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b) Proposed changes in renegotiation provisions will cost government large amount, permit extortionate profits, and leave settlements open for many years - law should not be changed - 12/20/43.

1. Approximately 8000 volunteer agreements under present law.

2. Business is satisfied with present law.
Legislation:

1. Under-Secretary of War Patterson compelled to give them order as axles were needed for 600 4-ton trucks at once; was relying upon present renegotiation.

c) "Off the record", HMJr cites case of Timken Axle Company demanding profit of $75 million from Standard Steel on sub-contract for axles - 12/20/43. Book 25: 65-70
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President announces Japanese trade agreement is on 24-hour, day-to-day basis - 1/25/40....

a) Customs Bureau only carries out orders; Treasury has no connection with matter otherwise - 1/25/40....
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a) Agrees with President's views on Finland - 1/18/40............. M 42
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United Press published story carried in Petit Parisien which attempted to interpret conversation between Georges Bonnet, French Ambassador, and HMJr when Bonnet paid his first official respect - 3/4/37...


b) Denoyer had not seen Bonnet and did not know when Bonnet called on HMJr at time cable was filed; only wanted to give French public story on attitude of US toward their situation - 3/4/37
Tripartite Agreement - (#2)

c) Reads interpretation of message - 3/4/37 ................................. 8: 121-22

d) Admits phrase "unequivocal assurance of support" in financial crisis was misinterpreted; intended his cable to mean US would assist France as far as Tripartite Agreement and Johnson law permit - 3/4/37 ................................. " 121-23

e) HMJr dictates corrected statement to press - 3/4/37 ................................. " 123-27
Tripartite Agreement - (#3)

1. Denoyer satisfied with same; feels Ambassador will be also

f) Denoyer expresses gratitude for HMJr's courtesy in handling correction - 3/4/37

g) HMJr has verbatim transcript of conversation had with Ambassador Bonnet at time of first visit - 3/4/37

Meetings with French Ambassador are only for exchange of information under terms of Agreement - 3/6/37
Tripartite Agreement - (#4)

a) French franc is having trouble; HMJr taking care of US and also trying to live up to Tripartite Agreement - 3/6/37

1. Tripartite Agreement is in force; as long as it continues to work, no announcement needs to be made

See Gold - 3/11/37

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England, France, and US reach agreement to continue; statements being given out by Bonnet (France), Sir John Simon (Gt. Br.), and HMJr. (US) simultaneously - 7/1/37................. 9:1

a) US Govt. bond mkt. steady............. 3

b) Message to Bonnet expressing "hope that France will soon emerge from temporary" difficulties - 7/1/37.... 5
Tripartite Agreement - (#2)

Phillips, Sir Frederick, Under Secretary of British Treasury, visits HMJR for routine discussions of workings of Agreement - 9/16/37................................. 9: 105-10
Tripartite Agreement - (#3)

$10\frac{1}{2}$ million gold to be shipped to France - 11/8/37

a) Price of $35.22 or .23 reached in London - 11/8/37

b) "Earmarked" gold exhausted in France 11/8/37
Tripartite Agreement - (#4)

HMJr says gold manipulation working "extremely well" under 3 instruments:
1) Tripartite Agreement; 2) Stabilization Fund; 3) Sterilization Fund -
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HMJr says despite low value of franc, agreement is working successfully - 1/27/38. ..............................

a) US acts as agent for France at their risk and expense - 1/27/38. ............... 60-61

b) France are converted to dollars or gold daily; no danger of loss to US - 1/27/38. .............................. 60-61

c) Agreement prevents participating countries from adopting Exchange Control - 1/27/38. .............................. 62-63
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d) Absence of Exchange Control is basis of American Trade Policy - 1/27/38. 10: 63

No participant has depreciated currency to obtain trade advantages - 1/27/38.... 67-69

a) Six other countries; including Holland and Switzerland, have adopted agreement principles - 1/27/38. 67-69
Tripartite Agreement - (#3)

"Thanks to Tripartite Agreement, Stabilization Fund, and Sterilization Fund, the dollar is still the strongest currency in the world", HMJr - 3/14/38.

a) Insulates US against shocks; no repercussion on banking system - 3/14/38.

