

November 14, 1941

[Owners & Workers of Captive Coal Mines]

FDR Speech File

13944

First Draft
Made - 11/14/1941
JR

STATEMENT

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the business of the Government of the United States operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw, either to the Cabinet room or some place of your own choice.....in order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

In the first place, we all know that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay, and at top speed. Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions. Therefore, the cessation of production in the coal mine industry would create a further danger to American defense, because at this vital time it would slow up production of war materials.

I think that conclusion is unmistakable, and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, it is therefore the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

In spite of what some people say, I think I have got to be a Constitutional President.

Then legislation becomes necessary toward this end. The Congress of the United States will without any question pass such legislation. And as some of you know, the pressure on me to ask for legislation during the past couple of months, for one reason or

another, has been not only constant, but it has been very heavy.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat, that I have decided this conference, and I am stating a simple fact. I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining, which I am asking you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations, with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion, and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion, you will submit the point, or points at issue to an arbiter, or arbiters, or anybody else with any other name.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. As I understand it, the wage question and the check off are not involved in this at all. I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order or pass legislation ordering a so called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries the closed shop is now in operation. This is a result of the legal collective bargaining, and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers Union.

The Government will never compel this 5% to join the Union by a Government decree. That would be too much like the Hitler methods toward labor.

I must reiterate that because of the continuance and speeding

up of the defense needs of the United States, because they are so clearly involved, and because of lack of coal for our steel plants would injure the defense of the nation. It is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

And so I am asking you -- as you know I am never in a hurry -- I never threaten -- I never set a time limit -- I am asking you to please talk over this problem of continued coal production. If you can't agree today, please keep on conferring tomorrow and Sunday. I don't want any action that is too fast. I want every chance given.

And let me have some kind of a report on Monday next.

Mrs. Romagna

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 14, 1941

STATEMENTS FILE

The President authorizes the release of his statement to the conference at the White House, between representatives of owners and employees in the coal mine situation.

The President first spoke of the seriousness of the international situation and all phases of the defense program in relationship to that situation.

He then said:

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the business of the Government of the United States operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw, either to the Cabinet room or some place of your own choice in order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

In the first place, we all know that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay, and at top speed.

Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions. Therefore, the cessation of production in the coal mine industry would create a further danger to American defense, because at this vital time it would slow up production of war materials.

I think that conclusion is unmistakable, and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, it is therefore the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

In spite of what some people say, I seek always to be a Constitutional President.

If legislation becomes necessary toward this end, the Congress of the United States will without any question pass such legislation. And, as some of you know, the pressure on me to ask for legislation during the past couple of months, for one reason or another, has been not only constant, but it has been very heavy.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat. To this conference I am stating a simple fact. I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining, which I am asking you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations, with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion, and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion, you will submit the point, or points at issue to an arbiter, or arbiters, or anybody else with any other name, and that in the meantime coal production continue.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. As I understand it, the wage question and the check off are not involved in this at all.

I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order, nor will Congress pass legislation ordering, a so-called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries the closed shop is now in operation. This is a result of the legal collective bargaining, and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers Union.

The Government will never compel this 5% to join the Union by a Government decree. That would be too much like the Hitler methods toward labor.

I must reiterate that because of the need of continuing and speeding up the defense needs of the United States, because they are so clearly involved, and because lack of coal for our steel plants would injure the defense of the nation, it is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

And so I am asking you -- I never threaten -- I am asking you to please talk over this problem of continuing coal production. If you can't agree today, please keep on conferring tomorrow and Sunday. I don't want any action that is precipitate. I want every chance given.

And let me have some kind of a report on Monday next -- a report of agreement, or at the least a report that you are making progress.

- - - - -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MRS. KLAR:

Please re-type this, with the corrections. Do not indicate the parentheses or underlines. This is to be just a straight re-run.

Add on the bottom, after you have typed this:

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONFERENCE HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE, NOVEMBER 14, 1941, BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE COAL MINE SITUATION.

Type a memorandum to be attached, on this paper I am using now, as follows:

- NOVEMBER 14, 1941 - - - - -

Ten copies of this statement were typed up, before the mimeograph copy for the press.

A copy each was handed to Mr. Fairless, Mr. Purnell and Mr. Grace, who were waiting in General Watson's office. (around 12.40 p.m.)

A copy each was sent via Messenger to Room 200-B, Werdman Park Hotel, in care of Mr. John Lewis, for Mr. Philip Murray, Mr. Thomas Kennedy, and Mr.

John L. Lewis. (around 1.30 p.m.) (according to Mr. Catto's Werdman Park Mail Clerk this was actually delivered to Mr. Lewis at 2.00 p.m.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

One copy was given to Mr. W. D.
Hassett.

