

DIARY

BOOK 124

MAY 9 - 15, 1938

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China	
Chiang Kai-shek, H.K., Taylor and Goodhead confer - 4/12/38.....	360
a) Fifty million ounces of silver to be bought: ten million every two weeks, none later	
Cont. Good	
H.K. confers Distinguished Flying Cross on Lieutenant Carl Olson - 5/12/38.....	335
Controller of Currency	
Kohyohshi memorandum stating that White House has asked for nomination papers (no name given) - 5/11/38..	356
a) H.K. tells 9:10 group about visit to White House in this connection - 5/12/38.....	307
b) H.K. does not think Charles West suitable	
1) H.K. confers with Nakagawa, Spies, and Higgs - 5/12/38.....	307
2) H.K. tells Gower of his statement at press conference - 5/12/38.....	337
J.F.T. O'Connor's lecture of aviation to H.K. for stand - 5/12/38.....	364
- E -	
Economic T. A. - s.l.a.	412-413
Endley, Marlow S.	
See Business Conditions	
- F -	
Potential Housing Administration	
Reunited - 5/9/38.....	51,126
Planning, Government	
H.K.'s statement before Senate Finance Committee on limit placed on amount of bonds outstanding - 5/10/38.....	87
France	
See Stabilization	
- G -	
Germany	
See Helium	
* Stabilization: France	
Gold	
See also Great Britain	
White memorandum on estimated amount of gold to be added to United States stock during 1938 - 5/13/38.....	450
Great Britain	
See also Trade Agreements	
Gold reserve being built up in Canada "for use in case of need" - 5/12/38.....	336

GROUP MEETING
May 13, 1938.
9:55 a.m.
Present: Mr. Magill
Mr. Bell
Mr. Gaston
Mr. Gibbons
Mr. Sims
Mr. White
Mr. Echeverolds
Mr. Upham
Mr. Lombard
Miss Chauncey
Miss Longtin
Mr. Kelly
S.M.Jr: George, this thing of the United States Steel gives me an idea on inventories. Why don't we ask the 28 companies that are giving us figures to give up their inventory position, say, as of - once a month from now on, going back - if they'll go back a year. Deal?
Sass: Some of them may not be able to do it, because they don't keep a perpetual inventory. But some of the big ones do.
S.M.Jr: I think that will be very helpful.
Sass: Very good.
S.M.Jr: Steve, I sent over these appointments for the court, and it comes back - said I never took it up with the President.
Now, what's the financial picture on this
Oh, before that we'll take care of you (Magill), because you want to go.
Magill: I haven't anything particular. I'll hold up the box till in Congress for the benefit of the American Smelting and Refining Company. I imagine the American Smelting and Refining is going to get away with it, but I don't know.
(Lombard comes in)
S.M.Jr: I'll talk to you about that.
I've just got this thing - I wanted you to just sit in on this part, Miss Longtin. Here are some figures from Mr. Gill in which he says the number of cases on roller in Cleveland are 27,000; Toledo,

-15-

Here's the confidential information: "...and a minimum of \$70,000 a week is needed." He's got the whole thing.

Gaston: Yes, yes.

Lomigan: Mr. Secretary, may I suggest to you the possible advantage of having a representative of Social Security at your conference?

H.W.Jr.: I don't think the President would stand for it. I don't think that he'd stand for it, Miss Lomigan. I don't want to get excited, but Social Security and the Hopkins organization sit here and do nothing.

Lomigan: Social Security can't, but they have the facts.

H.W.Jr.: But they don't talk. They should be vocal.

Lomigan: Well, I agree with that.

H.W.Jr.: I mean how can a person have anything to do with an organization called "social" and sit here and see people - and see people starve?

Lomigan: They couldn't spend a dollar.

H.W.Jr.: But they could be vocal. I mean there's such a thing as bringing it to somebody's attention, and it hurt - it just turns my stomach to hear Henry Wallace want a hundred million dollars to have the people grow less wheat and then - and with people not getting enough to eat. Now, there's just something cock-eyed, crooked, about this administration. I mean it just goes against all decency and human understanding that they should be trying to find ways and means to grow less.

Gibbons: Yes.

H.W.Jr.: And there's people going hungry in America, all over America. Now, there's just something - the combination of Wallace and Hopkins refusing to do any direct relief - just something uncanny about it.