Agreement working successfully during worst crisis in foreign exchange market since its adoption - 3/17/38.
Tripartite Agreement – (44)

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HMJr announces that after 3 days of consultation, French, British and US have agreed to carry on currency arrangements in future under terms of agreement, as in past – 5/5/38......................... 339-43
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HMJr says Belgium is "junior member of Tripartite Agreement" - 5/9/38............. 346
   a)(For background) HMJr says French move hits Belgium worst of all; "affects U. S. very, very little" - 5/9/38............. 347
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b) "On our (American) side there is no speculation (this week in foreign exchange) ... except for legitimate commercial transactions... American business men and bankers have cooperated 100%" - HMJr - 5/9/38....

c) Belgium has bad situation on hands; HMJr does not want to aggravate it by making any public statements - 5/9/38..............................
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Belgian situation steadily improving - 5/12/38. ......................... 10: 358
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HMJr says agreement working perfectly in handling gold - 8/29/38................. w 141

a) No proposals made by France, under agreement - 8/29/38................. w 143-4 & 146
Tripartite Agreement - (#2)

By means of agreement and Stabilization Fund US Treasury is able to prevent disadvantageous manipulation of dollar - 9/15/38.

a) European situation causing "tremendous flight to dollar" - 9/15/38.

b) Only way for foreign nations to obtain American dollars is by shipping gold to US - 9/15/38.
Tripartite Agreement - (#3)

b) 1. US ready to buy gold at $35 per oz. - price prevailing for 4 years; only stable money price in world - 9/15/38

2. Treasury only dealing for other members of Tripartite Agreement on those with whom we have agreements - not for US - 9/15/38

3. American export business good because American dollar is stable - 9/15/38
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4. "Opportunity for US Govt. to demonstrate to world that we are financial center of world and can take care of ourselves and anybody who wants to trust their money to us." - 9/15/38....................... 11: 187-8

c) Incoming gold will be handled as in past, no change in system - 9/15/38. 189-93
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U. A. L. Mallett, Counselor of British
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HMJr does not anticipate market panic and
sees no indication thereof; no need to
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a) In order for US to remain "financial center" of world our markets must be kept open - 9/19/38. .............. 11: 202

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As far as humanly possible, Treasury is ready to meet any situation which may arise - 9/26/38. ....................... 222-3
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Worked for Tokyo advertiser; expert on Far Eastern markets, Philippine, Manila and Tokyo Stock Exchanges. Criticizes US gold buying policy - 9/26/38........... 11: 228
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HMJr says "off the record", any one casting doubt on wisdom of gold policy, involving $13 billion plus, without offering a good substitute is "taking on huge responsibility" - 9/26/38.................................

a) Administration could lend money to foreign nations, but HMJr prefers gold to defaulted foreign securities - 9/26/38.................................

1. 70% of foreign debts in default since 1900.................
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HMJr says gold in inactive fund and stabilization fund sufficient safeguard against sudden withdrawals - 9/29/38...

French franc sinks below level at which Daladier Govt. decided to stabilize and defend it - 10/10/38...........

a) Now 2.65-3/4 against defending price of 2.71 - 10/10/38.................
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"Impolitic to make official statement" on exchange situation, decline of British pound sterling - 10/24/38....

a) HMJr satisfied that newspaper stories on subject "represent very good cross-cut of opinion in Washington" - 10/24/38

b) Tripartite Agreement operating satisfactorily - 10/24/38
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a) England definitely denies rumor - 11/14/38... 312-14
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HMJr issues statement that emergency conditions impelled France to adopt exchange control, but Tripartite Agreement continues in effect - 9/11/39. ......................... 13: 100-10

a) While England and France are on exchange control, machinery of agreement operates for Holland, Belgium and Switzerland in full; also for exchange of information with England and France; "spirit" of agreement remains and can be adapted to meet emergency - 9/11/39. ......................... " 100-08
b) Purpose of Agreement is to facilitate American business abroad - 9/11/39

c) Gold will continue to be bought and sold whenever England or France request it - 9/11/39

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e) Stabilization Fund more or less inoperative at present - 9/11/39. 13: 108

