

● PSP: Subject File: ~~Drought Conference, 1936~~

Drought Conference 1936

Box 144

PST: Drought Conf.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

IMPORTANT -- URGENT.

Phil and Bob LaFollette telephoned from Madison, Wisconsin this morning urging that I approve a move which Phil would initiate and which would have for its purpose the calling of the Governors of some sixteen drouth affected states into a conference.

The purpose of the conference, according to Phil and Bob, is to dramatize the drouth situation and to explain relief administration by the Federal Government in the states affected: to have each Governor, in talks before the conference, describe the drouth situation in his state, giving a composite picture: to have representatives of the Federal Government present who could explain some of the difficulties they face in moving forward as quickly in 1936 as they did in 1934.

Phil said, and Bob agreed, that action now is imperative; that it will not wait until mid or late August; that people in the drouth states do not understand why drouth relief this year, 1936, is not what it was during the drouth of '34, two years ago. You know we had a specific drouth appropriation in '34. Phil and Bob also said that your acceptance speech was well received but people now are beginning to wonder why the Administration is moving so slowly.

Bob and Phil concurred also in the statement that the political picture is bad and getting worse, principally because of drouth conditions. They point out that Kansas is among the sixteen states they have in mind for the conference and the calling of such a conference would put the Governor of that state in a position where he would be compelled to take a definite stand on relief. Phil suggested they might find out why he refuses to expend the two million dollar relief fund he has in the Kansas State Treasury.

Phil wanted an immediate expression of approval from me on the calling of this conference. I refused to give it.

If such a conference is to be called it would cause the press to focus attention on it, probably to print scarehead stories for the duration of the conference, to frighten the people.

When the Governors in conference agreed upon a relief program, I would want to present it to you immediately and to get your answer. Doubtless, you could not possibly meet their demands.

The Governor and the Senator agreed finally to wait until Thursday before making a move but each demanded that I tell you immediately of their plan.

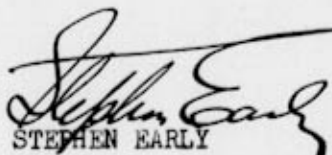
They pointed out that they might call the conference in New York next week, to bring all of the Governors or an executive committee representing all, to Hyde Park to discuss the drought situation with you and in this way permit you to control the publicity.

On the whole, I don't like it.

I have talked to Aubrey Williams. He agrees with me, the conference should not be called by Phil LaFollette. He feels, if a conference is to be called, that you should call it and by calling it should take the leadership. Morris Cooke, as Chairman of the Great Plains Drought Committee, approves of the LaFollette plan.

Rex Tugwell has just returned to Washington today. He has been in the drought area. He has talked with the LaFollettes, even about this plan. He refused to give them an opinion on the plan and tells me today that he doubts that such a conference should be called unless you can see some good in it. He and Aubrey Williams believe that they have the situation generally under control and can take care of it until January, meeting all immediate demands. He said LaFollette wanted two million dollars. He gave him two hundred and fifty thousand, which he said was adequate to meet his needs.

For my guidance, will you please let me have some word regarding the calling of this conference by Phil LaFollette. I should like to hear from you by Thursday of this week. I do not think I can delay the LaFollettes much longer.


STEPHEN EARLY

PSF: Drought Conf.



ALF M. LONDON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TOPEKA

September 2, 1936

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States

My dear Mr. President:

I welcome this opportunity to present to you a water conservation and drought relief program for Kansas. Such a program is of outstanding importance to my State. Inadequate supplies of water and the consequences of drought are tragic for those affected.

The State of Kansas, as well as the government of the United States, has been aware of these problems for many years and much excellent work already has been done. Any constructive program should continue the work that is underway and add to it in ways that will result in a well-rounded, long-time program to alleviate the effects of drought.

As you may recall, we corresponded concerning this matter in June 1934. A copy of my letter to you under date of June 2, 1934, is attached. (See Exhibit A.) I have little to add to the statement concerning water conservation as given in that letter.

The following is a brief statement of the program that is proposed. Much of this program to alleviate the conditions resulting from drought in Kansas is now underway.

The program is of two parts. Part one contains suggestions that should be taken to provide immediate relief to drought-stricken farmers and stockmen. Part two suggests action over a longer time but of a more permanent nature.

Suggestions for Immediate Action

The following are suggested steps that should be taken to provide immediate relief:

1. The establishment, during the emergency, of reduced freight rates on the movement of cattle, grains, and feeds including hay, forage crops, and concentrates.

To be effective, these rates must apply for joint-line as well as single-line movements. This is necessary, not only as a contribution to immediate relief, but to help prevent the sacrificing and depletion of foundation herds. Immediate and concerted action on these rates is needed.

In Kansas substantial reductions have been secured but there still is urgent need of the following reductions in freight rates:

- a. Reduced rates on grain and concentrates.
- b. Removal of the present limitation so that all drought rates will apply on joint-line as well as single-line movements.

These needs are emphasized in a telegram to all western railroads on August 31, 1936, a copy of which is attached. (See Exhibit B.) At two previous hearings, requests similar to those contained in this telegram were rejected.

Following conferences initiated by the Governor of Kansas and the Kansas Corporation Commission during the past month with railroad officials, representatives of livestock and farming interests and others, reduced rates were made effective sometime ago on round-trip movements of cattle to pasture or feeding points, on return movements of Texas cattle to available pastures in the Southwest, and on hay, forage feeds and many related items. Efforts are being continued to secure reduced rates on grains and concentrates and to have all reduced rates on cattle and feeds apply to joint-line as well as to single-line movements. These proposed extensions are being further considered by western railroads, and a meeting for that purpose is to be held in Chicago on Friday of this week. The railroads have generally shown a fine and helpful spirit of cooperation. Some of them have shown not only a better

understanding than others of the critical situation, but, in my judgment, a more far-sighted policy in their own interest. Preserving livestock herds helps to preserve the owners as future shippers for the railroads.

2. Under the present program of work, relief projects should be approved for:

- a. Well, pond, and spring development for water storage to supply livestock needs and for other farm purposes. Pond construction should be continued under the engineering standards for construction and inspection now in effect in Kansas under a law passed in 1929 which assures relatively permanent ponds. Long experience in Kansas has proved that wells located below farm ponds are more lasting sources of water supply than wells not so situated.
- b. Elevating, grading, and surfacing farm-to-market roads. This is a continuation of work started in 1933 by the Kansas Highway Commission in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Public Roads and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration subsequent to correspondence between the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads and my office. A memorandum concerning this is attached. (See Exhibit C.)
- c. Contour listing of lands for water and wind erosion control where such land is a menace to surrounding property.
- d. Other constructions of economic value in which farmers may be employed and which are of distinct permanent value to a community and which are vested with public interest.

3. Federal purchase of livestock should be provided if such action is necessary to prevent disastrous prices of lower grade animals.

4. The United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and the Extension Service of Kansas State College, could be of valuable service in surveying the sources of feed supplies and serving as a clearing house for information concerning the availability and location of such feed.

5. Commodity credit loans should be made to farmers to conserve supplies of feed and seed in communities where such supplies will be needed.

Suggestions for a Longer Time
Program

Intelligent planning for the use of agricultural resources so that the detrimental effects of droughts will be reduced must be based upon the essential facts concerning the region in question. The following are facts concerning the agricultural resources of Kansas which must be taken into account in any plans for the use of these resources in ways that will reduce the detrimental effects of droughts.

1. The problem of adjusting land use in Kansas is primarily one of internal reorganization of existing farms. Most of the land of Kansas is in farms and probably will remain in farms so that each farm becomes a part of the problem of adjusting the uses of land in the State.

2. No major shifts in land use involving large areas within the State are needed.

3. There are limited areas within the State which probably should be retired from agricultural production. One such area is in extreme southwestern Kansas. The total area of such land does not exceed 1 to 2 percent of the land area of the State.

4. There are areas of native grass which have been seriously damaged by the droughts of recent years.

Measures should be adopted which will aid nature in restoring the native vegetation on such lands and prevent them from becoming a menace to adjoining lands.

5. No major shifts in the populations of the various sections of the State are needed or expected within the near future. The resources of the State are adapted to the present agricultural and industrial uses and do not lend themselves to major shifts in their use.

6. The conservation of water resources is a vital problem in the future welfare of the State and its ability to withstand the ravages of droughts such as those of recent years. The conservation of water resources for agricultural uses consists of retaining in the soil the moisture which falls on it and then using this moisture in the production of crops. In parts of the State there is need for the impounding of surface runoff for livestock use. The following are desirable measures to aid in the conservation of the water resources of the State so that they may be used most efficiently in agricultural production.

- a. Increased use of the practice of summer fallowing on the heavier types of soils in the western part of the State for the purpose of conserving soil moisture. Cooperative investigations conducted by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture have demonstrated conclusively the relationship between water stored in the soil in central and western Kansas and the yield of wheat. This information has been brought to the attention of the farmers through the Extension Service and is resulting in more dependable wheat production in this territory.
- b. More general use of equipment which will aid in absorbing and retaining rainfall in the soil.
- c. The use of farm management practices which will aid in conserving soil moisture.

. Continuation of the water conservation program underway in Kansas for the last two years and which was outlined in a conference held in the office of the Governor of Kansas on June 16, 1934. This conference recommended the following specific construction projects:

Farm Ponds	50,000
Lakes	200
Storage Reservoirs . . .	20
Overflow Dams	100
Garden Ponds	One
on every farm where conditions are suitable.	

A report of this conference is attached to this letter. (See Exhibit D.) It is noteworthy that material progress has been made in placing this program into effect. The following is a summary of the progress made.

Garden ponds completed to July 1, 1935	721
Garden ponds for which surveys have been made . .	946
Public wells dug to July 1, 1935	649
Farm ponds with dams ten feet or more in height completed to date, approximately	2,000
Smaller ponds completed to date, approximately	1,500
State lakes completed	27
County lakes completed	15
Municipal reservoirs completed	35

This program still is underway. The 20 storage reservoirs proposed in the program are for the purpose of regulating stream flow and for flood control. None has been constructed but plans have been prepared for a number of them.

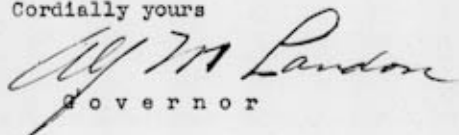
Attention is called to our efforts in Kansas to secure permission from the United States Bureau of Public Roads to use highway fills as combination fills and dams. Attention also is called to the statement to the National Rivers and Harbors Conference of May 2-3, 1935. (See Exhibit E.)

The following are some of the specific things which should be done at the earliest possible time to get such a program underway: .

1. Aggressive action in carrying out the recommendations embodied in the first part of this report and which deal with measures to alleviate the immediate emergency. Many of these temporary measures should be the beginning of the longer time program to alleviate the effects of droughts.
2. Continuation on an aggressive basis of the program planning work inaugurated with local groups of farmers by the Kansas Extension Service a number of years ago and more widely carried out in 1935-36. In this work farmers are considering the best information available from the Agricultural Experiment Station and other agencies. In consideration of this information, these farmers are planning the adjustments needed on the farms of their communities to adjust them to existing conditions.
3. There is urgent need for more adequate information concerning the underground water resources of the State. These resources are exhaustible and should be conserved. It is probable that water conservancy districts should be established and those in charge of such districts should have the power to regulate the use of underground water resources. The extent to which such underground water resources can be used advantageously for irrigation and other purposes probably is distinctly limited. It is a well-known fact that use of the underground water resources lowers the water table and all practicable measures must be taken to restore the supplies of sub-surface water. These must take into account the surface effects on sub-surface water levels. Until more adequate information is available, it is possible only to hazard a guess on the extent to which such resources may be used to alleviate conditions in the limited areas where they exist.

The Kansas State Planning Board has prepared a report dealing with the drought situation and water conservation in Kansas. A copy of this report is attached. (See Exhibit F.)

Cordially yours


Governor

*Mac
What you need
a speaker in
about 7.
DR.*



STATE OF IOWA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
DES MOINES

CLYDE L. HERRING
GOVERNOR

*file
confidential
BF
Drought Conf.*

September 8, 1936

Mr. Marvin McIntyre
Secretary to the President
c/o The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

I am herewith enclosing file which apparently is the file which Governor Landon and the Kansas delegation brought with them to Iowa to be presented to the President, and which in some manner was left upon my desk.

I am sending it on that your files may be complete.

Yours very truly,

Clyde L. Herring

H:R
Enc.

EXHIBIT "A"

June 2, 1934

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, a number of bills have been introduced in Congress for the creation of commissions to make studies or take charge of work in the principal river valleys and watersheds of the country. I believe that such proposals in respect to the Kansas rivers are of the greatest importance to the people of Kansas.

I am not offering an opinion as to the merits or demerits of any particular bill which has been introduced. Naturally, whatever plan is adopted must be in accord with the general principles applicable to the circumstances of all river valleys in the entire country.

The first need for the watersheds of the Kansas and Arkansas is a complete program of water conservation and flood control. Such a program, of course, would include plans for the control of soil erosion, plans for the encouragement of the building of small ponds by private property owners, plans for relatively small impounding reservoirs on creeks, plans for larger reservoirs on larger tributaries, plans for a few very large lakes which serve the purpose of recreational areas and water storage against low water stages in the river; plans for levees and stream improvement in the lower reaches of the rivers, and related studies of land use in the affected area.

Such a program can not be developed except for the watershed as a whole. That part of the Arkansas watershed in Kansas must be considered with the areas lying in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Since the Kansas or Kaw watershed lies almost entirely within the state, a similar complication does not arise, but since the Kaw and its tributaries are of influence on the Missouri and Mississippi, there is the need of administrative machinery through which the state and federal governments may cooperate.

I urge you to exert your influence and authority to provide means through which state and federal agencies may work together in the completion of detailed engineering surveys of every small tributary. For the larger streams the field data already have been taken by engineers of the War Department. Our Division of Water Supply and our Forestry, Fish and Game Commission have made surveys of hundreds of small projects. The first need is for resources with which to fill the survey gaps, to complete the picture as a whole. Within the limits of our appropriations, I wish to pledge to you the full cooperation of state agencies to this end.

The Kansas Planning Board, which I appointed at your suggestion, but which is without state appropriation since there has been no meeting of the legislature since its appointment, is doing what it can in the development of a water program, yet because of its limited staff it can do nothing more than correlate information now available. As an alternative to the creation of a new river valley authority, this Planning Board, with the similar boards of other states, might be given consideration as a possible agency for the accomplishment of these purposes.

I suggest the Planning Board for this immediate purpose merely because it has an established relationship with both federal and state governments and is so constituted that it would give equal attention to local and national factors entering into a comprehensive plan. Since the Planning Board is indirectly, if not directly, a creation of the Public Works Administration, funds might be made available to it with no delay except that incident to administrative order. No new legislation would be required.

Our need is that of water conservation more than that of flood control. The two needs can and must be coordinated.

It follows that when the field data have been gathered and mapped, the development of a comprehensive program should proceed from joint action by state and federal authorities. Any legislation, or any administrative order which leads to immediate and effective steps in this direction will create permanent benefits beyond any present concept. The people of our state have come to a realization of this. Your effort now in meeting the need will be most timely and of great help to present and future generations.

Most Respectfully yours,

G O V E R N O R.

Exhibit B

TOPEKA, AUGUST 31, 1936

TO ATTACHED LIST:

FREIGHT RATE REDUCTIONS ALREADY MADE ON CATTLE AND FEED ON ACCOUNT OF DROUTH VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BUT I EARNESTLY RENEW REQUESTS MADE IN NUMEROUS CONFERENCES HERE AND AT CHICAGO DURING PAST MONTH AND STRONGLY EMPHASIZE AGAIN THE POSITION EXPRESSED IN REPEATED WIRES AND LETTERS BY CHAIRMAN HOCH OF THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION STOP DROUTH RELIEF COMMITTEES ALL PARTS OF STATE REPORT REDUCED RATES ANNOUNCED ARE IN MANY CASES OF LITTLE OR NO VALUE BECAUSE LIMITATION TO MOVEMENT OVER ONE RAILROAD STOP EMERGENCY MOVEMENTS OFTEN REQUIRE USE OF MORE THAN ONE RAILROAD STOP HERETOFORE REDUCED RATES APPLIED JOINT LINE AS WELL AS SINGLE LINE IN HARMONY WITH EVERYDAY TRAFFIC PRACTICE AND WE CAN SEE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRESENT LIMITATION STOP SUCH LIMITATION PRODUCES RATE CONFUSION AND GROSS DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES AND WIPES OUT MUCH GOOD FEELING CREATED BY RAILROAD ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTIONS STOP AM ADVISED SOME RAILROADS HAVE OPPOSED FROM START THIS UNREASONABLE LIMITATION STOP IN MY JUDGMENT SUCH ROADS SHOW NOT ONLY SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF CRITICAL SITUATION BUT ALSO FAR-SIGHTED ATTITUDE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST STOP SAVING FOUNDATION HERDS MEANS SAVING FUTURE SHIPPERS FOR RAILROADS STOP THERE IS ALSO URGENT NEED FOR REDUCED RATES ON GRAIN AND CONCENTRATES STOP USE OF CONCENTRATES ONE OF MOST PRACTICAL MEANS FOR PREVENTING SACRIFICE AND DEPLETION OF HERDS STOP REDUCTION IN RATES WILL BE PASSED ON TO FEEDERS BY BINDING PROVISIONS IN CONTRACTS FOR PURCHASE STOP MAY I EARNESTLY URGE THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO INCLUDE GRAINS AND CONCENTRATES AND TO MAKE ALL DROUTH RATES APPLY BOTH SINGLE AND JOINT LINE MOVEMENT STOP PLEASE ADVISE BY WIRE POSITION YOUR RAILROAD ON THIS MATTER.

