1, 1917, 10:00 a. m.

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

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The Commission resumed its conference with the delegates appointed by the Governors of the various States on the food situation. (See stenographic file No. 1 8517-96.)

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At 11:15 a. m. a recess was taken until 11:30 a. m.

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Joseph E. Davies  
William B. Colver  
John F. Fort

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A number of persons, representing various branches of the anthracite coal industry, appeared before the Commission and gave expression

May 1, 1917.  
May 2, 1917.

to their views in reference to the anthracite coal situation. (Steno-  
graphic file No

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

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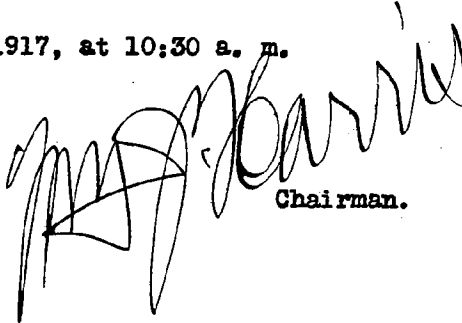
Joseph E. Davies  
William B. Colver  
John F. Fort

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The Commission reassembled at 2:30 p. m. and resumed its conference  
with persons representing various branches of the anthracite coal industry.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 5:15 p. m., the Commission adjourned  
to meet Wednesday, May 2, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.



Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 2, 1917, 10:00 a. m.

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Joseph E. Davies  
William B. Colver  
John F. Fort

(Mr. Harris conducting bituminous coal hearings  
in Chicago.) (See file 8508-597-2.)

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A number of representatives of various lines of the anthracite  
industry appeared before the Commission and discussed the anthracite

coal situation from their point of view. (See file No.

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At 12:40 p. m. a recess was taken until 2:30 p. m.

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Joseph E. Davies  
William B. Colver  
John F. Fort

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The Commission reassembled at 2:30 p. m.

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The Secretary presented a resolution adopted by the Senate of the United States April 30th, directing an investigation relative to the anthracite coal industry, and after discussion the following order was adopted:

ORDERED, That the plan of the investigation into the anthracite coal industry, now being conducted by the Commission under the Hitchcock resolution, be altered, if necessary, so as to include an investigation of conditions as directed by the resolution of April 30th; and that a report, in response to both of said resolutions, be prepared and submitted to the Senate at the earliest possible date.

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Mr. Davies presented file 1-246, application of The Coca-Cola Co. for the issuance of a complaint against Kelly Manufacturing Co.

Report of the Joint Board of Review approved, and ruling, dismissing application, adopted.

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

WHEREAS, Conditions disclosed in the Anthracite coal investigation point to the possibility of panic prices and attendant hardships for the year 1917; and

WHEREAS, Conditions in the cold, winter months are dependent upon immediate action in the present;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That under the direction of the Advisory Economic Board Special Examiner Durand be directed to prepare for

May 2, 1917.

the Commission material to be used as a public statement, particularly to admonish the public against producing panic conditions by hysteria in buying; and, second, that Special Examiner Durand do furnish the Commission a list of representative producers among the railroad companies and the so-called independents, representative wholesalers, jobbers and retailers, which list may be available for the forming of a committee who shall be requested to consider the present conditions that exist appertaining to the production, distribution and sale of coal, and make recommendations to the Commission as to the possible remedial action which can now be projected of either a private or public character or both, which suggestions the Commission is not bound to accept but may have to consider.

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Mr. Colver made an oral report of a conference with Mr. E. W. Phelps, Vice President of the American Can Co., in regard to the can situation. The stenographic report of the conference, file 8517-98 was referred to, and made a part of, Commissioner Colver's report.

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The Secretary presented a telegram from the Chamber of Commerce, of Lynn, Massachusetts, in reference to the closing of certain shoe factories pending the adjustment of certain labor disputes. After discussion a copy of the telegram was ordered referred to the Department of Labor. (File 8840.)

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The Secretary submitted a letter and resolution from a committee of conferees appointed by the Governors who appeared before the Commission on April 30th and May 1st, in connection with the food investigation.

After consideration the letter and resolution were ordered received, and placed on file. (See file 8823-1.)

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On motion of Mr. Fort, it was unanimously voted that interim reports, in connection with the bituminous coal and anthracite coal investigations, be prepared and sent to Congress at the earliest possible moment.

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LJPWG

May 2, 1917.  
May 3, 1917.

