

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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

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

(Mr. Fort absent on account of illness.)

Mr. Victor Murdock, having been duly nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and having taken the oath of office on September 4, 1917, as a member of the Federal Trade Commission for a term of office ending September 25, 1918, was present and met with the Commission.

The minutes of the meetings of August 27th and August 30th, respectively, were read and approved.

The work of the Commission with reference to the administration of the coal industry, in connection with Dr. Harry A. Garfield, Coal Administrator, was taken up, and after discussion it was agreed to arrange for a conference with Dr. Garfield for the purpose of advising him of the Commission's ideas regarding certain features of the coal situation, and also to ascertain the nature of the work that would be required of the Commission in connection with the coal administration.

Mr. Davies reported that the President had called him

by telephone and asked when certain data concerning the price of steel products would be prepared, and that he had advised the President that such data would be submitted at an early date; that the President suggested that he communicate and confer with the War Industries Board in reference to costs of certain steel products essential to the conduct of the war.

Mr. Davies further reported that misstatements had been found in the data submitted by certain steel companies; that in his opinion such misstatements indicated guilty intent, and he thereupon asked for authority of the Commission to investigate further and, if the facts justified, submit the matter to the Department of Justice with a recommendation that the offenders be vigorously prosecuted. Such authority was duly granted.

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

William J. Harris, Chairman
Joseph E. Davies
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The Commission reassembled at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Harry A. Garfield and Mr. Nims met with the Commission and discussed at length the coal situation and the proposed plan for the administration of the coal business under the provisions of the Lever law.

September 8, 1917.

Thereupon, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Saturday, September 8, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

September 8, 1917, 4:00 p.m.

William J. Harris, Chairman
Joseph E. Davies
Victor Murdock

The Commission considered a draft of the preliminary report to the President covering the cost of production of certain steel products essential to the conduct of the war, which after discussion was approved. Mr. Davies reported that the President had requested that a copy of the report be delivered to the War Industries Board for consideration. It was unanimously agreed that such copy would be delivered to Mr. Robert S. Lovett of that Board, in the absence of Chairman Scott.

Mr. Davies presented report setting forth the understanding reached between the Commission and Dr. Harry A.

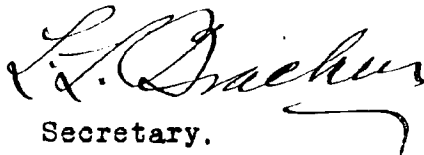
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Garfield, Fuel Administrator, growing out of the conference on yesterday afternoon, covering the work to be done by the Commission in connection with the Fuel Administrator.
(See file Coal Mem 5 Dav 5)

Thereupon, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., the Commission adjourned to meet Tuesday, September 11, 1917, at 10:30 a.m.


Chairman.

Attest:


Secretary.

MEETING OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

September 11, 1917, 3:30 p. m.

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

The minutes of the meetings of September 7th and 8th, respectively, were read and approved.

The activities of the Commission in connection with work of Dr. Harry A. Garfield, Coal Administrator, were discussed; also the future work of the Commission in continuing its