ALF M. LANDON

(LIST OF FREIGHT TRAFFIC OFFICIALS TO WHOM TELEGRAM SENT AUGUST 31, 1936)

F. B. Houghton, F.T.M., A.T. & S.F. Ry. Co., Chicago, Ill.
J. B. Payne, V.P., Texas & Pacific Ry. Co., Dallas, Tex.
J. R. Koontz, Chief Traffic Officer, St. L.-S.F. Ry. Co., St. Louis, Mo.
J. F. Garvin, V.P., M.K.T. R.R. Co., St. Louis, Mo.
J. A. Hulen, V.P., Ft. W. & D.C. Ry. Co., Fort Worth, Tex.
A. Mackenzie, F.T.M., C.R.I. & P. Ry. Co., Chicago, Ill.
F. W. Robinson, V.P., Un. Pac. R.R. Co., Omaha, Nebr.
H. H. Holcomb, V.P., C.B. & Q. R.R. Co., Chicago, Ill.
C. E. Perkins, C.T.O., Mo. Pac. R.R. Co., St. Louis, Mo.
W. W. Hale, G.F.T.M., So. Pac. Lines, Houston, Tex.
Horace Booth, G.T.M., Mo. Pac. R. R. Co., Houston, Tex.

Exhibit C

FARM TO MARKET ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN KANSAS

The drouth situation in 1933 in Kansas, along with sections of Oklahoma, Colorado, and Texas adjacent to Kansas, became so acute that it was deemed advisable by authorities to take steps to secure the best means of financial relief for farmers and others in these areas.

In response to various telegrams from the State of Kansas to Thomas H. MacDonald, Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, and others in Washington, D.C., the Federal Government, on October 13, 1933, allocated \$2,100,000 for improving primary and secondary roads in Kansas and specified that the money be expended through the Kansas Highway Department under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads, and, further, that the money be expended at least 70 percent for labor and 30 percent for materials, engineering services, and supervision.

Within three months the State Highway Commission had 59 of these road projects well under way, using men taken from the relief and civil works lists. These 59 road projects involved a total of 349 miles, but during the three months, the major part of the actual work was confined to approximately 126 miles.

As this program was expanded, \$1,513,849.57 was paid to labor directly employed on the projects, and \$620,601.15 was expended for materials, engineering

Exhibit C - 2

services, and supervision. In Kansas, 593 miles of grading and culverts and 428 miles of light type surfacing were constructed under this program.

These people employed in the work covered by this program in Kansas not only supported themselves, their families, and their livestock by their own efforts, but in doing so they made a definite contribution to the future welfare and improvement of their communities in the form of needed public highways which, in mileage and in quality, represent a value fully equal to the total outlay.

Exhibit D

Topeka, Kansas
June 16, 1934

At a conference held in the office of Governor Landon,
Topeka, June 15, 1934, at which the following were present:

Alf M. Landon, Governor
J. F. Stone of the Federal Relief Administration, Washington
John G. Stutz, Emergency Relief Administrator
H. Umberger, Dean of Extension Division, Kansas State College
G. R. Atherton }
Lee Larrabee } Members of the Forestry, Fish and
Lakin Meade } Game Commission
W. G. Strong, State Fish and Game Warden
Geo. S. Knapp, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources,
State Board of Agriculture
Murray A. Wilson, Engineer, Forestry, Fish and Game Commission
J. C. Mohler, Secretary of State Board of Agriculture
Cal Ward, State President of Farmers Union
Walter Innes, Chairman, State Planning Board
Sam Wilson, Secretary, State Planning Board
Louis Williams }
A. F. Turner } Extension Division, Kansas State College
Mrs. W. G. West, Kansas Livestock Commission

The possibilities of water storage in the state of Kansas were discussed at length along the following lines:

- a. Garden ponds or ponds to be filled from wells for lawn and garden irrigation.
- b. Farm ponds.
- c. Dams for the creation of lakes of from 100 to 400 acres in surface area.
- d. Storage reservoirs.
- e. Overflow or low-water dams on running streams.

A. Garden Ponds

In a large portion of the more arid sections of the state, the raising of gardens, trees, and lawns is impractical without the aid of irrigation. Over much of this territory sufficient water can be obtained from wells with windmills to supply this type of irrigation. One well and windmill will usually supply enough water for the proper irrigation of about one acre of land, if suitable storage is provided. The amount of storage required per well is approximately 1,000 barrels. This can be obtained by constructing an earthen pond 50 feet in diameter and three feet in depth. A suitable outlet pipe should be provided to allow water to be drawn from storage for irrigation.

B. Farm Ponds

Over a large portion of the state the topography is such that the construction of small earth dams will create ponds of from five to thirty acres in surface area. A large number of these ponds will be of real benefit to this state and to the Mississippi river system beyond the confines of the state, as they store water during storms, provide stock water, raise the ground water level, and tend to equalize the extremes of high and low stream flows to which the streams of Kansas are now subjected with great loss from floods and bad sanitary conditions on the streams during periods of deficient stream flow.

The number of such ponds which could be economically constructed in all parts of the state is estimated conservatively at 50,000. The average total cost of such dams may be estimated to be

\$1,500, of which 30 percent or \$450 would be necessary to pay for materials, equipment rental, and engineering and the balance for labor and team hire. If all labor and team hire are provided for, all other expenses should not exceed \$450 to \$500 per dam.

C. Lakes of 100- to 400-acre Surface Area

There are numerous sites in the state where larger dams could be constructed, creating lakes of from 100 to 400 acres in size. These lakes would be of value for water storage, stream flow regulation, fish culture, and public recreation. Past experience had demonstrated that such structures cost from \$500 to \$900 per acre of surface area or an average of about \$700. Of this amount 20 percent is for direct labor, 15 percent for materials, 10 percent for engineering, and 35 percent for equipment rental and supplies, and 20 percent for land and right of way.

At least 90 out of the 105 counties have one such site and many of them have three or four. It is safe to conclude that there are 200 such sites which could be developed. After completion these lakes and lands would be maintained by the state and administered as public recreational grounds for the benefit of the public.

D. Storage Reservoirs

On major streams of the state, there are numerous sites which could be developed as major storage and lake projects. From all the possibilities there could be designed a correlated system

of reservoirs on each stream. Such reservoirs might be expected to store from 100,000 to 1,000,000 acre feet of water and to cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 each. Of this amount 12 1/2 percent would go to direct labor, 15 percent for materials, 7 1/2 percent for engineering and supervision, 40 percent for equipment and machinery, and 25 percent for land and right of way. It is estimated that there are 20 such sites which could be developed to the ultimate benefit of the state and nation.

E. Overflow Dams

Overflow dams are practicable only on the smaller streams which flow nearly all the year round. Maintenance costs are high and the locations where such construction is practical are somewhat limited. Types will vary with the location, but based on an average height of 8 feet and a length of 150 feet, the cost is estimated at \$7,000 each, of which \$2,000 will go to direct labor, \$3,500 for material, \$500 for engineering, and \$1,000 for equipment rental. It is estimated that there are 100 sites where this type of construction might be advisable.

Summary

<u>Type</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Other costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Garden ponds			
50,000 farm ponds . .	52,500,000	22,500,000	75,000,000
200, 200-acre lakes .	12,600,000	29,400,000	42,000,000
20 storage reservoirs	5,000,000	35,000,000	40,000,000
100 overflow dams . .	<u>200,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>700,000</u>
	70,300,000	87,400,000	157,700,000

No cost item is included for the garden ponds because they are largely personal matters which, in the case of those already on the relief rolls, can be taken care of in the regular way through the Relief Administration. The labor on the farm ponds might be furnished in large part by the landowner and his neighbors, but in connection with the construction of such a vast number of dams it should be clearly borne in mind that in many instances farmers will be unable to spare sufficient time from their own farm operations to complete a dam of this kind. In addition to furnishing engineering, material and equipment hire, and supervision, it may be necessary in many instances to supply part of the labor, which possibly can be obtained from the relief rolls in the county. Supplying some labor can be justified since broadly speaking the public interest in the construction of such ponds is greater than the private interest of the owner.

Probably the most difficult phase of such a program will develop in getting the vast amount of work under way quickly and administering it efficiently. Kansas is fortunate in having a department already organized and functioning, accustomed to just this type of work. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission which has the power of eminent domain to secure lands and right of way can assume the administration of the proposed work with a minimum of lost time and wasted effort and carry the program to completion in the best possible manner. The state has effective laws governing the construction of dams, referred to under "B", which provide for a reduction in the assessed valuation of the land for the construction and maintenance

thereof. These laws are administered by the Division of Water Resources of the State Board of Agriculture. The two departments work harmoniously and would cooperate to assist in the larger program of conservation. It is contemplated that the Forestry, Fish, and Game Commission will be reorganized as the State Conservation Commission and will operate the state-owned area as game preserves, fishing lakes, and public recreational centers.

The benefits of a comprehensive program of water conservation are unquestioned. Kansas is so situated that natural water storage is almost nonexistent, in fact Kansas has less water surface than any other state except Arizona. As a result of this lack of natural storage, run-off is high and flood losses great. The average annual loss from floods in the state is \$5,000,000 with losses on a single year exceeding \$15,000,000. On the other hand, industries and municipalities are handicapped by the extremely low flow of the rivers during dry weather. As an example of this fact, the Verdigris river has a recorded flood flow of more than 124,000 cubic feet per second - a Niagara river in volume.

At other times the flow becomes less than 1 cubic foot per second, an amount wholly insufficient to carry off the industrial wastes of the valley and supply the needs of the cities and people dependent on that stream for water supply.

Improvements in these conditions would be of more than statewide interest, being almost national in scope. The retarding of flood peaks, the increased dry weather flow, and the retention of silt are all benefits accruing from the foregoing program and which will benefit not only the citizens of Kansas but also the citizens of all the states on the lower reaches of our streams.

Murray A. Wilson
Geo. S. Knapp

Exhibit E

STATEMENT BY
GOVERNOR ALF M. LONDON

TO

NATIONAL RIVERS AND HARBORS CONGRESS

May 2-3, 1935

The prolonged drought and its tragic effects upon the people have served to dramatize the water problems of the Great Plains belt of states. For four years rainfall has been below normal, and so deficient in quantity that almost no crop has been raised throughout that great region extending west from the 98th meridian to the foothills of the Rockies and south from the Canadian border into New Mexico and Texas. The lack of crops has reduced the protective cover on the land until now, without vegetation to protect it or moisture to bind it, the soil, like dry snow, is blown by the wind forming drifts where fences, trees or buildings break the velocity of the wind. The finer particles of soil float in the air forming great clouds of dust which obscure the sun, turn day into the darkness of night and menace the health of the people.

The drought, however, is but one of the vagaries of nature. But a few years ago large parts of the states comprising this belt were subject to destructive floods caused by a cycle of abnormal rainfall. In Kansas alone during the thirteen-month period from September of 1926 to October of 1927, 560,000 acres were flooded, some of it as often as five times. During this period known

flood losses reached a total of \$5,500,000, which figure took no account of loss of life, sickness as a result of the floods, nor losses caused by the suspension or interruption of business. The water leaving these states through the Arkansas and Missouri river systems contributed substantially to the floods during that period on the lower Mississippi.

While the run-off from this region is small, its streams are subject to great variations in flow ranging from amounts too small for the most urgent needs of the people to great floods which are destructive to life and property. A typical example is the Kansas River entering the Missouri at Kansas City. The Kansas River system, having a drainage area of sixty thousand square miles comprising the north half of Kansas, the southern part of Nebraska and a portion of Eastern Colorado, receives an average annual rainfall of 24 inches. The run-off from this basin amounts to an annual average of one inch. Evaporation and the use of water by growing crops consume the difference, or nearly 96 per cent of the rainfall. The maximum recorded flow of the streams was more than 200,000 cubic feet per second, in 1903, a flood which caused the loss of 57 lives and property damage at Kansas City alone of \$22,000,000. The minimum recorded flow is 100 cubic feet per second. At its extreme low stages the volume of water is much below the reasonable needs of the people, the cities, towns

and the industries. In upper parts of the basin many localities are completely out of water and have to be supplied from distant sources. Farther down on the stream at the larger cities the cost of treatment of water supplies and sewage wastes becomes heavy, industries are left with insufficient water supplies and the stream becomes unfit for the propagation of fish.

In southeast Kansas the mean annual run-off is somewhat larger, being about 4.3 inches on the Osage, 5.2 inches on the Neosho and 7.6 inches on the Verdigris. The drainage basins of these streams receive an average annual rainfall of about 35 inches. They are, however, subject to much greater differences between their high and low stages than the Kansas River. The maximum recorded flow of the Osage is 120,000 cubic feet per second. On numerous occasions it ceases to flow at Ottawa, the entire water supply being used by the municipal water plant, with the treated sewage constituting the principle water supply for Osawatomie and other towns below.

On the Neosho, a stream subject also to destructive floods, there are fourteen cities and towns throughout its length in Kansas. Eight of these are entirely dependent upon the stream for their water supply. All of them depend upon it to carry off the sewage and industrial wastes. The condition frequently is reached when the daily use of water on the stream exceeds four times the flow of the stream, and during extreme dry

periods such as the summer of 1934 almost the entire flow was taken through each city water plant and returned through each sewer system as the stream flows down the valley. While water should render to man the full measure of its usefulness as it proceeds downward to the sea, repeated use of this kind should be tolerated only under conditions of the most extreme necessity.

The Verdigris is another example of the great fluctuation in discharge of streams in this region. In 1927 that stream, having a drainage area of but 2,800 square miles in Kansas, had a maximum flood flow of 124,000, a veritable Niagara in volume. The minimum flow has been one-tenth of one cubic foot per second. Under the former condition the entire valley was inundated, homes were destroyed and travel was interrupted. During extreme low stages the water is almost unfit for man or beast, because the industrial wastes in the valley contain among other things, the wastes from a number of oil refineries, which can not be removed or rendered unobjectionable by treatment.

Besides the control of floods, the entire plains region is in need of measures which will bring relief from the more critical conditions caused by drought. The works of man can not remove the causes of flood and drought but they should be directed toward the protection of the people from the destructive effects of them. Throughout the length and breadth of this region natural

water storage is almost non-existent. It is because of that that the streams vary so greatly in their flow. While undoubtedly some levees and channel straightening are needed for flood protection, particularly on the lower reaches of the streams, the great need is for the conservation and storage of water.

Kansas, in the last two years, has started on a water storage program, the chief purpose of which is to make water available in localities where it is sorely needed during times of drought; to make water available for stockmen, who during periods of drought have had to haul water for miles or dispose of their livestock; to provide water supplies for cities whose wells or streams fail in dry periods; to create lakes for public parks, and to raise the water table in many localities.

The types of storage projects vary as widely as the purposes they serve. Under the provisions of a state law granting the land owner a reduction in the assessed valuation of his land for the storage of water thereon by the building of dams on dry water courses, numerous reservoirs, ranging in capacity from one to several hundred acre feet are being built largely with public funds on private land, with easements being given permitting access to them in time of drought to obtain water. These serve the purpose of catching storm water, providing local water supplies for livestock and in a measure, as seepage or percolation takes place, contributing to the low water flow of the streams. About

3,000 of these are now under construction or have been completed, but only a small beginning has been made on the program which is of vital importance to Kansas agricultural and livestock interests and for the protection and general welfare of the cities.

A number of cities, sometimes with the aid of Federal Relief funds have constructed dams on small streams creating municipal reservoirs sufficient in capacity to carry them through dry years. The State Forestry, Fish and Game Commission and several cities and counties have, by the building of dams created public lakes for recreational purposes. Latterly, much of this work has been done by the Civilian Conservation Corps or with the aid of Federal relief funds. A total of about twenty of such recreational lakes have been created or the dams are in course of construction and almost an equal number for municipal water supply.

Small overflow dams are being constructed in a few places where they can be built on running streams without contributing materially to flood dangers or damage. These are usually but a few feet in height and serve to raise the flow line of the stream and the ground water table in the surrounding valley as well. While splendid work has been done with the limited means available, this type of work is but in its infancy and the work thus far undertaken is of small consequence except as the beginning of development that can become important were funds available. Funds and help in this program would be of genuine and permanent value to the state in its effort to conserve

water and halt soil erosion.