511

Mr. Davies presented file 1-263, application of Buchanan-Daley Co. for the issuance of a complaint against United States Gypsum Co., American Cement Plaster Co., and Wasem Plaster Co.

Report and resolution of the Joint Board of Review, recommending dismissal of application, adopted.

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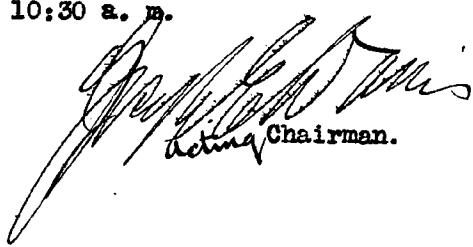
ORDERED, that the salary of J. O. Hoover be increased from \$1320 to \$1500 per annum, the same to be effective as of May 16, 1917.


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ORDERED, That the salary of W. J. Hoover be increased from \$1200 to \$1500 per annum, the same to be effective as of May 16, 1917; and also, that the said Hoover be placed on the permanent roll of employees.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 6:00 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Thursday, May 3, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

  
Acting Chairman.

Attest:   
Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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

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

(Mr. Harris conducting bituminous coal hearings in Chicago.)  
(File 8508-597-2.)

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May 3, 1917.

The Commission held an informal conference with the following representatives of the anthracite coal operators:

Mr. W. J. Richards, President, Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Co.

Mr. J. D. Reynolds, Attorney for Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Co., and Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Co.

Mr. Samuel D. Warriner, President, Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co.

Mr. C. F. Huber, President, Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Co.

Mr. E. W. Parker, Anthracite Bureau of Information.

Messrs. Walker, Durand, and Smelser were in attendance at this conference.

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The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The Federal Trade Commission recognizes the urgent need of men by the Government for special services during the existing war, therefore be it

RESOLVED That in so far as not incompatible with existing law all employees of the Federal Trade Commission entering the military, naval or other special service of the Government expressly for the present war service shall be considered as on leave with pay from the Commission not exceeding thirty days in any calendar year; Be it further

RESOLVED That the resolution adopted by the Commission on March 26, 1915, be and the same is hereby suspended as to such employees with regard to their respective leaves with pay; Be it further

RESOLVED That so far as not incompatible with existing law all employees of the Federal Trade Commission entering the military, naval or other special service of the Government expressly for the present war service, in addition to leave with pay, shall, after the expiration of their respective periods of leave with pay be considered as on leave without pay from the Commission without loss of status during the continuance of such service.

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ORDERED, That Thomas H. Claffey, an employee of this Commission, be granted leave, without pay, to July 31, 1917.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 1:00 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Friday, May 4, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

Attest:

*S. H. Zacher*  
Secretary.

*Joseph E. Miller*  
Chairman.

May 4, 1917. No meeting held.  
May 5, 1917. No meeting held.  
May 6, 1917. Sunday.

## MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 7, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

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A letter dated May 7th, replying to a communication from Mr. P. T. Dodge, President of the International Paper Company, bearing date of May 4th, was approved, and ordered mailed. (8813-1-28.)

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It was ordered that file 1-312, application of Edwin M. Freeland for the issuance of a complaint against Thomas A. Edison, Inc., be transferred to Chairman Harris.

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A letter from Mr. Isidor Jacobs, of San Francisco, California, dated March 27, 1917, to Mr. Francis J. Heney, was presented and referred to the Docket Division.

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The findings and order of the Federal Trade Commission disposing of the case of the Commission v. the A. B. Dick Company of New Jersey et al., were further considered, and after discussion were referred to Mr. Colver for revision, and report.

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

May 7, 1917.

RESOLVED: That in connection with the anthracite coal inquiry, a Commissioner be appointed to confer with the Committee on Transportation of the National Council of Defense, with a view to coordinating our information with their action in the facilitating of moving coal for the relief of the present situation.

The Chairman named Mr. Fort, as a committee of one, to carry out the intent of the above resolution.

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

RESOLVED: That the retail coal dealers of Washington, D. C., be called in to confer with the Commission with reference to retail coal prices and conditions in the District of Columbia.

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

WHEREAS, conditions with reference to the manufacture and sale of newsprint paper on the Pacific Coast are different in many aspects from that which has been the subject of inquiry thus far, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous complaints of unfair practices with reference thereto in the Western and Pacific Coast States,

BE IT RESOLVED, that for this purpose Francis J. Heney be and is hereby appointed as an examiner of the Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Special Attorney and Examiner Francis J. Heney be directed to undertake an investigation of this situation, and be authorized to do those things necessary thereto, and to report to the Commission as soon as he may be able.

