



CABINET MEETING, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1945

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Discuss labor



THE PRESIDENT

Asked the Secretary of Labor for news on the labor front.

SECRETARY OF LABOR

He believed that there would not be much activity in either the General Motors or steel strike before the first of the year. Glass industry is shut down for the month of December. There have been some settlements in the rubber and lumber industries. Was of the opinion that the steel strike will break first. However, that will not occur before the first of January. Was of the opinion that the President should appoint someone to go into the steel situation and try to prevent a strike.

SENATOR MCKELLAR

Senate will not adopt any punitive legislation. However, he was not so sure that the House of Representatives would not.

SECRETARY OF LABOR

The labor-management conference did not agree to voluntary arbitration or fact finding.

SECRETARY WALLACE

If the President advocates legislation, Wallace was certain that the President would be attacked by both management and labor.

THE PRESIDENT

Is of the opinion that something like the Railway Labor Act might be a solution. However, public opinion must be built up before this could be done effectively. Believed that if the Labor-Management Conference fails to develop any constructive policy the House of Representatives will then take drastic action and possibly within the coming week.

SECRETARY SCHWELLENBACH

A statement by the President should be issued looking to the setting up of a fact finding machinery. Legislation should be passed ~~granting~~ authority similar to that given the War Labor Board.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK

Thought that companies would produce records to the President's advisory committee without subpoena. He agreed however that the President's position would be stronger if given statutory authority.



THE PRESIDENT

Changed the subject to the discussion of the shortage of physicians in the Veterans Administration which has assumed alarming proportions. Also stated that the veterans housing shortage had become critical and some relief must be granted. However, he stated that a solution was not yet in sight.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

Said that the Army transferred 1,000 or more doctors to the Veterans Administration and commissioned Veterans Administration doctors. However, all doctors now want to get out of the Army. They do not want organizational practice as they are desirous of returning to private practice. This pressure is so strong that the War Department is attempting to get Army Medical personnel reduced to actual needs.

SECRETARY FORRESTAL

Was of the opinion that the Navy might be able to provide additional doctors for veterans care.

SECRETARY BYRNES

Stated that you cannot turn veterans out of hospitals. He would rather have complaints come from doctors rather than from veterans.

THE PRESIDENT

Suggested that the War and Navy Departments get together with General Bradley and the President's Military Aide to determine what relief might be granted to veterans.

MR. BLANDFORD

Predicted that in 1946 we will have an acute housing shortage. By the end of 1946 three million families will be forced to double up. The housing authority is attempting to steer priorities toward veterans. They are using every possible available means. Congress on the other hand is impeding the progress of his organization by cutting appropriations. Housing needs money but the present appropriations are entirely inadequate. He expressed the need for 175 million dollars. There must be a new volume of permanent construction and it should be kept in mind that industrial and commercial construction is absorbing labor and materials, to the detriment of the housing program. Stated that his organization hoped to bring construction of $\frac{1}{2}$ million units of private construction.

SECRETARY ANDERSON

Stated that he believed the Veterans Administration in planning its program has accepted a false premise in that people do not get ill according to population. Hospital facilities should be determined in direct ratio to population density.