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Effective April 1, 1940, sales of U. S. Savings Bonds will be confined to individuals and one beneficiary or co-owner - 3/21/40.

a) Savings bonds were designed to encourage individual savings and not for purchase by large investors - 3/21/40.

b) 25% to 30% bought by other than individuals - 3/21/40.

c) Large purchases affect $45 billion debt limit - 3/21/40.
U. S. Savings Bonds - (#2)

d) HMJr opposes suggestion that Stabilization Fund be used to buy U. S. Savings Bonds on basis it would distort government bond market; further the Stabilization Fund was not designed to earn money but to be used in event of a national emergency - 3/21/40........ 14: 199-200

e) Considers Congress paid him great honor in making him trustee of fund; if debt limit needs raising Congress should do so by law - 3/21/40........ 201-03
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Cashing of bonds at bank counters begins in next sixty days 7/27/44...

Book 26: 24
G.I. $10 bonds. Secretary noted great interest in these while on trips during Fifth War Loan. Stressed the fact that they are only for soldiers, not civilians.
White House announces appointment of War Cabinet, to which HM Jr was appointed member along with Secretaries of State, War, Navy, and Harry Hopkins - 3/6/41... 17: 247-48
Closing Agreements
Features of Closing Agreement in contract between Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company and War Department, under provisions of Vinson-Trammell Act, made public and explained by John L. Sullivan, Asst. to Commissioner of Internal Revenue - 12/4/39.

a) All future closing agreements entered into by Internal Revenue will be made public - 12/4/39.
b) Certain provisions of report required under Vinson-Trammell Act, as to profits made on war contracts, are applicable to corporation tax law returns - 12/4/39.

1. Depreciation factor is principal subject of Closing Agreements.
2. No more advantage will be given to manufacturers of war materials than to makers of peacetime materials. HMJr would, personally, favor the reverse.
War Conditions - (#3)

3. In Colt contract no new plant is involved, only jigs, dies, fixtures, and gauges on which 10% per year depreciation allowed in agreement.

4. Advantage to manufacturer in event of any change of government as agreement is binding on successors.

(c) Because of certain misinformation on percentage of depreciation allowed war plants, HMJr decided to make public each contract as it is entered into - 12/4/39. 

13: 313-4
War Conditions - (#4)

1. HMJr says Colt Company has been very cooperative

d) Since many contracts involve large investments, HMJr feels it only fair that manufacturers know in advance what government's attitude toward depreciation will be - 12/4/39 ....... 13: 315-18

1. Depreciation on Colt contract
   12%

2. 10% on boats; 12% on Army and Navy equipment under Vinson-Trammell Act
War Conditions - (#5)

e) Many phases of tax liability are subject to Closing Agreements - 12/4/39.

f) Army or Navy certify necessity of additional facilities and degree of depreciation they expect. Company also present their estimate. Treasury does not have to accept either; can fix rate, or reject contract - 12/4/39.

See Foreign Trade - 12/7/39.
War Conditions - (#1)

Closing Agreements:

HMJr visited Glenn L. Martin airplane Plant, Baltimore, Md., due to interest in industry and proposals made re closing agreements, etc. - 1/18/40. ....... 14: 36 - 39

a) Expects to visit many "up-to-date-factories" in future, from Internal Revenue standpoint - 1/18/40. ....... 39
War Conditions - (#2)

Closing Agreements:
HMJr hints that bottleneck in airplane construction is shortage of engines rather than fuselages or bodies - 1/25/40. a) American manufacturers could accept more airplane orders if they could get engines - 1/25/40. b) Regardless of British and French donations to two manufacturers, American Army, Navy and commercial needs will be met first - 1/25/40.
Closing Agreements:

c) Captain Collins in Buffalo, N. Y., visiting Bell and Curtiss plants; HMJr visited Lycoming Plant at Williamsport, Pa. - 1/25/40

"Off the record," HMJr states that House Naval Affairs Committee will not transfer authority to fix depreciation and obsolescence, on contracts covered by Vinson-Trammell Act, from Treasury to Navy Department - 2/1/40. .......... 14: 77 & 77-
War Conditions - (#4)

Closing Agreements:

a) Navy would like such arrangement, but for income tax purposes Treasury will continue in authority - 2/1/40