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The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted to and conferred upon the Federal Trade Commission by the Act of Congress approved September 26, 1914, (38 Stat., 717), and particularly by paragraphs "a" and "c" of section 6 of said Act, the Commission has power:

to gather and compile information concerning, and to investigate from time to time the organization, business, conduct, practices, and management of any corporation engaged in commerce;

and

whenever a final decree has been entered against any defendant cor-

May 7, 1917.

poration in any suit brought by the United States to prevent and restrain any violation of the antitrust Acts, to make investigation, upon its own initiative, of the manner in which the decree has been or is being carried out;

and

WHEREAS, by Senate Resolution No. 457, adopted September 28, 1914, the Commission was further empowered and directed to investigate:

the relation existing among the several branches or companies into which the Standard Oil Company was resolved at the time of its dissolution; the relation between the producing, purchasing, transporting, and refining agencies of the several branches or companies into which the Standard Oil Company was resolved, and the methods and practices of such agencies towards independent producers, transporters, and refiners of oil; and the control of the price of crude oil and its refined products;

Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Commission conduct an investigation of the matters referred to in said Senate Resolution No. 457, pursuant thereto; and into the organization, business, conduct, practices, and management of the Standard Oil Company and of the several branches or companies into which it was resolved at the time of its dissolution, and of the manner in which the decree of dissolution of said Standard Oil Company has been or is being carried out, pursuant to said paragraphs "a" and "c" of section 6 of said Act of September 26, 1914.

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At 12:30 p. m. a recess was taken until 3 p. m.

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

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

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The draft of a letter, in reply to a letter dated May 4, 1917, received from John Barton Payne, attorney for Alexander Smith, and others, in reply to the Commission's inquiry as to whether or not the news-print paper manufacturers intended to carry into effect the award of the Commission as to the price of news-print paper, was approved, and letter ordered mailed. (File 8359-1-1.)

May 7, 1917.

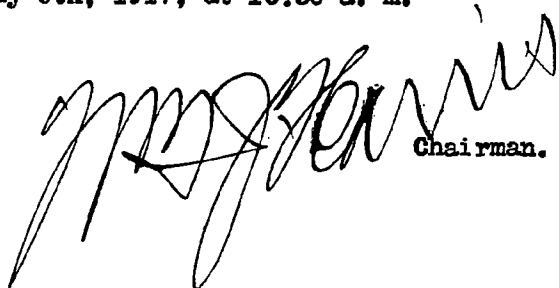
A letter, dated May 5, 1917, from Mr. E. H. Mason, President of the National Bank of Brunswick, Georgia, and addressed to Mr. Harris, alleging manipulations by Wilson & Company affecting the price of rice, was presented, and after discussion the Secretary was instructed to request an official of Wilson & Co. to appear before the Commission Thursday afternoon, May tenth, 1917.

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A letter dated May 3d, from the Belgo-Canadian Paper Co., in regard to car shortage, was presented, and same referred to Mr. Heney for attention. (File 8815-1.)

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Thereupon, at the hour of 6:30 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Tuesday, May 8th, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

  
Chairman.

Attest:

  
Secretary.

May 9, 1917. No meeting held.

## MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 10, 1917, 2:30 a. m.

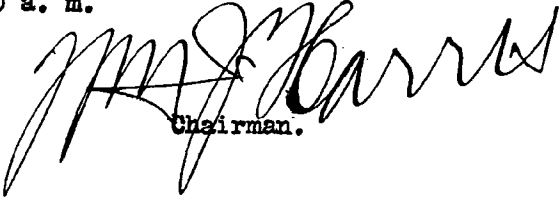
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William J. Harris, Chairman  
William B. Colver  
John F. Fort

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(Mr. Davies in New York on official business.)  
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Mr. V. D. Skipworth, Vice President of Wilson & Co., Chicago,  
appeared before the Commission in response to our telegraphic request,  
and presented facts in reference to the report that his company, and  
other meat packers, were dealing in rice. (See file No.

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Messrs. S. D. Warriner and E. W. Parker appeared before the Commis-  
sion and discussed.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 3:30 p. m., the Commission adjourned to  
meet Friday, May 11, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

  
Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.

## MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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

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

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(Mr. Davies in New York on official business.)

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Telegram from Dr. Haney, stating that the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey had declined to grant access to its books and records, and that it desired a conference before finally deciding whether the books and papers desired would be submitted for inspection, was presented, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed to instruct Dr. Haney to return to Washington for a conference with the Commission.