One copy was given to General Watson;
and two copies for the President.

The heading on the statement mimeo-
graphed for the Press, was dictated by
the President himself to JRomagna.

A note accompanied the copies to Mr.
John L. Lewis, reading:

"Herewith copies of the President's
statement this morning.

"The White House will release this
statement for publication.

"Sincerely yours,

/s/ Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the
President"

J. Romagna
11-17-41

November 14, 1941.

SYNOPSIS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPTIVE MINE OWNERS
AND WORKERS AT WHITE HOUSE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH,
AT 11 A.M.

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the position of the Government of the United States, operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw either to the Cabinet room or to some place of your own choice, in order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

We all know

In the first place, ~~I~~ *we all know* that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this Hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay and at top speed. Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions.

Therefore, the cessation of production in these coal mines would create a further danger to American defense because, at a vital time, it would slow up production of war materials.

That conclusion is unmistakable and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because ~~I~~, it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, *it is therefore* the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

If legislation becomes necessary toward this end, the Congress of the United States will, without any question, pass such legislation.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat to either side of this controversy. I am stating a simple fact.

I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining which I ask you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion you will submit the point or points at issue to an arbiter or arbiters.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order, or pass legislation ordering, a so-called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries closed shops are now in operation. This is a result of legal collective bargaining and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers.^{Union}, ~~I have an objection to names concerning~~ ~~among the 95% of non-union miners are filled with men who~~

~~belong to the United Mine Workers~~ the Government will never compel this % to join the union by Government decree. I ask that you discuss this phase of the problem.

I must reiterate that because the continuance and speeding up of the defense needs of the United States are so definitely involved, and because lack of coal for steel plants would injure the defense of the Nation, it is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

*That would
be Hitler's
method*

*towards
labor.*

~~for discussion~~
Dear Mr. Secretary
Please talk ^{over} this problem of maintaining coal production. If you want your talk, drop in conference tomorrow and Sunday, and let me have a report on Monday - I hope it will be a report of agreement, at all the least that you are making progress.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1941

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and Mr. John L. Lewis. (around 1.30 p.m.) (accord-
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One copy was given to Mr. W. D. Hassett. One
copy was given to General Watson; and two copies
for the President.

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to J. Romagna.

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Lewis, reading:

"Herewith copies of the President's statement
this morning.

"The White House will release this statement
for publication.

"Sincerely yours,

/s/ Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President"

J. Romagna
11-17-41

SENATE RECORDS UNIT

RECORDING

1941, 1st term

MR. BURKE: COME THE SIGHTS MIND TO SUBJECT AND
SUBJECT MIND NOT TYPES HYPNOTIZED AND EXCITED

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the business of the Government of the United States operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw, either to the Cabinet room or some place of your own choicein order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

In the first place, we all know that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay, and at top speed.

Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions. Therefore, the cessation of production in the coal mine industry would create a further danger to American defense, because at this vital time it would slow up production of war materials.

I think that conclusion is unmistakable, and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, it is therefore the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

In spite of what some people say, I seek always to be a Constitutional President.

If legislation becomes necessary toward this end the Congress of the United States will without any question pass such legislation. And as some of you know, the pressure on me to ask for legislation during the past couple of months, for one reason or another, has been not only constant, but it has been very heavy.

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... to distinguish not less than
a lot of secret letters, not this one like or mean, built out of
several sets of colored paper but mostly not...
similar or identical or all... class is at graduation that he has not had
the special address which distinguished several other nations as their address
... people not the
particulars of it have caused particular trouble, not likely, have we had

memorandum to substance not... probably... anxious to understand, and of
course, because of what I said a little time ago that some of
memorandum can be reproduced or make clear, so will there also be carried
over portions of the memorandum of substance that I said

... mentioned in which galloping
yesterday and still expect continuation of influence of the second

political and economic up to, suggests the possibility of continuing from
such a side fact as of民族的 not in particular, not in particular, nothing
knowing all of which need I say, signed over again to stage of

...民族的 and the side point of course, because particularly the
but... particularly done and nothing you know like our old friend not to
any nation particularly not the or no no compassing not, does not to have an
influence that you need not, tend to support you not, which to stage of
... good you hold and it good

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat. To this conference I am stating a simple fact. I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining, which I am asking you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations, with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion, and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion, you will submit the point, or points at issue, to an arbiter, or arbiters, or anybody else with any other name, and that in the meantime coal production continue.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. As I understand it, the wage question and the check-off are not involved in this at all.

I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order, nor will Congress pass legislation ordering, a so-called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries the closed shop is now in operation. This is a result of the legal collective bargaining, and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers Union.

The Government will never compel this 5% to join the Union by a Government decree. That would be too much like the Hitler methods toward labor.