All of these projects are directed primarily toward the conservation of water and the relieving of water shortage caused by drought. They serve admirably the purposes for which they are intended, but they are not sufficient to round out or complete a needed program of stream flow regulation and flood control. There is needed on many streams reservoirs for the purpose of equalizing stream flow, reservoirs which can be filled during times of abundant stream flow and from which water can be released as needed to supplement low stages on the stream. There is also need for reservoirs of a purely flood control character to control flood waters where ^{much} ~~much~~ can be justified by the cost of the projects and the needs and necessities of the people.

While the reservoir program now under way can be carried out with no more planning than is necessary for the design of the dams to be built, the building of regulating and flood control reservoirs will involve a more comprehensive and thorough study of the streams involved than has yet been made. Much of the stream control work undertaken in the past has been designed to hasten the discharge of water by creeks and rivers and has worked against water conservation by speeding up the run-off. Stream channels have been straightened and cleared from brush, driftwood and other obstructions or with a view towards removing obstacles in the flow to prevent flooding of low lands. The threat of floods has thus been reduced

locally, but at the same time flood dangers have been increased to the lower portions of the water shed.

Highway construction has been planned in such a manner as to hasten the draining away of water during periods of rainfall. Generally, the flood control program of the past has operated to drain away much water that would serve a most useful purpose if conserved over the basin.

While these flood control measures have reduced flood damage, nevertheless the dual problem of flood control and soil erosion can better be grappled by outlining projects to hold back the water at the source. By such a policy flood damage can be almost obviated while the water is at the same time being conserved where it is needed. The present programs of both the state Highway Commission and the Fish and Game Commission call for the combination of highway fills with permanent dams along ravines and canyons at suitable locations to affect this dual end. Studies should be undertaken without delay and be followed with definite steps to control and use these streams which in the past have left a long and tragic history of the effects of flood and drought.

While I have discussed the water problems of Kansas, the situation portrayed exists throughout that vast domain known as the Great Plains. On behalf of this region, which comprises the great surplus producing states of this country, I would respectfully suggest that Congress be memorialized to give more consideration to the conservation and storage of water on the head-water streams in connection with a broad Mississippi Valley water program.

Suggestions of the
Kansas State Planning Board
With Respect to
Emergency Activities and Long Range Planning
in Land Use and Water Conservation
to Mitigate the Effects of Drought

Fully recognizing the misery and loss which has been occasioned by the drought, the Kansas State Planning Board believes that the time has come when it must be recognized that this distress is, in part, a result of misuse and depletion of the land and water resources of the state over a long period of time, rather than being chargeable entirely to the past three years of low rainfall. While some of this misuse is the fault of individual land operators, much of it is and has been entirely beyond their control. Moreover, the public as a whole is much more concerned in the maintenance of our natural resources than is any individual. It follows that cooperative public action must be taken in the development and administration of a long time plan which will regenerate our two primary natural resources--land and water. Meeting present emergencies and looking to the future is a task in which the citizen, the state, and the federal government must unite.

About two-thirds of Kansas lies in the region generally defined as the Great Plains area. East of the 99th meridian, in urban areas, there are problems of flood control, and in rural regions the dual problem of flood control and water conservation. West of the 99th meridian, the need is confined to water conservation.

There is only minor disagreement among technical or practical men as to the means which should be employed to restore the land and utilize the water. Listing, contour farming, terracing, irrigation in restricted localities, the building of farm ponds, the construction of secondary reservoirs, the building of levees and the construction of primary reservoirs, are all accepted devices for meeting the problem, each adaptable to the circumstances of particular locations or areas. Much additional data, not now available, with respect to rainfall, runoff, stream flow, topography, soil types, geology and ground waters, are needed for the preparation of detailed plans; but the data already available are adequate for initial work on a long time plan.

Unfortunately, the facts available are not generally known or understood. Knowledge

of these facts is too much confined to technical men and a few practical men of the exceptional sort. The latter, in the rural areas, are naturally the small per cent of farmers who succeed year after year regardless of climate.

The best means of reaching a solution of these problems is identical with the best means of reaching a solution of other major problems of democracy; viz, education. Every device which stimulates local intelligent leadership must be utilized. Plans handed down from the top will be disappointing in results.

Since the problem of the Great Plains area is of national as well as local interest, and particularly in view of the fact that the problem has its origin, in part, in an unwise federal homestead policy, cooperation must be developed and responsibility accepted by every level of government, federal, state and local.

In this cooperation, it is believed that use should be made of the plan of state aid rather than direct federal administration. In the urgent emergency needs incident to the prolonged drought, some help must be given

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in the form of 100 per cent grants. Such grants, however, should not go beyond the reasonable time required for demonstration of effective plans. Beyond such time, state aid should be substituted for grants and the various levels of government, other than federal, should be required to provide increasing financial contributions.

It has been truly said that the soil is the best water reservoir. Recognizing that over the larger part of the state, the problem is that of water conservation, some method must be found better than any now in use to accelerate the acceptance of better farm practices in the conservation of water and the control of water and wind erosion. The building of dams and reservoirs is a relatively easy matter in that the building of each structure requires the consent of but few people. On the contrary, the control of wind and water erosion, to be effective, requires cooperation of all land operators.

It is recommended that the agricultural planning committees organized under the Soil Conservation Act, be expanded in personnel and broadened in scope of activity, so that in dominantly rural counties these committees

may become in fact, as well as in name, truly planning committees. In such counties, additional committee members should be named to represent interests other than strictly agricultural, in order that the committee may deal with all problems of planning.

Without suggesting any specific device or technique for its accomplishment, it is urged that some means be found for effective coordination within the state of the work of all government agencies, having any part in the development or administration of this regenerative program. An effective agency for this purpose must be designed so as to deal with and adequately represent both federal and state services. This dual character of authority and responsibility will be inherent in the need unless or until a Federal policy of state aid and state responsibility is substituted for the general policy of Federal administration. At present the procedure is confused and public resentment created. Existing agencies, designed for this purpose, should be reorganized or dismantled.

In the immediate emergency incident to

the drought, it is hoped that all forms of Federal assistance be in the nature of work relief on projects which are in accord with a long time program. The following suggestions are submitted in the way of a long time program and are considered to be some suitable emergency work relief projects in harmony with it.

LAND USE

1. The shifts in land use which are needed in much of the state consist of changes in the ways land now in farms is used as a part of the business of these farms. It is primarily a problem of internal reorganization of existing farms.

2. There are limited areas within the state which probably should be retired from agricultural production. One of these areas is in southwestern Kansas, south of the Cimarron River. In southeastern Kansas some land of low fertility may need to be retired.

3. There are areas of native grass which have been seriously damaged by the droughts of recent years which are in need of measures that will aid nature in restoring the native vegetation and prevent these lands from becoming a menace to adjoining land if left in their present condition and soil blowing continues.

4. There are many areas of scenic and recreational value in many parts of the state which some agency of the government should remove from agricultural production and devote to scenic and recreational uses.

5. In much of the state, from the standpoint of the relation of water conservation

to agricultural production, the problems involved in water conservation consist of retaining in the soil the water which falls on it and then using this water in the production of crops. Also, the impounding of surface runoff for livestock use is of importance in many sections of the state.

WATER USE AND CONTROL

1. An extensive system of secondary and primary reservoirs on tributary and main water courses of the state is an essential part of any comprehensive plan of water utilization and control. These reservoirs must be designed with consideration for flood control needs, stream stabilization requirements, supplementary irrigation projects for the stabilization of agriculture, and the development of recreational areas and wild life preserves.

2. Stream straightening and clearing, and the building of levees or other devices for the dispatch of flood waters should be used only where economy does not permit of the construction of reservoirs or similar retention works which make some contribution to the maintenance of ground water levels.

DROUGHTS

1. Droughts, especially prolonged ones,

affect agriculture and other human activities for years after normal rainfall returns.

Droughts cannot be eliminated or controlled but the resulting distress may be prevented to a large degree by intelligent programs of land use and water conservation.

2. The better adaptation of agriculture to climatic conditions and variations can be secured by (a) the application of soil moisture determinations to the seeding and abandonment of wheat; (b) the use of methods of seed bed preparation and tillage that increase soil moisture; (c) the use of adapted varieties; (d) the extension of diversified farming; and (e) the rotation of crops.

3. Modification of natural conditions in the interests of agriculture can be accomplished through (a) terracing; (b) gully control; (c) construction of farm ponds; and (d) use of irrigation as "crop insurance."

4. Stream flow regulation, considered on the basis of each river basin as a single unit, is needed to insure an adequate supply of surface water for the municipalities and industries dependent upon this source. A second problem, the abatement of pollution of these supplies by organic and inorganic wastes, requires at-

tention to safeguard the public health.

5. Nearly 80 per cent of Kansas people obtain their water supplies from deep or shallow wells. In time of drought, many of these wells sustain serious water shortages or go dry. In the more critical areas, farmers find it necessary to haul water for many miles, and some municipalities have been forced to ration the available supplies. Alleviation and prevention of such shortages can be accomplished by deepening and improving existing wells, by locating new sources of underground supply, and by impounding surface waters nearby. Much more geological exploration of the state's underground water stores is needed and this should be augmented by the establishment of several automatic recording instruments to provide adequate records of the fluctuations of the water level.

Contamination of sub-surface water supplies by organic and inorganic wastes also constitutes a serious problem. Investigations to determine the best methods of handling mineral wastes are now under way.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That some agency in Kansas be given the required authority to effectively coordinate

and influence the activities of WPA, PWA, CCC, RA, and all other administrations, both state and federal, so that their work will increasingly be in accord with the objectives set forth in this memorandum.

2. That through this agency or by such alternate means as may be provided, greater emphasis be placed on

- (a) Soil Conservation
- (b) Building farm ponds
- (c) Providing wells for domestic water

supply and irrigation

- (d) Extension of the soil survey
- (e) Tree planting, especially in the

southeastern part of the state

- (f) Eradication of bindweed
- (g) Destruction of grasshoppers
- (h) Replugging of abandoned wells
- (i) Restoration of certain areas to

grass

3. That the scope of work of agricultural planning committees in dominantly rural counties be widened to include all phases of planning.

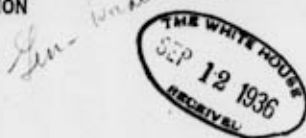
4. That adequate credit facilities be made available for the purchase of seed for fall and spring planting and the purchase of feed to sustain at least foundation herds.

5. That studies of the larger aspects of water utilization and control, such as those now being made by the War Department, be expedited.

PSF: Drought 2-36

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON

file
personal



September 12, 1936.

My dear Mr. President:

This is my best try at a reply to Secretary Ickes' letter. As he wrote me a somewhat similar letter I chatted with him about it at the banquet. His grievance did not seem to be so much that this committee was appointed as the fact that someone from an agency of his was designated without his being advised.

Yours very sincerely,

Mont Z. Goon

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Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington
D. C.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Chairman, National Resources Committee
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in reply to your letter dated September 5 in regard to the work of the Great Plains Drought Area Committee. No "board of representatives of pertinent Federal and State agencies" as recommended by the Committee has as yet been designated. The constitution of such a board if and when designated, may well invite our best thought. As I read the recommendation of the Committee there is nothing in it to preclude our availing ourselves of N.R.C. cooperation.

Has not the conception of the N.R.C. been rather that of a program building agency as contrasted with a research agency. In designating the members of the Great Plains Committee I sought to include in its membership not only representation from National Resources Committee, but from those other agencies who with thousands of agents now in the field could very promptly assemble data reflecting current conditions in the Great Plains area. It would be to those very agencies to which the N.R.C. would go for data resulting from their researches.

The Great Plains Committee report reflects familiarity with all N.R.C. reports as well as with original source material of other governmental agencies. I am familiar with the N. R. C. program for the Red River of the North, but the approach for such a study might easily be somewhat different from that appropriate to the study of a region including one-quarter of the area of the United States.

These questions of over-all organizations such as we have planned National Resources Committee to be seem to lie close to the bed-rock of our democratic institutions. So too program reports as contrasted with detailed researches - and many of them and of a variety of kinds - are needed if we are to gain popular support for the work ahead. We may find it profitable to keep quite fluid certain parts of our organization set-up so that quick reports bearing on fundamental questions may be available.

The report of the Great Plains Drought Area Committee seems to have been a reasonably useful piece of work even though from an orthodox Government standpoint it was concocted of a variety of brews.

Sincerely yours,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 8, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MORRIS COOKE:

For preparation of reply.

F.D.R.

NATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
INTERIOR BUILDING
WASHINGTON

SEP -5 1936

The President,

The White House

My dear Mr. President:

The report of the Great Plains Drought Area Committee, dated August 1936, proposes on page 16 thereof a program for integration of land and water resources activities by a board of representatives of pertinent Federal and State agencies.

The establishment of such a board would parallel both in personnel and in structure existing land and water resources committees of the National Resources Committee. These existing coordinating agencies comprise the same membership of the various Federal and State agencies, concerned with problems of land and water, as would the proposed new coordinating groups.

These committees of the National Resources Committee have been functioning for several years with considerable success in coordinating and integrating the objectives and activities of the various Federal agencies. Supplementing their activities are the State and regional planning groups which have been functioning in most instances for several years in the areas now under discussion by the Great Plains Drought Area Committee.

The aforesaid machinery has already produced the only concrete water program available in the drought area, namely, the program for the Drainage Basin of the Red River of the North. This report represents the coordinated accomplishments of State and Federal groups under the technical guidance of a consultant appointed by the Water Resources Committee. This process is being repeated in other areas, and the results thereof will be available from time to time. It is exactly what is proposed by the Great Plains Drought Area Committee, but under new and duplicating auspices.

The Drainage Basin Study now under way under the auspices of the Water Resources Committee also includes the same territory.

It seems to me that the creation of new coordinating committees consisting of the same agencies and with the same objectives as those of the National Resources Committee and duly constituted state planning and other boards would only result in confusion.

These matters are called to your attention in the hope that further problems of land and water utilization and conservation in the Great Plains Drought Area will be assigned for study and ultimate solution to existing national coordinating groups. These latter have had the benefit of several years experience and contact with the problems involved. Aside from their availability for such functions as outlined above, no permanent and real value could be attained by the development of parallel and perhaps contradictory programs by new agencies.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Z. Fisher

Chairman

PSF: Drought Conf

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/14/36

*File
Confidential*

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS LeHAND

Herewith the original copy of the stenographic report on the Des Moines Conferences. Thought the President might want to keep this in his personal files.

Two copies have been sent to Secretary Wallace and three other copies are in the General Files downstairs.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE,

FOR THE STATES

of

MISSOURI,
KANSAS,
IOWA,
OKLAHOMA, and
NEBRASKA,

held at the State House, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, 2:30 P.M. to 5:45 P.M.

Reported by
S. S. Wright, and
W. Scott Reiniger,
Certified Shorthand Reporters,
Des Moines, Iowa.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCEforM I S S O U R I,

held at the State House, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 2:30 P. M.

PRESENT:

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

President of the United States.

Gov. Guy B. Park,
Sen. Bennett Champ Clark,
Sen. Harry S. Truman,
Mathew S. Murray, WPA,
R. C. Smith and State Director Nicholson, RA,
F. W. Niemeyer and Walter Rust, FCA,
Robert K. Ryland, NEC.

Secretary Wallace,
Harry Hopkins and Howard Hunter,
Rexford Tugwell,
Governor Myers,
Robert Fechner - CCC
Commissioner Goss,
Eugene Leggett,
Alfred Stedman.

PRESIDENTAL DROUTH CONFERENCE,
FOR
MISSOURI.

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday
September 3, 1936, at 2:30 P. M.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I thought I would like to
take up Missouri first because it would be much easier
to have a family party. I am sorry I have not been able
to get into Missouri myself on this particular trip, but
I have followed the reports and appreciate the purpose.

Governor Park, would you like to give us the
preliminary statement as to the conditions as you see them?

GOVERNOR PARK: I will be very happy too. Of course,
we had a badly protracted drouth in 1934, and this drouth
has been equally as bad with this disadvantage, there
there is no carry over crops as there was in 1934.
Missouri is probably the fourth or fifth state as a corn
state of the United States. The wheat crop is short, the
hay crop is short.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is winter wheat?

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes, we raise soft wheat entirely.
We raise a lot of alfalfa, and all sort of hay and corn,
and except for the wheat we have no crop. That applies to
110 out of the 114 counties in the state, four counties
in the extreme southern part of the state have good average

crops and in the country down below Cape Girardeau. We have 278,000 farm families in Missouri and I think about 17,000 are now receiving relief through the PWA and WPA. The corn failure is practically a total failure. We have some corn and stalks preserved by trench silos and other methods of preserving fodder. And I have an analysis here that is authentic, prepared by our agricultural department and it will give all this more in detail than I can at this time. As of August 29th our corn crop is fourteen percent of normal. Alfalfa 30 percent, soy beans 28 per cent; cow peas 33 per cent, pasture 7 per cent. Our state is a bluegrass state largely. Sorghum 27 per cent. Percentage of farmers hauling water 37 per cent; condition of livestock 65 per cent; farmers seeking to replace pasture 76 per cent. Wheat yield per acre about 19 bushel. In the western--the western central part of the state the grasshoppers did a great deal of damage from Kansas City on east for several counties and the corn stalks were practically bereft of all but just but just bare stalks that remain. The great majority of the farmers have no means of tiding over their cattle during the winter, and we have fewer cattle in the state, perhaps, than in the past ten or fifteen years. I have here some place the estimate. We have 200,000 fewer cattle and 2,000,000 fewer hogs than we had two years ago. Our ponds are all exhausted and a great many of our wells have gone dry. And in the southern part of the state where we have

many deep wells and the level of those wells has been lowered 300 feet. Further north the level is less. We have had a survey made of the water supply of the state by our Geological Department. We have a complete survey and know the location of the water, the underground water and can very easily sink wells and build reservoirs. We know where the water supply is. A great many farmers are driving their cattle four or five miles for water, the wells on the farms and ponds are exhausted. The city of Kansas City is furnishing water from its plant to several places in Missouri and also in Kansas.