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At 11:00 o'clock a. m. the meeting of the Commission was adjourned.

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

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The Commission met at 11:15 a. m. with a number of independent coal operators, who discussed the anthracite coal situation from their point of view. (See file No. 8508-599.)

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At 1:30 p. m. a recess was taken until 2:30 p. m.

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

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The Commission reassembled at 2:30 p. m., and resumed their confer-

ence with the independent anthracite coal operators. (File 8508-599.)

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Thereupon, at the hour of 6:00 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Monday, May 14, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

(Mr. Davies in New York on official business.)

  
Chairman.

Attest:

  
Secretary.

May 12, 1917. No meeting held.

May 13, 1917. Sunday.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 14, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

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A letter from Hon. F. W. Taussig, Chairman of the Tariff Commission, dated May 3, 1917, addressed to Chairman Harris, in reference to the Commission's beet sugar report, was considered, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed to transmit to the Tariff Commission all of the Commission's data relating to the beet-sugar industry, including the tariff chapter, together with a statement that it is not the intention of the Commission to continue the investigation further in reference to tariff

May 14, 1917.

matters. (See file No. 8115-22.)

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A form of letter, transmitting the beet sugar report to Congress, was presented, and after some minor changes, approved.

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The following resolution, offered by Mr. Colver, in reference to an investigation of certain phases of the beet sugar industry, was adopted:

RESOLVED: That Dr. R. E. Jones, of Ft. Morgan, Colorado, be invited by wire to submit a complete statement of the facts in the matter of the present situation of the beet sugar industry, especially as to whether unfair practices are now in operation.

(See file No. 1-370.)

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Mr. Heney was present at the meeting and presented a letter, bearing date of May 12, 1917, from Mr. F. T. Dodge, President of the International Paper Company, in reference to carrying into effect the award of the Commission in regard to the price to be charged for newsprint paper.

After some discussion the matter of preparing a reply to such letter was referred to Mr. Heney.

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At 12:45 p. m. a recess was taken until 2:00 p. m.

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

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The Commission reassembled at 2:00 p. m.

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Mr. W. M. Ritter, of Washington, D. C., together with Judge Boyle, of Kansas City, and a number of representatives of the Hardwood Manufacturers' Association of the United States, appeared before the Commis-

May 14, 1917.  
May 15, 1917.

sion, and presented certain facts with reference to the hardwood lumber industry. (See file No. 8517-105.)

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The findings and order in the complaint of the Federal Trade Commission v. A. B. Dick Co. of New Jersey, et al., was reported back by Commissioner Colver, and considered by the Commission and members of the legal staff.<sup>3</sup>

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Thereupon, at the hour of 6 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Tuesday, May 15, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.

  
Chairman.

Attest:

  
Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

May 15, 1917, 10:30 a. m.

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

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The matter of granting a hearing to officials of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, before insisting upon an inspection of the books and papers of that company, at its offices, in connection with the general oil investigation, was called up, and upon motion it was

MAY 15, 1917.

agreed that on account of the conditions growing out of the war, and the fact that certain officials of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey are engaged in matters connected with the national defense, that a hearing be granted to said company before proceeding with such inspection of its books and papers, and that the date for such hearing be arranged by the Secretary for May 24th, 1917.

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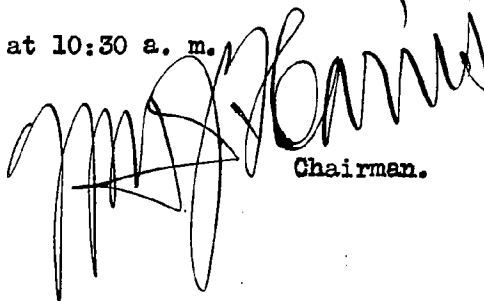
Upon motion of Mr. Davies, the regular order of business was suspended, and General Ayleshire appeared before the Commission as a representative of the Council of National Defense, and asked that someone from the Commission be detailed to serve as a member of a committee to act in connection with the Committee on Munitions, of the National Council of Defense, in disposing of numerous requests for information, and other matters, now accumulating in the offices of the Council of National Defense. After discussion the Secretary was directed to assign Mr. Carlos C. Houghton, a representative of the Commission, to act upon such committee.

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The matter of the organization of the Commission was called up, and after discussion was referred to Messrs. Harris and Colver as a committee.

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Thereupon, at the hour of 1:00 p. m., the Commission adjourned to meet Wednesday, May 16, 1917, at 10:30 a. m.



Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.