See Airplanes - 2/1/40

See Plant Expansion - 2/5/40

See Plant Expansion - 2/8/40

See Tax, Corporate - 2/26/40
Purchasing Mission:

Question of physical problem of supplying French and British plane orders, as well as US Army and Navy orders, must be answered by Purchasing Missions and Army-Navy - 1/22/40

a) British obtaining adequate dollar exchange to pay for materiel is problem - 1/22/40
War Conditions - (#6)

**Purchasing Mission:**

1. Results from effect upon US markets of liquidation of American securities in order to obtain dollar exchange.
2. No danger to US economy from liquidation.
   b) HnJr has no money to make purchases for British and French; only assistance is what Procurement Division can give - 1/22/40.
Purchasing Mission:
See Plant Expansion - 2/5/40

HMJr confident England and France have adequate dollars to pay for planes and engines being purchased - 2/26/40.

British-French purchasing mission made tentative plans with three airplane companies to supply needs; returned to Europe for further instructions from Supreme Command; options expired; all new negotiations must be made when they return - 2/29/40.
War Conditions - (48)

Purchasing Mission:
Sir Henry Self and Pleven are specialists with Purchasing Mission, headed by Arthur Purvis, looking after airplanes for England and France, respectively - 3/7/40. See: 157-58

See Airplanes - 4/15/40. See: 249-51
War Conditions - (#1).

Closing Agreements:
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War Conditions - (#2)

**Purchasing Mission:**
See Airplane Engines - 5/2/40.............. 15: 6

See Machine Tools - 6/3/40................. n 84-100

See Airplane Engines - 6/3/40.............. n 85-100

Great Britain will take over all outstanding French contracts for war supplies in US after German occupation - 6/17/40.... n 146-48

See Airplane Engines - 6/27/40............. n 188-95
Purchasing Mission:
British have about exhausted all available surplus stocks of US planes, guns, and other war supplies; future needs will have to be filled with newly manufactured products - 7/18/40. 15: 251

Treasury assisted Mission in placing orders for munitions, etc., US should be able to place its own with much less trouble - 8/5/40. 274
Purchasing Mission:

Purchasing Mission negotiating for tanks and artillery; will have to take tanks acceptable to US Army - 8/8/40........ 15: 281-84

a) British General, who fought in Flanders, giving Army benefit of his experience in designing new tanks - 8/8/40................... 283-84

b) US has no large tanks, only small and medium-sized tanks - 8/8/40. 283
Purchasing Mission:

Purchasing Mission has broached subject of exchanging islands in Western Hemisphere for destroyers; subject still under discussion – 8/15/40............. 15: 293-94

a) HMJr presented matter to President for consideration - 8/15/40............. " 294
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War Conditions - (#1)

Purchasing Mission:

President appointed informal committee of 4 to investigate plants having contracts for British and also for US Army and Navy, in effort to standardize designs and speed up production - 10/14/40.

a) Committee composed of HMJr., Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of Navy Knox and William S. Knudsen, Chairman, Advisory Commission on National Defense - 10/14/40.
Purchasing Mission:

b) Consolidated Aircraft at San Diego, California, was first plant visited because they had contracts for Navy flying boat and one for British; Army 4-engine bombers and one for British: Only one of each type will be made - 10/14/40............ 16: 2-3
Purchasing Mission:

c) Need for adequate housing for plant workers was developed; many houses will be built at war plants - 10/14/40.............. 16: 3-4

d) Standardization of design includes guns, turrets, etc. - 10/14/40... 5

e) First standardization was done in Curtiss-Wright plant, Buffalo, New York; as result they are making six P-40 pursuit planes per day - 10/14/40............... 6-8
Purchasing Mission:

f) Consolidated wants to triple number of employees but must have necessary housing facilities for them - 10/14/40. ..................... 16: 7-8
War Conditions - (#1)

Price Control:
Prices on wool, scrap iron, lumber, etc., rising sharply for no good reason, giving H/MJr much concern - 1/13/41
a) Feels situation should be closely watched and every instrument of law government has should be used to prevent inflation - 1/13/41
l. Leon Henderson doing good job
Purchasing Missions: 
HMJr requested President to be relieved of acting as liaison between foreign purchasing missions and US government as of March 15, 1941. 

a) Harry Hopkins will succeed HMJr to liaison duties; has taken Philip Young, Oscar Cox, and 10-15 of staff to assist in work - 4/14/41.
War Conditions - (#3)

Purchasing Missions:

b) Purchasing Missions will go to Hopkins on Lend-Lease matters; but will continue to confer with HMJr on Stabilization Fund matters - 4/14/41. 