Now I do not know whether you desire any suggestions from me as to what the remedy will be for the situation.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Suppose we take that up in the order which I have been doing on this trip. It relates to three things. The first, is immediate relief, that is to say, people who are in need of a job or loan to tide them over between now and winter time.

GOVERNOR PARK: There are about 56,000 farmer families in Missouri need immediate relief.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now how many have you today on WPA? And on rehabilitation grants?

GOVERNOR PARK: 17,000 on WPA, and 10,000 on grants.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is 27,000. What is your estimate from your people, Harry?

Mr. HOPKINS: About the same as the Governor, somewhere around 55,000 to 60,000 families.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: At the present time----

Mr. HOPKINS: That will need relief before fall.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Before fall. That number will have to be carried through the winter?

Mr. HOPKINS: Most of them.

A CONFEREE: That is the second problem, to carry them through the winter.

GOVERNOR PARK: They will have to be carried past January, at least.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And the problem of giving them work; we are very anxious, of course, to avoid the dole as much as possible. In other words, to give them useful work during the winter as much as we can. I do not know what the situation is in Missouri. There are some sections where you have a great deal of snow and you cannot do a great deal of useful outdoor work. My thought is that if we cannot find enough useful WPA jobs for them to work on during the winter time, we will have to take a proportion as small as possible and put them on rehabilitation grants. In other words, if they live in a community where there is no useful work they can do in the winter time, we will put them on grants rather than WPA work.

GOVERNOR PARK: In that connection I would like to

make this suggestion, that if you can hurry up the AAA checks and get them into their hands as quick as possible it will be a great help.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: As I understand it it will take another month for them to go out.

SECRETARY WALLACE: Do you mean the new checks or the old checks?

GOVERNOR PARK: Money that may be due them. The quicker they are paid, the quicker they will have the money.

SECRETARY WALLACE: There is some of the old wheat checks not gone out, they are putting them out right now; on the 1936 program they will begin to go out about the first of October, but not moving into volume I think, until later.

GOVERNOR PARK: The quicker you can get them out the better.

SECRETARY WALLACE: We are putting all possible steam on it; we are doing the best we can. Because we recognize the seriousness of the situation and we will do all we can.

GOVERNOR PARK: There is considerable of it among the people of our state, a lot of the farmers work on highways, quit farming and go to work on farm to market roads in the immediate neighborhood, cleaning ditches---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: A Lot of that can be

done in the winter time.

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes, we can run up to the 1st of December or possibly Christmas.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course, you are no worse off than Iowa in regard to your water supply. Your idea in regard to the water supply is that perhaps a half to 57 per cent of the farmers have to haul water, and there is a need of additional wells, deeper wells and also the need probably of small ponds added to the present number of ponds.

GOVERNOR PARK: I would suggest community ponds, acquire some land in the school district that is without water and have a centrally located reservoir that will hold enough to tide them over the drouth period.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Do you think you could get some public body to give us title to the ponds---

GOVERNOR PARK: Of course the state and county have no title to any land, all of the land is rented, just the abandoned river bed and places where they don't need water.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: You have no way of acquiring it except by purchase, and no money to pay for that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: FURTHER West they have been getting easements in a great many cases, isn't that right Rex?

GOVERNOR PARK: I think you would have no trouble to get the low land, what is your idea Mr. Murray? About

that?

Mr. MURRAY: No trouble. They have promised it to us.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Right along that line, of course, highway building is a very necessary and useful thing, on the other hand it doesn't give or have very much relationship to the drouth. I would much rather see the relief money, WPA money, spent on the problem of drouth relief at this particular time than I would on building highways, if we can find useful things such as soil erosion work, digging of wells and building ponds, and things of that sort, and my own thought is I would put these ahead of highways at this particular time. You have a multitude of small streams there in Missouri which might be readily turned into artificial lakes.

GOVERNOR PARK: They can be dammed. We can go to work on the water supply right away because we have the survey and know right where the water is.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about soil erosion work, how far has that got, and terracing?

GOVERNOR PARK: We have had several camps in Missouri.

A CONFeree: There are 21 camps, Mr. President, CCC camps on soil erosion work.

A CONFeree: The projects are scattered pretty well over the entire state, the project up near Bethany--

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Have they started through

the county Commissioners in Missouri what they are doing further south the purchase of the terracing machine by the county Commissioners?

GOVERNOR PARK: No.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And then renting it out to the individual farmer at so much per day?

A CONFERE: It has been suggested that we handle that on a co-operative basis. I do not think any of it has been done.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes, sir, either way or through the County Commissioners. Do you have County Commissioners?

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes, the same thing.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In the south in the cotton country it has been proved an extraordinarily valuable thing, the County Commissioners or the Co-operatives either one purchase the terracing machine and then the individual farmer hires that machine at so much per diem to do terracing work, and a great many farmers hire it. I have forgotten how many acres a day one of those machines do on an average. What is it, about thirty acres, something like that?

GOVERNOR PARK: Except in the immediate vicinity of the CCC camps the farmers are not taking to that sort of work.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We need more demonstration work at this time.

GOVERNOR PARK: That is what we need over the state, and then there is another immediate need to the farmer and that is money with which to purchase seed to be ready when the time comes to put in his crop.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How much seed corn will you have to have for next spring?

GOVERNOR PARK: I have that estimate here.

A CONFeree: There are communities that haven't raised a bushel of corn to the county.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now in the state as a whole do you have enough seed corn?

A CONFeree: We will have to import seed corn. We have had a complete failure of the wheat and corn crop.

A CONFeree: There isn't enough in a hundred counties. I talk conservatively when I say that.

GOVERNOR PARK: While we probably rank fifth in the corn growing state we never raise enough for our own purposes, we have always bought corn. Of course, there is some shipped out, but we always buy corn. I thought I had the figures.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then you also have to buy seed wheat, or use your own?

A CONFeree: We use our own.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the potatoes?

GOVERNOR PARK: Rotted in the ground.

A CONFeree: We haven't raised any garden stuff.

GOVERNOR PARK: We raise a lot of watermelons but

you cannot live on them.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Have you got those figures?

GOVERNOR PARK: Practically all.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the Missouri River bottom land how did they come through?

A CONFEREE: They are all burned out too.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are they really?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Is there any irrigation projects on the Missouri bottom land, isn't that possible?

GOVERNOR PARK: No.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And is that a possibility?

GOVERNOR PARK: No; last year it overflowed and the crops in the Missouri river bottom were drowned out.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That wont help them. After we get the Fort Peck and a few other things done-I am thinking about the future - I suppose we are ready to control floods. Are you going to have any projects on the Missouri bottom land for irrigation.

GOVERNOR PARK: You cannot now.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I mean when you get the river regulated.

GOVERNOR PARK: That isn't going to help this situation.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Oh, no, this is along in the future.

GOVERNOR PARK: That can be done, because we have

our high bluffs and reservoirs can be put along those bluffs and it would be easy to get water down to the bottom.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You have a fuel problem. That is pretty high power.

GOVERNOR PARK: In what way?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The cost of pumping.

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Pretty high.

GOVERNOR PARK: The bluffs are high.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I mean the cost per horse power of pumping. That won't help them. After we get Ft. Peck and a few other things done, I am thinking about the future--I suppose we are ready to control floods.

GOVERNOR PARK: I don't know what that would be, we have never had irrigation in Missouri, never.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Has any study been made of irrigation?

A CONFEREE: No. Of course, we have got a lot of springs in the south Missouri bottoms that develop almost unlimited water. The white river and the Osage--and those streams down there.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They will give us a chance down there.

GOVERNOR PARK: Here is another thing, your attention probably hasn't been called to it, for which there is no demand in any other state except Missouri. We raise a great deal of fruit such as peaches, pears, etc.

Southern Missouri is a small fruit country, berries, strawberries is quite an industry all down through the Ozarks. The largest per cent of our fruit has been killed by the drouth, and our berry patches have been absolutely destroyed, acres of them, and those people are going to need some help and it is going to take a different system than applies to the average farmer who raises annual crops. It is going to take a longer period to reach it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is pretty hard to water a large orchard, but on the other hand small garden patches, berries and things like that could probably be taken care of by putting in garden ponds and farm ponds, isn't that so?

GOVERNOR PARK: That can be done but the principal thing now is, a great many of those Ozarkians in the southern part of the state are very poor people, ^{all} and they have is a garden and small fruit patches. The apples and small fruit burned up. And they are going to need some assistance in order to replant.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course, on the fruit it will take it several years to come into bearing.

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes, we have some wonderful orchards in Missouri.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now to finish up the meeting the immediate problem of relief, is the job of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tugwell in conjunction with the state

authorities to take care of the 56,000 families between now and the next spring. In working that out I should think probably the best thing to do would be to have a conference in the state on projects so that we would as far as possible devote these projects from now on through the winter to the alleviation of drouth conditions. That means the building of ponds, wells, soil erosion work, and to try to get just as many projects of that kind as we possibly can, and when we have exhausted all of those projects that can be carried on through the winter, then we can take up as additional projects the farm to market roads. Is that a perfectly satisfactory program?

GOVERNOR PARK: May be that will help but you have got to do something besides building roads to furnish these people with sustenance for the winter and money to buy seed, that is very important that that be done insome way. They do not want direct relief. I think it wouldbe unforntunate to give them direct relief.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We want to do that just as little as we possibly can.

GOVERNOR PARKS: Short time loans and some advancements to them.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course on the seed loans we haven't got enough money appropriated at the present time to last through next spring for the whole United States. The Secretary and I and Mr. Meyer are all agreed we have got to get some additional money from

Congress as early as possible, possibly in January, in order to meet the necessary seed loans in the spring.

A CONFEREE: There will be no trouble about that, Mr. President, that is one of the easiest bills to pass.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: We have made two thousand seed loans in Missouri in the last few weeks.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is mostly winter wheat?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes, sir; mostly.

SECRETARY WALLACE: The people of Missouri, Mr. President, will have to be treated in respect to seed corn in a slightly different manner for fear the seed corn may not be available, and not only a loan must be provided to those farmers for buying seed corn, but you will have to provide for those farmers who want to save seed corn. That is a matter that has not yet been fully worked out.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now are there any other things you want to take up Governor Park.

GOVERNOR PARK: I think that covers it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I just want to make a suggestion--in going through the country I have become more and more convinced that we ought to have some form of a complete individual farm survey for the whole of the drouth area and probably eventually of the whole United States. The insurance companies have been carrying on for a good many years the same sort of idea. The card of the individual farm borrower of the insurance company contains statistics as to the type of land, as to the type of crop

, and so forth and so on. Now if we had--and it probably is a matter that should be financed, at least in part, by the federal government--a complete survey of every farm we would be able to know a great deal better what the chances are for a farmer to make good on his particular farm. There are obviously some on farms today who should be told frankly that they never will come through if they keep on where they are. There are others who can after a survey of that kind if it is explained to them they are going to lose their farm unless they put in soil erosion prevention. And in that way we will know a great deal better in the future what the individual needs of the individual farm family are. It is a thing that will probably take a very long time or a great deal of money, we have done it, I think, Rex, in some portions of the Dakotas.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes, it has been done in industry with some Government Agencies working together, and if your state authorities would work we could get legislation for that in January, do it in conjunction with the state authorities.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: If your state authorities could work for some state legislation on that in January and do it in conjunction with you agricultural colleges, and so forth and so on in the state, it seems to me we will have a much better picture and a much better idea of what is needed to avoid drouth conditions, soil erosion

and lack of water in every part of this drouth area, than if we go about it more or less hit or miss.

GOVERNOR PARK: Of course, in Missouri we know what caused this condition is, it has been cutting timber along the streams and hollows letting the water rush out, and we have got to get back of that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You have got to do a great deal of reforesting on the top slopes.

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes, no doubt about it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course, it is a big program and it cannot be done in two, three or five years, but will probably take twenty-five years at least, to complete it but we can start it, and whatever we spend will come back many times over. ✓

GOVERNOR PARK: I believe that is true in most cases, it comes back.

*PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Fred, are you calling our attention to the time.

Mr. MCINTYRE: The time is getting along Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Have you got anything, Governor Park, you wish to take up?

GOVERNOR PARK: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: If you will let me have some of those figures that would be a very great help.

GOVERNOR PARK: You will find them quite interesting I believe.

GOVERNOR PARK: Mr. Murray you have that map.

Mr. MURRAY: I will put that right with it.

GOVERNOR PARK: There is another matter of interest that doesn't concern the drouth I would like to talk to you about between now and tomorrow.

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Conference ends at 3:15 P. M.

PRESIDENTIAL BROUGHT CONFERENCE

for

I O W A,

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 3:30 P. M.

PRESENT,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

President of the United States,

Gov. Clyde L. Herring,
Sen. L. J. Dickinson,
L. S. Hill and George Keller, WPA,
R. C. Smith and State Director
Lodwick, RA,
Frank O'Connor and Mr. McCumsey, FCA,
John J. Hughes, NEC,

Secretary Wallace,
Harry Hopkins and Howard Hunter,
Rexford Tugwell,
Governor Myers,
Robert Fechner, - CCC
Commissioner Goss,
Eugene Leggett, and
Alfred Stedman.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE

for

I O W A,

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 3:20 P. M.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Governor, shall we go ahead?

GOVERNOR HERRING: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I suppose the easiest way is to have me start off and repeat the way I have been doing in a matter of five or six states already.

We have tried to simplify the procedure of these meetings by differentiating between the immediate needs and the long distance needs. That brings up first of all the question of immediate relief. That is to say, the number of families in Iowa who are in actual want at the present time and have to be helped. Mr. Hill, what are your figures on families on WPA at the present time? Let's confine this to farm families.

MR. HILL: Farm families.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: About 7,000?

MR. HILL: 7,090.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many farm families on rehabilitation grants?

MR. NICHOLSON: Recent ones for the last two weeks, since Saturday, accepting them from the county committee, about 500.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: So you have a little over 8,000 all told. What are your figures for the second problem? How many more farm families, if any, will have to be helped by WPA or rehabilitation grants between now and winter?

MR. HILL: Mr. President, this is a guess. We have perhaps 30,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You think it may run as high as 30,000?

MR. HILL: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That would include rehabilitation grants?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes, Sir. I think it would be about equally divided before the winter is over maybe.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: So it would mean raising the per cent from 8,000 to approximately 30,000, if we are to take care of all the needs that come out at this time.

MR. HILL: That is purely a guess, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I want to make clear

what I have made clear before in the other states, and that is this: Of course we want all these federal expenditures to be put to a useful purpose so far as possible. That means various projects in all the localities where the relief has to be given. On the other hand we know that these projects, many of them are difficult to carry through in the middle of the winter, so I think the goal should be to put these people to work for wages up to the limit of the usefulness of the projects. On the other hand, if you can not find enough useful projects to go on through the winter, and there are a certain number, proportion, of farm families that can not be put to work, it means we will have to put them on rehabilitation grants. In other words, dole. But we want to keep away from the dole just as much as we possibly can and keep the number of families on actual grants down to a minimum. Does that go along with your idea, Clyde?

GOVERNOR HERRING: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then that brings up the question of the type of project. Of course, as I understand the situation in this state, you haven't got the same water problem that they have further west. In other words, you haven't got a very large number of farm families at the present time, for instance, who are hauling water. How many have you got? What are your figures on that?

MR. HILL: Hauling water?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes.

MR. HILL: We have very few.

GOVERNOR HERRING: Down in your territory ---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That shows a very good example of why you can not have an absolute rule of thumb for the drought territory. The Governor of Missouri states that thirty-seven per cent of the farmers of Missouri are hauling water. You haven't got that situation here. Therefore we can very nearly eliminate the work of digging wells. Is that right?

GOVERNOR HERRING: Yes.

✓ PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That brings up, what shall we do in the way of these projects. Of course secondary road building is a very fine thing, but secondary road building does not help the problem of the drought in the years to come. Therefore it seems to me that we ought to use our money that is spent on WPA just as much as we can in the long range planning against drought. Now, you have in this state a great deal of erosion. It seems to me that would be an extremely useful project, a serious project for us to concentrate on in our WPA work.

GOVERNOR HERRING: No doubt about that; that is of first importance with us.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the building of ponds?