Reas: And draw the money from a mass consumers' tax, which is

S.W.Jr: And I'm not going to keep quiet.

(On White House phone) Oh, hello. - Oh, thanks. Hello, Jimmy (Helms Conelike). How are you? This letter that Mrs. Roosevelt wrote me about trying to get the report on Amelia Earhart. Now, I've been given a verbal report. If we're going to release this, it's just going to smear the whole reputation of Amelia Earhart, and by Yes, but I mean if we give it to this one man we've got to make it public. We can't let one man see it. And if we ever release the report of the Itasca on Amelia Earhart, my reputation that's got is gone, because - and I'd like to - I'd really like to return this to you.

(Continuing) Now, I know what Navy did, I know what the Itasca did, and I know how Amelia Earhart absolutely disgraced all orders, and if we ever release this thing, goodbye Amelia Earhart's reputation. Now, really - because if we give the access to one, we have to give it to all. And my advice is that - and if the President ever hears that somebody questioned that the Navy hadn't made the proper search, after what those boys went through - I think they searched, as I remember it, 50,000 square miles, and every one of those planes was out, and the boys just burnt themselves out physically and every other way searching for her, and if - I mean I think he'd get terribly angry if somebody - because they just want the list, and so did the Coast Guard. And we have the report of all those wireless messages and everything else, and that woman - happened to her the last few minutes. I hope I've just got to never make it public, I mean. - O.K. - Well, still if she wants it, I'll tell her - I seen what happened. It isn't a very nice story. Well, yes. There isn't anything additional to something like that. You think up a good one. - Thank you. (Conversation ends)

(To Chumney) Just send it back.

Chumney: Sure.

S.W.Jr: I mean we tried - people want us to search again.

those islands, after what we have gone through.
You (Gibbons) know the story, don't you?

Gibbons: We have evidence that the thing is all over, sure.
Terrible. It would be awful to make it public.

R.W.Jr: Well, the only thing that got out of this - I want you
(Lomigan) to check up with Social Security. Arnold,
give this (photostat of the figures) to her and let
her check, and id, you check the legislation, will
you please?

Foley: Yes. Here's an unsigned memorandum.

R.W.Jr: Excuse me?

Foley: There is what Dan said about the law.

R.W.Jr: And you two can be excused, please - Miss Lomigan
and Mr. Foley.

Lomigan: Mr. Secretary, there is one factor you might want.
Yesterday Mr. Hill called it to you - the average
weekly payment for direct relief was \$72 a week,
and I checked on what I.R.A. was paying in 1939,
and they had full control of general relief and they
paid \$7.12 a week. That's the discrepancy.

R.W.Jr: Is that a family or person?

Lomigan: Everything is the family.

Wheat: That's a United States average.

Lomigan: No, I think it's the city of Cleveland.

R.W.Jr: Well, it's four and a half now.

Lomigan: They mean the maximum you'd need for full progress.

R.W.Jr: I know. I mean - well, as I recall, it was around
\$28 a month.

Lomigan: A dollar a day.

R.W.Jr: Those figures are all drilled in my brain. I never
forget them. I don't know what his object was.
(Lomigan and Foley leave)

Now, where are we on this? What are you leaving me?

Bell: I'll leave you all this material if you want to.

H.W.Jr: Would you?

Bell: That's the relief money available. That's the relief that if we want to make an allocation - that's the one that I've recommended. See, that was the schedule and the regulations. This one is wide open. Harry can use it any place for direct relief and draw his own regulations, and so forth.

That's the Section 32 money - the explanation that I gave you on the side.

H.W.Jr: Herbert, anything?

Gaston: You asked me about this man Hook who was shot down there in the Virginia counties. He's in the hospital at Lynchburg. He was wounded in the neck and the leg, and his condition is not critical. They believe that it was genuinely a case of mistaken identity on the part of the sheriff's office. But it is one of those counties where they don't make a practice of letting the sheriff's office know when they make raids; so the mistake happened.

Tom Stoker sent me a copy of that - Scripps-Moore's story. It doesn't add anything new to what we already have on the situation.

H.W.Jr: Thanks.

Bell: I told Mr. Mac that he ought to give me a statement that this man was killed because he didn't have enough money.

Gaston: I still have that transcript on that hearing, if you have any chance to look at it.

H.W.Jr: Right after this.

Bell: They're very much concerned about that. Set of threatened last night to have it printed without correction.