17: 363
Inflation (Installment Credit):
HMJr agrees with Leon Henderson (OPA) that installment credit buying should be curbed by enforcing existing powers of 1933 Emergency Banking Act, through Federal Reserve System - 8/7/41.
War Conditions

Inflation (Price Control):

Does not approve Senate freezing 7 million bales of cotton when price is up and demand increasing - 8/4/41.

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Inflation (Wage Control):

HMJr feels that labor or farmers should not press for last dollar at this time, any more than any other class - 8/4/41. ............... 18: 276-78
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Inflation: (Price Control)

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Price Control:
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Post War Plans:

With abolition of National Resources Planning Board, there is no agency to coordinate post war plans; H&Jr gave President list of agencies and personnel working on problem - 8/19/43. ......... Book 24: 210-14

a) If labor and industry know there is a specific plan they will work harder to end war - 8/19/43. ......... 212-14

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War Debts

"Either on or off the record" nobody pretends war debts are worth 100% on the dollar.............Book II: p.24

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See International Currency Agreement - 4/25/38

See Greece - 5/23/38
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No advice from State Department on Czechs' status - 3/16/39.  

a) Owe US $165 million post-war debt - 3/16/39.  

b) HMJr does not know what will become of $35 million on deposit in US - 3/16/39.
War Debts - (#1)

**Finland:**

HMJr has no comment to make on Dec. 15, payment of war debt - 12/4/39.

HMJr conferred with HjalmarProcope, Finnish Minister, re borrowing funds from Export-Import Bank to make purchases of American goods - 12/7/39. 

a) HMJr arranged meeting between Procope and Jesse Jones, Chairman, RFC, to discuss matter - 12/7/39.
Finland:

b) Under contract Finland can, with permission of US Govt., omit payment of principal and interest on war debt for 2 years, without being in default - 12/7/39............. 13: 328-30

c) Finland's present plan is to present check to Treasury. Treasury will hold in suspense account while President asks Congressional authority to return it - 12/7/39...... 13: 330-31
Finland:

RFC and Import-Export Bank establish credit for Finland - 12/11/39........ 13: 347-48

a) War debt payment in suspense account can not be used as collateral against loan without act of Congress - 12/11/39..... 347-48
Finland:

Finland pays $159,000 on war debt - 6/17/40.
War Debts

Finland:

$474,000 payment to Export-Import Bank was not on war debt, but to RFC - Treasury not concerned in transaction - 5/13/43........... Book 24: 12-13

a) Finnish war debt is under moratorium until June 15 - 5/13/43............
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HMJr announces creation of US Treasury War Finance Committee for over-all direction bond sales, work of which will be integrated with War Savings Staff and Victory Fund Committees - 3/2/43.

a) W. M. Robbins, Vice-President, General Foods Corporation, on loan to serve as National Director of Sales - 3/2/43...
b) Other members are Harold N. Graves and George Buffington - 3/2/43. 
(See copy of Press Service #35-55, pp. 104-06)

c) Purpose is to extend drive, through all means, to everyone having funds to invest - 3/2/43. 

War Finance Committee

W. M. Robbins resigns as National Director of Sales, but will continue in advisory capacity as needed - 5/17/43................

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War Information, Office of (Same as OWI)


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b) HMJr most sympathetic; willing; if necessary, to ask Congress for deficiency funds to support WPA - 2/3/38.  
c) 50,000 additional persons to be employed from Feb. to June - 2/3/38.
$680 million new money allocated from
Jan. 1 - June 30 - 2/3/38

Employment situation requires increased
funds - 2/10/38

a) Without additional funds would have
to lay off 100,000 to 150,000 persons - 2/10/38
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