GOVERNOR HERRING: That is all right in some counties. We have some counties, of course, that will not hold water if you build the ponds; after building your pond it will not hold the water. We have some soil in which you just can't keep the water. Henry, you know that situation in some of your counties down there.

MR. HILL: Along that line, Mr. President, we think it would be very helpful in the matter if you can find some manner of liming these counties so they will produce leguminous crops, and under the WPA we can do it on private property. Yesterday we had a meeting and drew a resolution along that line that I suppose will meet the requirements you are talking about.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And how will you get title to land that is overflowed by ponds?

GOVERNOR HERRING: That would not affect us so very much. It is rougher country in the south part. As I say, you go up in a plane and you will think the whole southern part of Iowa is washing down into the rivers.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Can you get title or an easement?

GOVERNOR HERRING: If you are going to do that it has got to be done on private property, that is the difficulty about it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We find further west you can almost always get the farmer or the school district or township to give an easement which would allow his neighbors to come in and use his pond for stock.

GOVERNOR HERRING: We don't have much of that. We don't need the ponds. We have erosion of those rough lands washing down through the muddy creeks.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What are the county commissioners doing? Are they doing anything in the way they are doing it in the South, buying terracing machines and then renting them out to the individual farmer?

GOVERNOR HERRING: I don't think there is much of that being done.

MR. HILL: Very little. In southern Iowa, Appanoose.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Is that a possibility in the future?

MR. HILL: It ought to be. Hasn't been to any great extent.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That has been a very substantial contribution to a great part of the cotton land in the South. The county commissioners buy the terracing machine and then rent it out. It terraces twenty to thirty acres a day, at comparatively little cost. Do you know how much it is an acre?

A CONFEREE: About \$4,000.00.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I mean an acre?

MR. FECHNER: About \$3.00 to \$8.00 an acre, depending on the type of terrace. They build them a little cheaper in the South because they can get a little smaller terrace than we can in this section. In this region it will run from \$2.00 to \$5.00 or \$6.00 an acre, depending on the condition of the land for building terraces.

MR. PRIOR: I think some of that was done by voluntary association.

A CONFEREE: To a very limited extent. We want it more fundamental than that. Here is the question of agriculture, to get more legumous crops going, hold the moisture.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Will that help stop erosion?

A CONFEREE: It will be following out better cropping perhaps. We can raise more than at the present time in our eroded areas, and limestone will make that possible too. There is little erosion on clover land or grass. Of course we all know corn following clover or grass produces much better than it does following corn, and erosion is about 1/5 as great.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What is being done in the state to take out of cultivation some of the higher land and putting it in pasture or trees?

GOVERNOR HERRING: There has been quite a bit done. The figures show forty-five per cent increase

in acreage of alfalfa in 1936, as contrasted with 1932. That is due to the AAA benefits, that forced it over into that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That was not new ground broken up, old ground turned back to alfalfa.

GOVERNOR HERRING: Put back. The effect of that also is shown. May 1936 we had double the stock of hay we had on hand in 1935, which is another direct benefit of forcing it back. Therefore the need for the continuance of that program, either federal or state. And that is the way we are going to save, in my opinion, these eroded lands of Iowa, is some method of continuing the program which is forcing much of the corn back into grass. Isn't that right?

MR. BLISS: That's right. The big problem is to get Southern Iowa aligned to raise clover, put more land into grass, legumes, holds the water.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That means eventually more cattle in the southern part of the state, is that right?

GOVERNOR HERRING: Many counties in the southern part of the state never should have been ploughed up; they should have been left in bluegrass; they would produce more in bluegrass than trying to raise corn on land that was never intended to raise corn.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the problem

of your seed corn, what is the situation there?

MR. BLISS: I believe we can meet that very readily in the state, Mr. President, by just getting busy early and urging farmers to select and conserve the seed in surplus areas.

SECRETARY WALLACE: We don't have the same problem in Iowa they have in Missouri, not the same kind of problem at all. You have enough seed corn of your own.

MR. BLISS: We will handle that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You probably will have enough to ship over into Missouri if they are short.

GOVERNOR HERRING: If Mr. Stedman gets these fellows to reduce the rates we are all after, that would help out some of our neighboring states.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We are all working on that.

MR. MURRAY: We haven't seed corn at all to give, and we will have to hold the seed corn stock we will have available in northwest Iowa, if we can control it. It might be hard to keep that with corn over \$1.00 a bushel, for seed.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: On that question of rates, how far have you gotten with the railroads? Does anybody know, in this state?

GOVERNOR HERRING: We didn't get anywhere. We have been turned down by the Interstate Commerce

Commission on the theory that we don't need anything shipped in from outside, and they are not much interested in our shipping from inside out. They say our own state railroad commission can take care of reduction of rates part of it. The Director of Railways would accept it if they did it for interstate shipments. So far as Iowa is concerned we haven't got very far in actual results.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is a matter of negotiation between you and the railroads rather than going through the Interstate Commerce Commission for an order.

GOVERNOR HERRING: It is. And we can handle that so far as in the state is concerned, but we haven't been able to get any concessions for shipments in and out of the state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Has the ICC happened, to do that, as you understand it, Henry, in any other cases?

SECRETARY WALLACE: The difficulty has been that the railroads are not sure that they will not be open to damages from other communities as they were assured under the 1934 drought appropriations, and that has slowed down the railroads in making concessions. Iowa has not been able to make a sufficiently strong case to get the reductions.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The Interstate Commerce

Commission does not want to take jurisdiction, is that it?

SECRETARY WALLACE: Well, they feel they can not give the assurance to the railroads in the borderline cases, which assurance the railroads feel they have to have.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then it seems to me on these public works, works progress projects, that the thing to be done next in taking care of these people who will need help from now on over the winter, is to have a conference between the state departments and the federal agencies here and try to work out a series of projects which, as I say, should be primarily aimed at the long range drought prevention, and having adopted as many projects along that line as it is possible to do, then go either to the secondary roads, which, of course, are all right, but do not affect the drought.

GOVERNOR HERRING: We have had plenty of good projects to take care of the drought farmers. At least seven thousand that have been asked. We have plenty of good projects.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Projects near home where they can go home and attend to their chores. Are there any other things you want to bring up?

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, I would like to make one suggestion. As we get into the winter here, of course, your secondary roads will not be available for work, your soil erosion will not be available for

the relief work, and then you come down to the question of what you are going to do to meet the emergency of the families who are actually in need. I would like to see your temporary organizations that are set up under the present power, work in conjunction with what we call our local relief agencies, which are the board of supervisors and township trustees, working and finding out just what the necessity is in each locality of the various families that are in need. I think that is one of the fundamental things; not let it all be taken over in one group or in the other group. Here is a group of officers, and under the Iowa law they are charged with the responsibility of caring for the poor, caring for those who need relief. The board of supervisors and township trustees have that responsibility. I don't see why it would not be to the advantage of everyone to have a harmonious program through those agencies, together with the temporary agencies. And that will become necessary when your secondary roads and erosion projects are cut off by the winter.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I think that is absolutely right. We ought to get as much local co-operation and advice from the local people as we possibly can, always bearing in mind one catch. A governor,-- I will not say which one, quite far from here,-- worked hard the other day to try to get me to say that we would

relieve his state from the obligation of taking care of the unemployables. I said, "Nothing doing. No locality, no county, can put any unemployables onto federal relief." So we have to make that very clear to all our local people. We are working together taking care of the employables. They still have got to take care of the maimed, the halt and the blind. This is out of their own funds.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I have never seen any disposition here on the part of the local authorities to try to escape that responsibility whatsoever. I don't think the governor has so far as I know.

A CONFERE: Mr. President, I was going to suggest that Senator Dickinson's program is absolutely being carried out in the state now through the various agencies in detail. There isn't a county in the state that is not operating under that program now.

GOVERNOR HERRING: Our relief organizations are always set up with the approval of the board of supervisors. This drought committee in those forty-five counties was set up by taking the county agent, chairman of the board of supervisors, the relief administrator and the rehabilitation supervisor, and then adding to that the soil conservation group from each township who have been elected by their people in the township, so that tied it right down to the local people, so far as the drought relief is concerned.

SENATOR DICKINSON: That ties it down to the present group, but does not tie it down to something that has been selected by the voters of this locality.

GOVERNOR HERRING: The voters select your township soil conservation, and chairman of the board of supervisors.

A CONFeree: We are absolutely working with the board of supervisors in every county in the state.

A CONFeree: WPA is set up by the board of supervisors selecting members, they are sponsoring them.

GOVERNOR HERRING: In all these groups.

A CONFeree: The soil liming program is very vital in the southern part of Iowa. If their soil was in shape so they could have grown enough legumes to maintain the fertility of the soil, they would have on hand right now sufficient to pay the taxes.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: I suggest we are meeting that in very many places through cooperatives.

GOVERNOR HERRING: Senator Dickinson, do you have anything further?

SENATOR DICKINSON: Nothing further.

MR. JONES: That program comes in the purchasing of the lime, by the farmer. A wide distribution of it is prevented by the inability of the farmer to make the purchase. If that can be worked out and you can have a general application of the liming program, I think there could be nothing finer.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course the liming program is a grand thing so long as it is done selectively, done on land that is going to profit by it, and at the same time it is a program that will tend towards elimination of erosion. I don't think we can do it on every small farm. It depends on the individual farm. It is not a thing that covers all farms in every region.

MR. JONES: WPA provides the lime.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How much have you got in the way of a soil survey in the state?

MR. BLISS: A very complete soil survey. Down to about forty acres in about ninety counties.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Do you have an underground water survey?

A CONFeree: The geological survey have a pretty good picture of the underground supply.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Can you check very well on the underground water table?

A CONFeree: It is rather hard because of the soil. You take the south part of the state and the water level is so variable, and in some cases you have to go quite deep for water; other cases you can get it quite shallow. Regarding the ponds, I might say that with our conservation work we have used quite a few ponds as we get further south, and those ponds do hold water, and a recent survey indicates they have been

very helpful in this drought already in supplying stock water. A survey showed where they had two million cubic feet capacity, even going through this drought, we will have half of the capacity left. Here their development was on a community basis too. Some of them went over into Missouri. Water is a serious problem, and there are a few counties in the southern part bordering on that state have some difficulty, and we have some.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It seems to me the thing to do is to work out, in conjunction with the state authorities, a fairly complete program of projects to put through from now until spring. Having done that, of course, it depends a little bit on future legislation in Washington, appropriations, and so forth and so on. But we have got some idea of a long range program of water conservation, and especially in this state, soil conservation.

GOVERNOR HERRING: Professor Keller is the Assistant WPA Director. George, do you have anything to suggest?

PROFESSOR KELLER: Not now.

A CONFEREE: Mr. President, I wish to say here, these various farm groups are meeting as much as twice a month. All of these agencies. We have canvassed all of the questions that you have discussed here today. We have a brief prepared of a meeting we held on Wednesday of this week, and can assure you that every

one of these agencies are operating carefully and well. We have complete reports which we have submitted, and we have a program which we will submit to you, probably this week.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: If anything occurs to you, wire us.

MR. LEGGETT: The corn loan program in this state has been a wonderful thing. The furnishing of seed has been a wonderful thing in the state. The appreciation is self-evident. We have those agencies, relief agencies, meeting different groups from time to time under the National Emergency Council.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: There isn't anything else then, is there?

GOVERNOR HERRING: There isn't anything else.

(Conference closed. 3:50 P.M.)

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE

for

K A N S A S,

held at the State House, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 3:50 P. M.

PRESENT:

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

President of the United States.

Gov. Alfred M. Landon,
Sen. Arthur Capper,
Dean Call,
Dean Umberger,
Dr. Grimes, State Agricultural Commissioner,
Mr. Knapp, State Water Engineer,
Evan Griffith, WPA,
Walton Dodge, RA,
Hugh Harrell and Dave Mullendore, FCA,
John Graber, NEC.

Secretary Wallace,
Harry Hopkins and Howard Hunter,
Rexford Tugwell,
Governor Myers,
Robert Fechner - CCC,
Commissioner Goss,
Eugene Leggett,
Alfred Stedman.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE
for
KANSAS,

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 3:50 P.M.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Well, Governor, I suppose we might as well go ahead in the very informal way in which I had a number of conferences already. I have always started them by trying to simplify the procedure, taking first things first. The first thing is relating to the immediate relief needs, and that means first of all the number of people we have on the relief rolls and upon the resettlement grant list at the present time, and how many we are going to add between now and snowfall, and how many we will have to carry through the winter. Have you got those figures, Harry, Can you give us those figures for Kansas?

MR. HOPKINS: Mr. Griffith says there are approximately 62,000 families entirely on relief within the cities.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Could you give us the figures, Mr. Griffith?

MR. GRIFFITH: I say, possibly 62,000 families,

on the farms and in the cities.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Leave out the cities.

MR. GRIFFITH: On the drought roll we anticipate we will reach 22,000. We have 7800 at the present time working.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many resettlement -- rehabilitation?

MR. GRIFFITH: 5600, Mr. President, between 5600 and 5700.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In addition to your estimate, the 7,000, that is included?

MR. GRIFFITH: No. We have included that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What is the total of the two agencies?

MR. GRIFFITH: We have 7800.

MR. TUGWELL: 5600 now, including both agencies.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: So, in other words, it is just about double the number of families we have on at the present time. They begin to come on week after week. Coming on from now to the time snow flies, and then during the winter they will remain approximately the same.

MR. GRIFFITH: I would say yes, Mr. President. Fall seeding is holding back some, and maybe some may be holding off who will be forced on them, that is what is slowing us up now.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That brings up the problem, What are we going to do with them during the

winter? In other words, from now until next April or May. As I have said in all these conferences, it is my thought that we want to give them work; insofar as possible to find useful projects for them. On the other hand, there are certain parts of the farming districts where you can't do an awful lot of useful work during the winter, and that means some percentage of the families will have to go onto the rehabilitation grant, which is nothing more or less than a dole. That would run around how much, Rex? \$22.00 a month?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: That would be the average, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: My thought is we ought to do that only where we are driven to it by a lack of useful work. And what percentage that will be it is a little difficult to know. What present percentage would you say in Kansas? Have you any idea? What percentage of the 22,000 families would have to go on rehabilitation grants instead of government work?

MR. GRIFFITH: Not until December or January. A great many go with Mr. Mullendore's and Mr. Dodge's resettlement. We think we can take care of 10,000 more than we are at the present time. At least 18,000 on WPA, up to January first.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What happens in January and February and the fore part of March?

MR. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the reason I say

it that way, we are doing a great deal of water conservation work. We will have two or three months that will not be practical for dam building.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Twenty-three of them come under the resettlement. You ought to be prepared to be flexible about that. You can go to road work more at that time.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: But try to maintain the principle of putting as few people on the straight grant method as possible.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes.

MR. FECHNER: That brings up the question we had in North Dakota. We may be able to take a lot of those men and put them in CCC camps. We have twenty-one camps in the state, and while they are doing soil erosion work, they are building big dams. This is the only state in the Union where they are doing that kind of soil erosion. I think seven or eight large dams. Of course we had to reduce the CCC enrollees in those camps. We have carried that work on through the winter right along. We can build those camps up full strength or even over-strength, if it is desirable.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I think a very desirable thing. You see, what has happened on CCC has been very interesting. The total amount of money given by this congress provided for about 350,000 boys in the country. Of course we have limited those boys to families on

relief, but, especially in the East, the applications are not coming up to the full enrollment, which means in this drought area country we can give a much larger quota to these states than they would otherwise get, and still have enough money to do it.

GOVERNOR LANDON: I agree with the gentleman that much can be done with the CCC camps, Mr. President. You will not remember, but the first talk with me when you invited me to Washington in 1933 ----

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: About the water ----

GOVERNOR LANDON: You remember that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes.

GOVERNOR LANDON: I am amazed you remember. The CCC camps, I called Senator Capper's attention to that and discussed it with you and Senator Capper. The bills, original one provided for the camps on the national domain, and then in the states. I have talked with Mr. Tugwell about it too on subsequent visits when you happened to be on the southern trip. I think there is much to be done in the way of the CCC camps. We have had considerable resistance to the use of those camps in lake building projects from Mr. Fechner.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: He is right there.

GOVERNOR LANDON: I mean in the past. To begin with you had some difficulties in your department, I think.

MR. FECHNER: There wasn't any difficulty, Mr. President. We just were not prepared to undertake big

engineering projects.

GOVERNOR LANDON: Whether it was technicalities, or what it was, we had some difficulties to start with. I think it is a program that fits our problem very well in Kansas.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many camps have you got in the state?

MR. FECHNER: Twenty-one camps in the state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How near full are they, about 150 boys?

MR. FECHNER: 150, yes, Sir. 157 is authorized strength.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In filling those up that means practically 50 more boys to the camp. Twenty-one.

MR. FECHNER: 1,050 additional boys from relief families who could be put in those camps.

GOVERNOR LANDON: These projects that have been built here are good and sound and will add, not only to the water conservation of the state, but to the recreational life of the state, which is no mean consideration.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That brings up the question of the projects we can undertake between now and next spring. Some of them will have to be laid off in the winter time and some of them could be finished before winter, others could be completed later on in the spring. Those really fall into two groups: One is the soil

erosion, and the other is the water conservation. Take up the last one first. I think also you talked about the farm ponds, the garden ponds, the small reservoirs, and overflow dams in the streams.

