

May 16, 1946

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. O'Connell

From: Mr. Luskford

Re: House Witnesses on the British Loan

While our schedule of witnesses in the House is pretty sadly confused as the result of the time that has been consumed by the Secretary's testimony before the Committee, there are one or two things which I think ought to be emphasized:

- 1) Randolph Burgess and W. L. Hemmingway (as head of the ABA Committee on the British Loan) have both agreed to testify as a team on Friday, May 24th. If we expect them to testify, it is essential that we reserve this date firmly for these witnesses.

Randolph Burgess, who is leaving for Europe the first part of the following week, advises me that it will be impossible to take a later time. Hemmingway will be in New York on the 23rd and is most anxious to appear with Burgess on the 24th. Incidentally, both of them are most anxious to testify wholeheartedly for the Loan.

- 2) Howard Meyers of the CED advises me that Ralph Flanders is the right man to testify for the CED on the Loan. Meyers has spoken to Flanders about a date and Flanders has advised that the only practicable date available to him in view of his present commitments is Wednesday, May 29th.

Accordingly, I have tentatively committed May 29th for Flanders. In this connection I should mention that Meyers told me that Flanders was not particularly anxious to testify before the House in view of his Senate testimony. If we find it necessary to speed up our schedule, we may be able to drop Flanders and ask Meyers to have Flanders' statement prepared so

that in any event we could have his statement inserted in the Record. But, if we do want him to testify, we will have to reserve Wednesday, May 29th.

- 3) Arrangements have been made with Charles Dewey and Russell Smith (in the absence of James Patton of the Farmers Union who is in Europe and will not be back in time). A tentative date of Tuesday, May 21st for Dewey and Wednesday, May 22d for Smith has been set.

It seems to me that both of these dates will now have to be modified in view of the slow schedule we are pursuing.

- 4) I have advised Dewey, Smith, Flanders, Burgess and Hemmingway that each of them will receive a letter from the Chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee inviting them to appear and testify, but not fixing a specific date. They understand that they will be advised informally regarding the specific date and the dates heretofore fixed are tentative.

Since you are working with Spence on the Committee, I would suggest that you arrange for him to extend letters of invitation at the earliest possible date to these people. Beyond that, it is extremely difficult to work out a schedule because of our inability to fix any dates at this time.

CC: John Ferguson, State

AFLuxford: gw 5/16/46