GOVERNOR LANDON: In dry weather.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes. And the more we can do of that kind of work the better. One big problem that arises is as to the use of these farm ponds on private property. The rule we have always adhered to up to the present time is, that we would not build a pond unless the owner either gave title, a lease, or an easement for the neighbors to come in and use it. Is there any trouble getting that in Kansas?

GOVERNOR LANDON: I think that has worked very well, hasn't it, Dean Umberger?

DEAN UMBERGER: That has worked very satisfactorily.

GOVERNOR LANDON: Dean Umberger is head of the Extension Department.

DEAN UMBERGER: As to ponds as well as wells. Ponds and wells have helped very materially in this drought.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It helps if they can get those easements or title. There are some cases where they are terracing where they probably won't get title.

DEAN UMBERGER: I think there has been no difficulty getting easements that meet all the requirements that their agencies have imposed.

GOVERNOR LANDON: In the other CCC projects we have got title.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Could you get a list of that type of project, water conservation, which is sufficient to put a lot of people to work for many years to come?

GOVERNOR LANDON: I don't have the individual projects. Of course you have the general recommendation of general policy along that line.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The engineering of the thing wouldn't hold the thing up very long?

DEAN UMBERGER: I don't handle that.

GOVERNOR LANDON: We have our State Water Engineer here, Mr. President, Mr. Knapp, and I will ask him if the engineering would hold it up very long?

MR. KNAPP: I think not, Mr. President. The counties and the relief agencies, in general, have prepared the plans and submitted them to the State Department of Water Resources, which department checks those for sound engineering design and inspects the construction in order to make permanent structures of them, and this state department is in shape to check plans and inspect almost any volume of work that could be put under way.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We saw up in North Dakota and South Dakota quite a number of these small pond dams, just a clay core, bottle core, and being

built by the farmers on relief within a radius of ten or fifteen miles.

MR. KNAPP: There has been a great deal of that done in our state, and it has been very very beneficial.

GOVERNOR LANDON: We worked that out in a conference with Mr. Hopkins in 1934. We have a copy of that report from that conference of 1934. I would be glad to leave it with you. Mr. Hopkins sent three men into the state, Mr. Stone and Mr. Black, and I have forgotten the third man's name; we worked that out in a conference with them, and built some 2,000 ponds under that 1934 program.

MR. KNAPP: Some 2,000, where the dam is more than ten feet high or stores more than fifteen acre-feet of water, and about 1500 additional smaller ones.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I think that is a record. I don't think any state has done as much as that.

MR. KNAPP: If I may add a word there, Mr. President. During the present drought of this year the worth of those ponds has been amply demonstrated. As I drive over the state I see farmers hauling water from those reservoirs as well as stock being watered from them. In regions where the drought of 1934 went entirely outside of the water supply those water supplies have proven ample to carry those communities entirely through this drought.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Do you think those ponds have had anything to do with holding up the water table?

MR. KNAPP: Immediately below, perhaps.

However, ponds that have been constructed only a few years, I would say that the water table probably has not been affected more than a quarter of a mile below them in the ravines, but it has been possible to dig many good wells in the ravines and loose valley fill immediately below those ponds and get a high quality of water.

GOVERNOR LANDON: You were telling me the same thing, Dean Umberger, as being your experience.

DEAN UNBERGER: My experience substantiates that.

MR. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, it might be of interest to you to know that in the state we have about 300 county plans going under construction, that are large ponds, about 6-1/2 acre size average, an average depth of about 5 feet. An example of one district, about sixteen counties, we will have requests for approximately 330, and have only promised about 200.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are the people themselves so keen about it?

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then there is one other type of water use, I don't know much about what its possibilities are in Kansas, and that is the irrigation of the river bottoms.

MR. KNAPP: That is very heavy storage, very large reservoirs to accumulate water and release it in dry years, No extensive projects of that kind could be developed in our state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What about the Kaw River, didn't I have that before me at one time?

MR. KNAPP: The Kaw River is a very large stream. About 60,000 square miles. The water supply, that is, the principal waters of the stream come into the stream east of the arid portion of the state. The headwaters out near the west line contain too small water supplies, so that this matter that was before you one time dealt with storage almost at the east end of the state for flood control. Without considerable storage in the west end of the state, that is, large conservation reservoirs and equalized stream flow, no extensive irrigation could be developed. We do have some small amount of irrigation either by pumping from the stream or pumping from wells. The difficulty in pumping from the stream is that during a drought like this our streams practically cease to flow.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is a thing we will probably not get into for another five or ten years.

GOVERNOR LONDON: This program helped -- to a fraction of one per cent. In this report to Mr. Hopkins, we point out, the farm pond checks the run-off.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I am tremendously keen about that.

GOVERNOR LANDON: Flood waters of the lower Mississippi.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I think in the long run this is going to have an effect on the water table.

GOVERNOR LANDON: No doubt about that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: On our project I think we ought to go ahead with these ponds and water resource developments all we can.

GOVERNOR LANDON: I don't know of anything that would be better for the state and more impressed with national interest.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That brings up the other factor, which is soil erosion. There has been some done on it, not an awful lot. Of course, as you know, I am very enthusiastic about tree planting. There are lots of these higher lands that we can get trees on. It will take a long time.

GOVERNOR LANDON: In this farm pond plan, I will have to refer to Mr. Knapp to know how it is followed out. It was the idea that trees be planted around these farm ponds. Was that carried out?

MR. KNAPP: I think something has been done. Not as much as might be done.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then on the erosion itself. I think, of course, you have got some erosion problem in Kansas. Not as much as in some states.

GOVERNOR LANDON: We have quite an erosion problem. I would like to have Dean Call speak on that.

DEAN CALL: In the northeastern part of the state we have a very serious problem. In other sections it is also serious. Of course, as compared with more rolling states you wouldn't say our problem is serious, but we have localities in Kansas where it is an exceedingly serious problem.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What are we doing on that at the present time?

DEAN CALL: We are working, of course, with the soil conservation service.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many CCC camps are working on erosion?

MR. FECHNER: Nearly all on these big dams, Mr. President.

DEAN CALL: We have several camps on erosion. I should judge at the present time probably six or eight, not more than that, probably six or eight.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What are they doing?

DEAN CALL: Doing various types of work. We have not proceeded as rapidly in Kansas with the construction of terraces as they have in some sections. We feel the need of feeling our way somewhat in the use of terraces.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Is there much interest in them?

DEAN CALL: There is great interest in them, Mr. President, yes. Great interest in them. They have

done some work of that character, doing excellent work in cleaning up pastures of undergrowth so that the grass can come in. That will help control erosion. In the western part of the state they have been cleaning cactus out of pastures. That has been helpful in improving the grass cover and in that way reduces erosion. The program is going forward very satisfactorily, I should say, in our state, and considerable relief labor is being used; not only CCC camp labor but other relief labor, on these projects.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They have done a good deal more in the Southeastern states on terracing than we have in the North and Middle West.

GOVERNOR LANDON: As the Dean says, our agricultural college people wanted to go a little slow on the terracing, for technical reasons, until it is developed a little more, from experience, what to expect from it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In the South they are using two methods. One in the purchase of the terracing machine through cooperatives, and the other, the purchase of the machine through the county commissioners, and then renting it out at so much an acre or so much a day, depending on the county or the land.

DEAN CALL: Mr. President, we feel that most of our terrace work should be done with the equipment that the farmer has on the farm or can secure from the

township trustees or the county commissioners. We believe we should make our terraces somewhat smaller than they have done in the South. And that is one reason why we want to feel our way. Another reason is, there are certain insect problems that may develop. You take the terrace line running through a field, uncultivated, furnishes a place for grasshoppers to deposit eggs. We do not know but what we will have more insect trouble where those terraces cross our fields than we would have with them not present. There are a number of things we feel we want to know about those possibilities.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Have you done anything with -- what is the name of the machine -- dam lister?

DEAN CALL: We developed the damming lister at the agricultural college experimental station. I think probably one of the first listers that has been developed.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I never heard of the thing until I came out on this trip. Very much interested.

DEAN CALL: We are enthusiastic about its use.

GOVERNOR LANDON: The experimental station is part of the agricultural college.

DEAN CALL: We feel that it has a place in moisture conservation in our state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is a very interesting thing. It sets a lot of little dams about that long.

Seed loans, what about that? Are you all right for winter wheat?

GOVERNOR LANDON: Dean Umberger, you know more about that.

DEAN UMBERGER: I wonder if Mr. Mullendore couldn't answer that better than I can. I have only incidental information, Mr. President, about that, in our extension service. I don't have definite information. I wonder if Mr. Mullendore or Mr. Harrell ---

MR. MULLENDORE: Mr. President, I felt as though the state department was taking care of those loans regularly. It takes about three days service for them to close a loan. I understand they are handling them. Of course this drought has held it up because there isn't enough moisture for them to put out any money for seed wheat until they have the moisture. They are expecting an overflow perhaps of applications at that time, if we should get the moisture. I think they are taking care of it in very good shape.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are you going to have enough seed corn for spring planting?

A CONFeree: No, Sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You will have to borrow some from Iowa.

DEAN UMBERGER: Just where we are going to get it, I don't know, unless Dean Call can answer the question.

DEAN CALL: I would like to make a very brief report. Professor Throckmorton, the Etimologist of the college at Manhattan, has recently made a tour over the state to look into that question. He told me last evening that he had found much more seed corn in northeastern Kansas than he anticipated. There is seed corn in the southeastern part of the state. There are isolated patches of corn that will be suitable for seed through the eastern third of the state, in protected places, in river valleys. We feel that if all of the corn that is now available can be conserved for seed that we would have enough to meet our needs. The question is ---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: If they don't sell it for \$1.15 a bushel.

DEAN CALL: --- the question is, can it be conserved.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Our people say they have already made 2,000 loans, and anticipate there will be need for 3,000 more, 9,000 in the spring. Just a rough survey.

DEAN CALL: Could I supplement what I said

about seed corn. We are going to be urgently deficient in seed varieties suitable for the western part of the state. This territory is not a large corn growing territory, but the total acreage totals pretty high, and there is going to be an acute shortage of varieties for that territory.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Where could it be gotten from?

DEAN CALL: Old stock is about the only source of supply. We can go north for corn, but they don't have it this year. It must be early maturing varieties. There is going to be an acute shortage of corn in that territory. Fortunately in that territory they can substitute sorghums for corn. It appears at this time there is going to be a satisfactory supply of sorghum seed from the Panhandle of Texas, and seed of that variety is satisfactory for the State of Kansas.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The next subject I have on my list is the question of land surveys. My general thought on the thing is, and I think we all have the same feeling, that it would help us if we really had a fairly good survey of every farm all through the drought states, first of all, and then eventually all through the United States, so we would know the character of the land, what it should grow, before we proceed to make loans or build dams or do anything else. Of course it will take a long while to do that.

GOVERNOR LONDON: No question, Mr. President, but what that is necessary for the development of a sound national land use policy. In Kansas we are making a survey through the state college.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How far has that gone.

GOVERNOR LONDON: I would say only just a step.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It takes a long time. I started when I was up in Albany. I started that in 1930, and they have gone ahead with it. They have only done five counties out of fifty-seven.

MR. KNAPP: This work has all been done with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture. We have a detailed survey of about eighteen counties, I have forgotten the exact number, about eighteen counties, in the eastern part of the state. It is the most urgent need for fundamental information at this time. They all think we should proceed much more rapidly than we are proceeding with our soil survey, and that, of course, should be associated with the other surveys.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What is the federal law on that? Do we put out fifty-fifty with the states? Do you know, Henry?

SECRETARY WALLACE: We put up most of the money on that, Mr. President. We do it in cooperation with the United States Experimental Station. We put

up most of the money.

DEAN CALL: It has been purely on a fifty-fifty basis in the State of Kansas. We have supplied one man beside a man from the Department. We have supplied half of the expense. It is true the Department has borne a little more than half of the expense in that they have usually supplied an experienced man and we have supplied an inexperienced man, so in that way they have borne a little more than the state has on that work.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How long do you suppose it would take?

SECRETARY WALLACE: Mr. President, this should be clear, however. This is not the kind of thing you did in New York. You did a very much more complete job in those six New York counties than we do with the soil survey.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: There we took the population problem into account too.

SECRETARY WALLACE: That is what I meant, Mr. President, when I said we should have more information than secured just from a soil survey. I am a member of a committee of the Landgrant College Association. That committee has prepared a report urging continuation and increased support for the soil survey and has outlined a program that can complete a detailed soil survey for the United States in the next ten years, and

we feel it should be done, if possible, in that period of time.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Of course ~~that~~ thing would cost a good deal of money. How much do you figure it would cost to complete, in Kansas, for instance?

DEAN CALL: It will cost about \$5,000.00 a county, and we have probably eighty counties in the eastern part of the state to do.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What's that?

DEAN CALL: Now, that is only the soil survey.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I mean to do a complete job.

DEAN CALL: Probably we would need from ten to fifteen thousand dollars a county. Cost about three times as much, Mr. President, ---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How much would that be for the state? My mathematics are not good. I suppose \$10,000 a county.

DEAN CALL: We don't need a detailed survey of the entire state of Kansas.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You don't?

DEAN CALL: We need a detailed survey of the eastern half of Kansas, then we need detailed surveys of certain sections of western Kansas, and we need this information about human factors and crop conditions throughout the state. I would say \$10,000.00. Multiplied by 105, \$1,500,000.00.

GOVERNOR LANDON: Do you need it for 1957?

DEAN CALL: I think the \$10,000.00 is a little low per county, and that is the reason I did it that way.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: In twenty-five counties in the western part of the state it will be done by spring in cooperation with everybody.

A CONFERE: They are not making a detailed soil survey over there in the sense I think of a detailed soil survey, giving general soil types ---

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: They are going as far as taking payroll figures.

DEAN CALL: That is true. And they are getting erosion information, they are getting detailed soil information in that survey.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: This is something for the Committee on Agriculture in the Senate to take up.

Of course, at the present time we have the possibility of making headway during the coming year, because we have the projects and we have the WPA labor. It is merely a question of tying the two together while we are working out the longer range programs. It seems to me on the long range programs we are in pretty good agreement as to what we are after.

GOVERNOR LANDON: I think so.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I don't think, Governor, I have anything else down here.

We have gone over water, soil erosion,

terracing, submarginal land. Submarginal land, that ties into the survey.

GOVERNOR LONDON: We have a very small part or portion of that in Kansas.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: There is nothing else I can think of.

GOVERNOR LONDON: The only thing I would like to mention,-- I have a report, or suggestion, prepared by the college, which I will be glad to leave with you if you would like to have it, which covers these questions.

We have a problem in Kansas on emergency rates on feed. The railroads have put it in for individual lines and will not put the joint rates in. They turned us down in two conferences, and we have another conference in Chicago in October. Securing the joint rate is one of the best things we could do in the immediate present.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And the ICC doesn't seem to be willing to take action?

GOVERNOR LONDON: Second, emergency rate on concentrates.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Very important.

GOVERNOR LONDON: Very important. Molasses especially will be a big help to us in feeding stock. If there is anything you can do to get us the joint rate and the emergency rate that is already in

existence on the individual; and, second, the emergency rate on concentrates, which is not in existence on anything.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Is that hearing the one Eastman is holding?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: He is having one in Montana.

GOVERNOR LANDON: No, the meeting on the 4th is a meeting of the Western Railroad Executives in Chicago.

They have turned us down twice.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The ground being they are afraid of suits.

A CONFERE: The only explanation I can arrive at for their failure to put in the joint rate is it divides the profits too thin. They don't want to divide them among themselves.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Henry, what was that you were saying about the fear of being sued?

SECRETARY WALLACE: In the 1934 Drought Act there was a provision that the railroads would be exempt from suits because of favoritism in granting rates to particular regions, and in the case of the regions that are a little bit on the border line, now, they hesitate to take action, for fear they would be subject to suits. It is a matter that caused us, ever since we first began to work on this matter,

caused us considerable embarrassment in extending concessions in that territory that is not quite so severely affected.

GOVERNOR LANDON: It does not apply, Mr. President, to the joint rates. It is a considerable disadvantage to a farmer who locates his feed on one line and lives on the other, maybe thirty miles from the land it originated on. We have incident after incident on different occasions, we submitted to them.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Why isn't that in the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission?

GOVERNOR LANDON: I think it is.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: They say they have no jurisdiction.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Why?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: They say they have no jurisdiction over emergency rates.

A CONFeree: It is intrastate, isn't that the reason they have no jurisdiction?

GOVERNOR LANDON: We want it both intrastate and interstate. We are buying feed outside of Kansas, we have to buy feed outside of Kansas. And the third thing, Mr. President, I would like to emphasize, is the importance of maintaining the agency just as the Department of Agriculture set it up in 1934, and which has been revised, and I think is still in existence, to gather clearing house information where

feed can be bought.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is a very important thing.

GOVERNOR LANDON: And working through the extension department of our agricultural college, I think that would be a very valuable help.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That's fine. Thank you very much. I will see you later.

GOVERNOR LANDON: Thank you, Mr. President, I have enjoyed the conference very much.

(Conference closed. 4:30 P.M.)

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE,

for

O K L A H O M A,

held at the State House, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 4:35 P. M.

PRESENT:

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

President of the United States.

Gov. E. W. Marland,
Sen. Thomas P. Gore,
Sen. Elmer Thomas,
State Sen. Al. Nichols,
State Sen. James Nance,
State Sen. Ed. King,
Col. W. S. Key, WPA,
D. P. Trent, RA,
Hugh Harrell and Dave Mullendore, FCA,
Forrest Parrott, NEC.

Secretary Wallace,
Harry Hopkins and Howard Hunter,
Rexford Tugwell,
Governor Myers,
Robert Fechner, - CCC,
Commissioner Goss,
Eugene Leggett,
Alfred Stedman.

OKLAHOMA

PRESIDENTIAL DROUTH CONFERENCE

for
OKLAHOMA,

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday
September 3, 1936, commencing at 4:35 P. M.

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We might as well go ahead in the usual method I have been using, and first of all take up the immediate necessities, the people who need help at the present time, and that will need help between now and winter time and through the winter. Of course, your situation is pretty bad, we all recognize that, and it has come a little later than some of the other crises in different states. How many people have you got now on WPA relief rolls doing work, and on resettlement grants?

A CONFeree: Approximately 68,000 on WPA approximately.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: 18,000 on grants.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: About 95,000 all told--85,000.

A CONFeree: And about 17,000 on drouth cases.

A CONFeree: Now we have 22,000--

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: About how many of those--

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: 19,000 on grants at the present time, Mr. President.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I wish to add a possible

75,000 to 90,000 farmers that need help.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What do you estimate that will increase during the winter, the farmer families?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: 100,000 farm families in Oklahoma without means to go on, now that is not excessive as to that---

Mr. TRENT: I would say 80,000 to 100,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: From 85,000 to 86,000 to add to that 100,000?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We estimated today that we would have to take care of something like forty or fifty thousand of these people that haven't anything, they are just burned out. We have had the longest and hottest spell we ever experienced. They have no feed for their cattle or stock and nothing for their families. Thousands of families in Oklahoma that cannot go on more than a week or two.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many farm families all told in Oklahoma?

Mr. TRENT: 215,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That would be around forty per cent of the total.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I am not exaggerating, Mr. President, when I say these people are suffering and absolutely have nothing, they had no garden or fruit, they haven't been able to put up anything.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You have had nothing--you had a great deal of rain in May, half normal in June, a quarter of normal in July and about one tenth of normal in August.

Mr. TUGWELL: From our point of view this is our biggest relief state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then on the percentage basis the total of farm families on relief is about 67 per cent, which is much higher than North Dakota.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Just about the same.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Just about the same as North Dakota on the percentage basis?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now that brings us up to the question of what are we going to do about it, we have--

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I want to put them to work--

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes, the first thing we want to do is to put them to work, on the otherhand, during the winter there will be some types of work that cannot be prosecuted---

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Some types of work, but the kind we need can be prosecuted all winter--the building of ponds, dams and terracing.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How much has been done by the state and Federal government authorities to pick out the sites, do the engineering work and have things ready to give these people work in the immediate future?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: There has been a great deal of work done by the agricultural college, resettlement works groups, and then in addition to that your A and M college has graduated thousands of young men from the college and 50,000 young men graduated from other institutions trained for this work. They know how to do it, they know how to run their farm levels, know how to build these ponds, we have got a veritable army of trained men to do the work we want done and they know how to do it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What has been done about the title and easements for dams, ponds, reservoirs and etc. ?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I do not think there should be any easements or any title in the Federal government in these ponds under eight or nine foot water levels. We need 50,000--

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We cannot properly do it for the individual farmer unless it is of benefit to the community as a whole.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Any time a farmer building a pond with nine feet of water he is helping the whole community and helping the water table of the whole state. In building ponds on their farms in Oklahoma that need ponds will raise the water table over the entire state. If we build a pond on every farm in the state that needs a pond we will raise the water table all over Oklahoma.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We have been getting easements in practically every other state.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We have many in Oklahoma, but there are quite a few of the farmers that will refuse to give easements for an eight or nine foot dam, they do not want people to come in on their farms and use it. I think we will build so many there that the other people wont need to use them, those for the farmer's own use and it will benefit the water level of the whole state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What about that Harry and Rex?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: We haven't done that any place else, Mr. President. I would say this to begin with. In the second place, I think from our experience that is the only way. If it is approached properly it can be done and the easement can be gotten.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You are up against this problem, Governor Marland, if we once start to use Federal funds to meet the need of the individual farmer without first aiding the community altogether we are going to get into an awful lot of trouble all around the country, and you take the next step it would mean in the case of trees that the Federal government would go and put the trees on the individual farm without contribution by the individual---it would mean in the case of terracing, the Federal Government to come in and terrace the individual farmer's land free of charge. It is an awfully dangerous

precedent to start.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: If you build these ponds you do not have to plant trees, you cannot keep trees from growing around the ponds they will be there themselves in our country.

A CONFERE: Where is that program different from the soil conservation program under the individual plan where you go on the farmer's land-

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: That is covered by legislation.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The places of actual terracing we have done in all of these states, not only in this section of the country but down south too has been done primarily on the basis of the example it furnishes to the locality. In other words, it has been purely an experimental demonstration in the south and east, and there has been no idea that we would go ahead and terrace everybody's land free. We have terraced a few fields per county and then the Co-operatives or the County Commissioner have gone ahead and bought the machines and rented them out to the individual farmer, who would do perhaps ten, fifteen or twenty acres a year of terracing and pay for it.

A CONFERE: There is a public interest or community interest. The situation we are confronted with in Oklahoma in the construction of farm ponds and stopping the actual washings and stopping the rain as near as possible where it falls, that is actually just as

much a public interest as flood control or any other thing we do. Now at present there is another thing we have got there that would be a problem for you.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: The building of these ponds in Oklahoma we will save you two dollars in flood damage for every dollar you spend, building these ponds.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What about the larger reservoirs?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I think the larger reservoirs should be built under your army engineers supervision. I think over anything over the size of a nine foot dam should be a community project. You gave the state of Oklahoma last year and the year before to aid Oklahoma to maintain relief, over \$20,000,000.00 which we gave to these people to pay for food, and clothes. Give us that much money to buy feed for the stock and food for the farmers and we will make them work for it. We will build you fifty thousand dams and fifty thousand ponds in Oklahoma that will be good for not only Oklahoma but for the states below us on the water shed. I know you believe in stopping the water if possible and these farmers haven't anything else to do and won't have anything else to do for the next six months, nothing they can do until next spring, let us put them to work doing what they know how to do.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And you have plenty of projects ready to go ahead.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We can put men to work in every county in the state under the county commissioner and under the supervision of the resettlement administrator, state agent and Federal agent, and we can put an army to work next week and they are going to need something to eat next week. And if we don't do something like this we are going to have hunger strikes and marches down there.

SENATOR GORE: How many projects and how many farmers are you ready to proceed with.

A CONFeree: I believe about 1540.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many built up to the present time?

A CONFeree: I haven't the information at hand.

A CONFeree: About 200 to 275 low water ponds and those streams, and about a million and a half dollars in large lakes, and a few dams.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You haven't done as much on that as a good many other states?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: No we haven't.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is time to begin it.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We must begin. The farmers realize now what they should have known for years and they realize it now when they haven't the means to do it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How much progress is being made to turn plowed land back into pasture?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Well just plowing away, not much progress is being made, we have got to give them a

chance to get it back to pasture.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: On the work program we have arrangements in two states where grants are to be worked out. We have not done it in any state where they wont assume compensation liability for accidents, etc. We don't like the idea of confusing Congress with thousands of private bills for compensation for working out these grants, but in any case where the state or the county commissioner will assume the necessary liability and agree to labor regulations we have on WPA---

GOVERNOR MARLAND: These contracts to be made by the county commissioners, the county commissioners to make the contract with the farmer to build the ponds on his farm, and it is your business to check it.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: We haven't done that on private property with all the labor regulations---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is a thing that ought to be worked out.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I think the county commissioner would take it. We will take that liability.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Can you legally---

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We will say to them we will give them so much money to get the work done. We contract with the farmers to do the work and it is their liability.

SENATOR GORE: If we would raise the pay from

\$15.00 to \$22.00 per week--

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We are all agreed that we want to get away from the grant or dole as much as we possibly can.

SENATOR GORE: Raise them from \$15.00 to \$21.00 and I suggest that the different rate would bring them within the terms of the statute right now and in two months pay them as much as they get in three.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the problem of seedloans, are you going to have any seed, wheat and seed corn?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: No. We will need seed.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What loans have been made on winter wheat already?

A CONFeree: 275 loans and 994 in process in counties.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Any seed loans?

A CONFeree: Possibly 1200.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: What do you estimate you will need?

A CONFeree: Practically 30,000 farmers in the state need seed loans.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: For what?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: For seeding fall wheat lands and fall pasture. It is the worst in years.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is terrible.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Don't forget, Mr.

President, that Oklahoma has been one of the best states you have had--while we are ^{the} third state in the middle west we are one of the best states in the middle west to contribute to the Federal Treasury.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: The trouble in Oklahoma has been quite a large population. It has been so prosperous it has got a large population.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: And good oil fields.

A CONFeree: On your seed loan I think I stated the big section of Oklahoma, Mr. President, affected most seriously by this drouth, the eastern section of Oklahoma raises principally corn and cotton, that is the class of farming, now whether, we would like to face it or not, we never paid much attention how much is grown as feed crops. The cotton is a cash crop and in the fall after he harvests his corn his farm activity practically ceases, that isn't high class farming normally, but that is our situation in eastern Oklahoma. So a lot of those fellows will need seed loans all right. I do not know what they will do with them, their ground isn't prepared. They wouldn't need seed wheat for anything that was satured. They wouldn't need--The seed they need is just some roughage to carry their stock through.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is a spotted condition.

A CONFeree: Your map shows a little spot, doesn't it in east central Oklahoma that is still just as

dark as it could be if it is a black and white map. Where you do get rain at all it is ordinarily rained out.

A CONFERE: Just as true as it can be if it is a black and white map where they had no rain at all, which ordinarily has rainfall. And then ordinarily we have lots of rain in that section. And another thing for the fall feed those farmers always had stock feed usually there, the cotton fields, turned the stock in on the cotton field pasture and they roughed it therein the cotton fields. This fall we haven't even got the cotton stalks.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What about the cattle situation, what percentage of cattle have been taken out.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I don't think any one can answer that. They are shipping constantly, there is nothing for them to get there now. They are getting them out as much as possible.

A CONFERE: They haven't even got fodder for milk stock.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They will need fodder for foundation stock?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And they haven't got it.

A CONFERE: They don't even have fodder for milk stock, and for their family stock.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is a question of hurrying

and getting busy on this right away.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: And we can't wait on it.

A CONFEREES: May we suggest that Colonel Key and Mr. Gore called on Governor Marland in July with a proposed plan, I don't know whether it ever got to you or not, Dr. Tugwell--I talked to one of your assistants in Washington about it later, that the soil erosion conservation service would become the sponsor of a project that they had at that time--if my memory serves me right, something like 25 thousand or some sum of money not very much less than \$100,000.00,--but they would become sponsor and they would use that money and employ a technical personnel and direct the operation of building farm ponds. At that time we talked something about trench silos, construction of farm ponds, and let the WPA furnish the labor on those projects on private farms. Now could that kind of a program be worked out without easements, or some sort of a program you could work on where easements have not been acquired.

MR. TUGWELL: Your program under the soil conservation act we have gives a definite arrangement set up by Congress for the contribution which the farmer has to make. There are certain demonstration areas and they are carefully limited and in all the others it is done through the co-operative associations. There is a very definite rule about the contribution the Federal government makes and that the individual makes. That is written into

the law and defines it in the public service. But with these relief funds we feel very reluctant to legislate that way.

A CONFEREE: We think that fits with the WPA.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That brings up one other question, that is the general idea of carrying through over a period of possibly of one or two years a general survey farm by farm. Now how much has the state done in making a land use survey?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Done quite a little in the last year.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: As I understand, that has been practically done on a fifty fifty basis between the Federal government and the state government?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We worked with the agricultural administration.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Should not that be encouraged and actually become a major program at the opening of the next session of Congress.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: It is a part of the permanent program to make this farm survey now, and the other Mr. President, is not necessary, we have these men trained---

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The only point is this, there are certain farms that ought not to continue as farms.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How are we going to avoid the mistake of putting out money on the farms that ought

not to continue as a farm? That is why I am asking about the survey as a part of a general survey program, should they not go hand in hand.

A CONFeree: There are two different things at this time, Mr. President, we might meet in conference on.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes, but we do not want to continue making a mistake in that important work.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I think we have got the necessary data and know where it is worth while. In our own agricultural administration we have that in pretty good shape.

A CONFeree: Then would that mean for the immediate need? Under our situation here we feel we need immediate relief. Would that mean if a farmer living on a farm and probably the survey of the farm shows it should be taken out of production, would that mean that that farmer because he lived on the farm which should be taken out of production or use under this program, would receive no assistance?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: No, he would get a grant all right, he wouldn't get a rehabilitation loan on such a place.

A CONFeree: Or arrange for another farm?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Would you make a grant to build a pond even though you knew he was going to move off?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Not to build a pond but give him a grant to live on and keep his family on.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: You would let him build a pond on there would you, even though you knew he was going to abandon it?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: That is the kind of thing that ought to depend on the survey.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I think we have that survey.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Even if a farm was going to be abandoned it could be used for stock purposes.

SENATOR GORE: Obviously out in that dust bowl that sort of a survey would show we have a lot of acres in Oklahoma by reason of weather erosion would be taken out of production, if you are going to put that side of the yardstick on us down there at the present time.

PRESIDENT: ROOSEVELT: We would take care of him but we wouldn't put a lot of permanent improvements on the farm.

SENATOR GORE: He hasn't time to campaign----

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the type of reservoir that is smaller than the big ones, larger than the farm pond, in other words, the lake type, 100 to 400 acres, somewhere along that size, are there many possible projects on that?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: That is something we want to do.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Not immediately.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: But we don't want to do that now, that is my thought about it.

A CONFEREE: But have you considered irrigation?
To any extent?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I was going to come to that. In talking with the people in the upper Missouri valley, there is a great deal of bottom land where probably by the establishment of a reservoir and pumping station where you have got a constant river flow, you can put a good many acres under cultivation. You have got some of that in Oklahoma. Have you got any irrigation plans?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We have plenty of plans but we haven't any work going on.

A CONFEREE: In Oklahoma they investigated and surveyed about twenty-five years ago and about the time they got the survey completed and ready to build a flood came and washed the dam and the engine they had for pumping water away and everything else.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You --In other words, you have got to have stream regulation first before you can put in large irrigation projects. There is a very important thing on that I have been worried about going through these different states, it depends somewhat on the Federal law the same as on the state law, and as a general proposition on the establishment of an irrigation district. It ought to be undertaken not for the benefit of the man who happens to own the land at the time, but rather with the idea that we will provide comparatively small irrigated tracts which we can offer for settlement

to people who are taken off the sub-marginal land, and give them some place to go. One thing that disturbed me yesterday out in Nebraska's projects is that under this authority, whatever they call it that is building it, the existing land owner in this district that is to be irrigated will get the first whack at it and there is nothing to prevent the individual from accumulating 500, 1000 to 1500 acres of irrigated land provided he has enough capital to carry it. It doesn't guarantee a subdivision of that irrigated land into 50 or 60 acre tracts where an individual can make a living. It seems to me that if you go into a fairly good sized irrigation project, I mean anything from a couple of thousand acres or up we ought to really get the title to the land in the first instance and then subdivide it for the use of the people who come off of the sub-marginal land or farms.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I think the big land owner in Oklahoma is something you don't need to fear. We have exempted the homestead up to \$1500.00 and we are going to force the large landholders to subdivide. There is no need to worry about the big landholder in Oklahoma after the next legislature.

A CONFEREE: Will your ad valorem tax credit be on that in the higher acres?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: If a man has a little farm and has an exemption of \$1500.00, the value above the \$1500. will have to carry the tax burden for the county, you see,

if you only exempt \$1500.00 on the homestead. Mr. President your agricultural agency proposed this some years ago, there is a typical farm pond I would like to see.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Your soil taking it by and large will hold water?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I mean these ponds wont seep out in a drouth or dry time or year?

A CONFERE: A pretty high grade soil, impervious.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We have got an army of college men who know those things ready to build these ponds and are not going to build smaller ponds where they are not going to hold water. Also I want to call your attention to this further, I am not going to bother you with a lot of detail- I call your attention to the amount of Federal aid furnished to Oklahoma and the amount of Federal taxes paid by Oklahoma.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Don't bring that up because North Carolina will have a fit. The state of New York is always howling because they pay three times as many taxes per capita as any other state. And the reason is there is an awful lot of Oklahoma money in New York that pay New York taxes. There you are.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: We do want you to realize that Oklahoma is carrying its share of the Federal burden.

A CONFeree: Is there any chance to work out a program on this easement then.

A CONFeree: We are going to have to face this situation and go ahead with it.

SENATOR GORE: When the Government puts in the money to build a dam because of drouth or other exigencies they ought to have the right to haul the wateraway. I think it is on the question of privilege, and other privileges remain with the farmer. I was wondering if there could be some way to affect and adjustment along that line?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Shooting and catching fish. It seems to me that on this ^{thing} we have a mandate under the law to do these things on the land in common use. Of course, the government might in the long run build dams on individual farms or land for the common good; nevertheless at the present time as the law reads the problem we have got in the other states I think we have got to stick pretty largely to the easement method. As a matter of fact there seems to be enough individual projects where you can get the easements to certainly go through the winter.

SENATOR GORE: He has a right to do that. This hunting and fishing business is on the side, that could be cut out.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In other words, if we can confine the easement to the primary purpose of the dam, that is hauling water.

SENATOR GORE: He has a right to that.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You can always give the right of way for a specific purpose.

A CONFEREE: I say the land owner often objects to giving the right of way to ponds.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Mr. President, what are we going to tell the 100,000 hungry farmers in Oklahoma tomorrow when we go home?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You are going to tell them that the federal agencies are getting busy on it just as fast as the Lord will let them. You can tell them that. You can accomplish something in one week, but you cannot accomplish the impossible.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: That is poor consolation for a hungry farmer.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What more can you say to the hungry farmer, Governor, the machinery will be put in gear just as fast as the Lord will let you.

SENATOR GORE: I would like to raise this question. There are so many separate agencies. A fellow comes wandering into town and will not know where to go. If there was some way to establish a sort of clearing house among these agencies, some place where everybody could go, and let that central board tell him where to go, where he ought to go, that would iron out an awful lot of discontent.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It seems to be working

pretty well in most states. I am a little surprised.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: In those states where resettlement has taken primary responsibility for all farm families and we have certified to WPA, there has not been the slightest difficulty.

A CONFEREE: What do you consider was the difficulty here?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: I think one difficulty is in the certification method between the state agency, resettlement, and WPA.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: If we could put in the same machinery in Oklahoma we have in the other states, We have had absolutely no complaint the last few months.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: That is, the farm job is our job. We have responsibility for all poor farm families, and then we turn over all we can to WPA to go on work, the rest we keep.

A CONFEREE: This whole matter of administration I think could be improved in Oklahoma.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: We had that problem in the Dakotas. We settled that by having the county commissioners doing the work of their certification, and we had no trouble at all.

I think this confusion in Oklahoma comes because the farmer don't know where to go. In those states where we have resettlement offices they tell him whether he is eligible. If they think he ought, he goes on WPA, and

WPA takes these certificates and puts them to work. There is no confusion where you put this system to work.

A CONFEREE: Do we have different certification systems?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: No. I think we ought to have a state meeting.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I suggest this as a practical solution of the matter: That you have a state meeting just as quick as the Lord will let you, and discuss doing this thing on the same basis as all the other states. It clicks everywhere else. Work out the project the Governor is talking about. And tell everybody to go ahead.

Just what is being done on these projects to put them to work?

I think if you have a meeting of that kind in Oklahoma City it would be a fine thing. And get down to words of one syllable.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: Do you see any chance to get the relief to the drought stricken farmers right away?

A CONFEREE: We have the same plan as Bismark and solved it in that way.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: If Mr. Hunter and Mr. Dean can get down to Oklahoma soon to work out the same system we have in the Dakotas, I am sure there would be no more trouble. The difficulty is certification by the

state welfare board. They ought to be confined.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Mr. Tugwell, the Governor says he wants that new system started to work.

I suppose you could begin pretty soon to get the thing going?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Of course, there is a question of quotas. I think that probably the load has been built up faster than we are prepared for it.

A CONFeree: We were working 95,000 people on WPA alone in January, reduced that to 50,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: We are going as fast as the Lord will let us.

GOVERNOR MARLAND: I am taking care of 200,000 individuals. We are taking care of nearly 300,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The population is too big.

A CONFeree: If we are to have this meeting as you suggest, for the state immediately, that would be a meeting of agencies, I presume, both state and representatives of the Federal Government, would you Mr. Tugwell, have a representative or two at that meeting who could speak with authority, and probably Mr. Hopkins also?

GOVERNOR MARLAND: After your recommended machinery is installed when can we get going?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Right away. We have got the money. It is a question of getting them on the road

and getting them to work. It is the mechanics down the line.

A CONFeree: The question of quotas will have to come in.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: No question about it.

A CONFeree: Will there be a man, as the representative of the Federal Government, who can speak with authority on the quotas?

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Mr. Hopkins or myself.

A CONFeree: You are hard to get sometimes.

Mr. TUGWELL: We know how much money we have got for all over the country.

A CONFeree: I would say this, Mr. President, and Dr. Tugwell, the certification has been more rapid than there has been funds on the part of the WPA or resettlement to take care of.

A CONFeree: And the program of small farms, if we can work it out.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes.

A CONFeree: You are hard to get.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: The facts are that the certification has been more rapid than there has been funds on the part of WPA to take care of.

A CONFeree: We--the quotas we have two thousand plants and two thousand in process of employment.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: That can be taken care of.

A CONFEREE: That program of small farm ponds if it can be worked out.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Yes.

Conference ends at 5:20 P. M.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE,

for

N E B R A S K A,

held at the State House, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 5:20 P. M.

PRESENT:

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

President of the United States.

Gov. Roy L. Cochran,
A. D. Morrell, WPA,
D. P. Trent, RA,
Hugh Harrell and Dave Mullendore, FCA,
Forrest Parrott, NEO.

Secretary Wallace,
Harry Hopkins and Howard Hunter,
Rexford Tugwell,
Governor Myers,
Robert Fechner - CCC,
Commissioner Goss,
Eugene Leggett,
Alfred Stedman.

PRESIDENTIAL DROUGHT CONFERENCE

for

NEBRASKA

held at the State House, in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday,
September 3, 1936, commencing at 5:20 P. M.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: As I told the Governor,
the first thing that we have got to consider is the
immediate relief needs and the fall and winter relief
needs. How many people have you got on WPA and
resettlement grants?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: On WPA we have 7845.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Farm families?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, Sir. On grants
7900. Do you want crop loans?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: About 15,000 people
now on WPA and grants.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes; nearly 18,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What is the estimate on
the number that will be added this fall and will have
to be carried through the winter?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: We estimate 20,000 WPA.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: All told.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: At the peak.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Not new cases.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: No, Sir. Another approximately 12,000 additional for the peak.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many additional grants?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: A peak of 18,000.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Outside of WPA. In other words, a total of 40,000.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Check me on that.

A CONFERE: Considerable overlapping, Mr. President. They will obtain some grants.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And some WPA and grants.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: It is pretty hard to say what the total would be, Mr. President.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: Our estimate runs between twenty-eight and thirty thousand, somewhere around there, both agencies.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: As I said in other cases, we want, insofar as possible, to keep these people on work, on wages, but, of course, there will be some projects in certain parts of the state where you have heavy snow where work cannot be done in the winter on certain types of projects, and it may be necessary to transfer a certain proportion of farm families to grants, and we want to make that just as small a proportion as we possibly can. After all that is a dole,

and I think we are all perfectly agreed we are not favorable to the dole.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, we want more work.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Now, on the projects themselves, what projects do you think are the most important for us to pursue.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Water conservation projects wherever feasible.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Ponds and reservoirs.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: There will be many localities where they will not be feasible due to topographical conditions.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the matter of easements on these ponds. We have been having an awful time with Oklahoma. They do not like to give easements on these farm ponds. Every other state is managing to get easements.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Could I ask Mr. Morrell to answer that?

MR. MORRELL: I would say right at the present time we have enough applications from farmers who have agreed to give easements, to carry about fifty or sixty per cent of our farm load, and I think that probably will take care of the locations in the state where it is feasible to go into water conservation work. Of course we will have some additional applications. I don't anticipate any very great difficulty in obtaining

them.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is very good; very satisfactory. And the other type of water conservation, not including soil erosion, -- we will come to that after a while,-- first we have the small pond that can be built by putting the farmers in the vicinity to work, and then the larger reservoirs. Have you got much of a program on those, that is, where the dams are more than ten feet high?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: No, sir; other than our PWA projects.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are there any locations where you could use WPA workers to build fair sized lakes from ten acres up?

MR. MORRELL: There are some places in the southwestern part of the state where we can't put men in the camps because they are not in relief centers.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How about the irrigation end of it, in the rivers? You have three big projects and others of smaller size.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: We really have five now, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are there any smaller irrigation projects that can be started?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: There is one up in Loup County, you are familiar with that, possibly.

MR. MORRELL: Yes, and there are some smaller

ones out in Morrill County.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: There are some, yes, sir. They would have to be rather small projects in my opinion, on account of the labor restrictions. They don't happen to be near centers of population, where the population is not the most dense. The most dense part of the state is the eastern part. I would say yes, to some extent.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then on the soil erosion: How much work have we been doing on terracing?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: CCC camps. Quite considerable.

MR. MORRELL: And there are two or three centers where the emergency conservation work has been operating. In Valley County and up in Boone County. I don't know whether they had another county where they had been operating or not.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: We are stopped in Boone County now.

A CONFEREE: Douglas County.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Can we add to the present CCC camps in Nebraska?

A CONFEREE: On the same basis.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: In other words, fill the camps up to 200 men.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, fill them up.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: How many camps in

Nebraska?

MR. FECHNER: Twenty-four camps in the state now.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: What about those camps through the winter?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Very desirable.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That would mean 1500 more boys, and that would help your relief load; and it is well to remember that the boys taken to a conservation camp and paid \$30.00 a month, send \$25.00 home, and that \$25.00 should not be in addition to what the family gets from regular WPA work. It has got to be counted in, otherwise it would not be a fair thing for the other families.

On this soil erosion, are the local people taking an interest in the demonstration work we have done?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They like the idea?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: It is popular, don't you think?

A CONFEREE: Very popular. I might add one other thing. The one that was formerly located in Boone County is very badly needed in Webster County, the place you have the extreme drought shown on your map. We had a very bad water and soil condition down there, and it is greatly needed in that area. ~~That~~

That area for the past seven years has been the driest spot in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: The past seven years?

A CONFeree: Yes, sir.

A CONFeree: There are a few farms where there has been soil erosion, soil conservation service, and three thousand have followed the good example on their own initiative, and in Boone County where the Governor told you the project had been stopped, the soil erosion service there has saved that county alone several thousand dollars in teaching the county board how to build gullies along the roads without the necessity of building expensive bridges. That work they have done in Boone County is one of the finest examples we have had there. And there are three thousand farmers who are just following the good examples.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Are there any cooperative associations or county boards that have bought these terracing machines?

A CONFeree: There isn't up in Boone County.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Not to my knowledge.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That has been done very extensively through the South. And then the cooperatives or the county commissioners rent those machines out at so much a day or so much an acre, for terracing, and it has been a perfectly grand thing down there, and the people have taken to it. A man might do 15 to 20 acres

in one day's work. There has been fine cooperation. This, of course, is down in the Southern cotton states. There is no reason why it should not be taken on, and it would be very beneficial, up here.

A CONFERE: Advertised sometimes and made it popular in town. You can draw a crowd. In Omaha, for instance, if you announce you are going to have a picture and a talk on soil erosion, it would fill the hall. We have had several talks there in a very large hotel hall, and it has been practically jammed with people. It was most facinating. The dust storms brought it to the attention of the people in the town. It is growing every day and is in the interest of the state.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Then there was one other subject we mentioned this morning, which is the question of cooperation between the federal government and state government for pushing the survey of practically every farm in the state. That will help in the future tremendously. It will teach us where to make loans and where not to make loans. I think it is an important factor. Of course we can't accomplish it over night. It should come in the listing of land for future use, and it helps also in the actual projects which we undertake this year or next year for water storage. There is no use storing water where the population is not going to stay.

Have you anything else, Governor? I don't

know of anything else here on my list. Water storage.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: I don't think of anything else.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Do you think of anything Mr. Morrell?

MR. MORRELL: I wish to emphasize one point that the President has brought out, which we emphasized in our Nebraska State Planning Board, which was presented to your drought committee. This matter of having vital information, long time planning upon your use of land, as being one of the things we would like to see emphasized. In fact we would like to use a lot of the white-collared help which we refer to as such, in the continuation of the land plan and the land use, which we feel is the foundation for a long time land program.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is reasonably certain that the next congress will give some kind of appropriation to carry that on in the drought area states in cooperation with the state authorities. Of course, we haven't got the money at the present time to prosecute it very fast. Mr. Tugwell's organization has done a certain amount of it.

PROFESSOR TUGWELL: As we have land use planning organizations in each state, of course we are going ahead with it as rapidly as we can under all the circumstances.

A CONFERE: There has been a suggestion made

which I think is very important. It has been made in Nebraska in soil erosion work, big construction and the absence of it, and it was suggested at a meeting not long ago, that if some provision could be made with universities and colleges for definite technical instructors on that line, with the express purpose of helping soil erosion work, work of that nature, it would be very helpful, and it is very much needed, because they are short of those technical instructors.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You must have a great many graduates in the colleges who could be easily trained.

A CONFeree: They train very quickly, anyone who works on it. Foremen of the CCC boys, train very easily.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They could learn to run levels in almost a week.

A CONFeree: If you could induce your universities, with some encouragement, to give special training in that instruction, you would be preparing for one of the most important works of the future, and emphasizing it to the public. Talk about the children being faced with the future; we are doing that now anyway.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I would say if there is any one of the professions in which there is a great dearth, it is farm engineering and forestry; a real

dearth of trained personnel.

How about the forestry end of it? What are we doing in the state? I know we are not doing enough.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: We have lost thousands of trees this year. We have one active forester in Nebraska, out in the sand hills.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Have you any state nurseries?

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: No, sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: They don't cost much. I recommend state nurseries very highly. After you get them started they pay for themselves.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: We are doing a great deal of planning incident to road construction use.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes. And using trees as snow fences.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I think that is a very important thing in a lot of this snow territory. Instead of a snow fence a line of trees will do exactly the same thing if they will grow.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: I think it is in prairie country where you can get the right-of-way.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Yes.

A CONFEREE: I would like to say a word in regard to the farm forester. We are very much interested in the forestry policy situation. We are doing a great

deal of work in Clay and Merrick, and we would like to see that extended over the entire state. We are adding to our personnel of foresters at this particular time, and we would like very well to expand it. As the Governor has already mentioned, we are losing probably ten times as many trees as we lost in 1934, and they are going rapidly. I don't believe we are able to count them all yet because they are still going. And that, along with the conservation of water, is the one thing we would like to push particularly. We like the cooperation system of it. We have been asking our farmers to pay a small price for the trees, feeling that if they pay a small price for them they are cooperating, and we find it works very much better than giving the trees outright. We would like to see a unified program of forestry if it could possibly be done, so we might reach the farmers in all the state. In other words, we would like to get them in that region you visited the other day. It is possible to grow trees in those drier areas of the state with the right kind of growing conditions.

A CONFeree: We have a white-collared project for forestry research, which, at least in my own opinion, has increased the interest in tree planting in Nebraska. For instance, we drew a model plan for planting trees around school houses. When that was given publicity we had a number of requests. I have

that plan so far worked out, and it was going to be presented to the next legislature, whereby those trees will be planted around rural schools and the children brought up inside of those wooded enclosures where they have protection from the wind and that sort of thing, on a long time scale.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: It is a fine thing from an educational point of view. After all, going through all this country, I mean to say, western Nebraska, western Dakotas, eastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming, I don't get very much of a kick out of seeing a dozen trees around a farm house, or a dozen trees around a school house. It is fine, educational; but to get any real results from trees you have to plant them along section lines, along highways or in clumps, real clumps. I am inclined to think, from what I have seen, that the section line windbreak and the highway wind or snow break, is the most practical thing for us to go after.

A CONFEREE: It is bigger than a dozen trees; about 500 trees around each school house.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Mr. Morrell, do you have anything with reference to WPA?

MR. MORRELL: Nothing in particular.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Mr. White?

MR. WHITE: Nothing, except that it is sure our load is going to be very much increased.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: And that means essentially a conference between the federal agencies and state agencies which will as quickly as possible line up and list all of the projects to carry through until next summer.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: That is the real thing we have to do.

GOVERNOR COCHRAN: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: Once we have put people to work.

A CONFEREE: May I say a word. We have had splendid cooperation and recognition in Nebraska, in the federal and state agencies all working together.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: I am very happy about Nebraska. It is fine. Everything is clicking.

A CONFEREE: I have never known finer cooperation all along the line, all the way down. Another thing, since I have been in office there we have only had one complaint to make of Washington, all of the troubles were ironed out there.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: All right. We appreciate it in Washington.

(Conference closed. 5:45 P. M.)