I must reiterate that because of the need of continuing and speeding up the defense needs of the United States, because they are so clearly involved, and because lack of coal for our steel plants would injure

the defense of the nation, it is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

And so I am asking you -- I never threaten -- I am asking you to please talk over this problem of continuing coal production. If you can't agree today, please keep on conferring tomorrow and Sunday. I don't want any action that is precipitate. I want every chance given.

And let me have some kind of a report on Monday next -- a report of agreement, or at the least a report that you are making progress.

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONFERENCE
HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE, NOVEMBER 14, 1941,
BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES
IN THE COAL MINE SITUATION.

November 14, 1941.

SYNOPSIS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPTIVE MINE OWNERS
AND WORKERS AT WHITE HOUSE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH,
AT 11 A.M.

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the position of the Government of the United States, operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw either to the Cabinet room or to some place of your own choice, in order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

In the first place, I repeat that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this Hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay and at top speed. Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions.

Therefore, the cessation of production in these coal mines would create a further danger to American defense because, at a vital time, it would slow up production of war materials.

That conclusion is unmistakable and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Therefore also, it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped. It is the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

If legislation becomes necessary toward this end, the Congress of the United States will, without any question, pass such legislation.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat to either side of this controversy. I am stating a simple fact.

I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining which I ask you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion you will submit the point or points at issue to an arbiter or arbiters.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order, or pass legislation ordering, a so-called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries closed shops are now in operation. This is a result of legal collective bargaining and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers. I have no objection if vacancies occurring among the 5% of non-union miners are filled with men who

belong to the United Mine Workers, but the Government will never compel this 5% to join the union by Government decree. I ask that you discuss this phase of the problem.

I must reiterate that because the continuance and speeding up of the defense needs of the United States are so definitely involved, and because lack of coal for steel plants would injure the defense of the Nation, it is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the business of the Government of the United States operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw, either to the Cabinet room or some place of your own choice.....in order to confer in a final effort to insure continued production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

In the first place, we all know that the United States is in a state of national emergency. The present and future defense of the United States and of this hemisphere is at stake. It is essential to national safety that we continue the defense production program without delay, and at top speed. [#] Coal for steel plants is a necessity because steel is an essential in the manufacture of munitions. Therefore, the cessation of production in the coal mine industry would create a further danger to American defense, because at this vital time it would slow up production of war materials.

I think that conclusion is unmistakable, and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, it is therefore the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

In spite of what some people say, I ^{think always} ~~think~~ to be a Constitutional President.

If ~~the~~ legislation becomes necessary toward this end ~~the~~ ^{the} Congress of the United States will without any question pass such legislation. And as some of you know, the pressure on me to ask for legislation during the past couple of months, for one reason or

another, has been not only constant, but it has been very heavy.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat, ~~that you have decided~~^{to} this conference. I am stating a simple fact. I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

In regard to the collective bargaining, which I am asking you to resume at the end of this meeting, I have two suggestions for you to consider.

The first is that you continue negotiations, with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion, and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion, you will submit the point, or points at issue to an arbiter, or arbiters, or anybody else with any other name and ~~that in the~~ ^{you will hang us} ~~the~~ ^{we} miners continue.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. As I understand it, the wage question and the check off are not involved in this at all. I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order ~~or~~ pass legislation ordering, a so called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries the closed shop is now in operation. This is a result of the legal collective bargaining, and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers Union.

The Government will never compel this 5% to join the Union by a Government decree. That would be too much like the Hitler methods toward labor.

I must reiterate that because of the ~~continuance~~ and speeding

up ~~of~~ the defense needs of the United States, because they are so clearly involved, ^{and because} ~~and because~~ of lack of coal for our steel plants would injure ^{the} defense of the nation. It is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

And so I am asking you -- ~~as you know I am never in a hurry~~ -- I never threaten -- ~~I never set a time limit~~ -- I am asking you to please talk over this problem of continued ^{my} coal production. If you can't agree today, please keep on conferring tomorrow and Sunday. I don't want any action that is ~~hurried~~. I want every chance given.

And let me have some kind of a report on Monday next. A report of informant, or at the least a report that you are making progress.

November 14, 1941

FOR THE PRESS

Mr. Pomaqua

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 14, 1941

The President authorizes the release of his statement to the conference at the White House, between representatives of owners and employees in the coal mine situation.

The President first spoke of the seriousness of the international situation and all phases of the defense program in relationship to that situation.

He then said:

I have asked you gentlemen to come here this morning to give you certain facts covering the business of the Government of the United States operating under the Constitution. I will ask you when I have finished to withdraw, either to the Cabinet room or some place of your own choice in order to confer in a final effort to insure continuous production of coal for the manufacture of steel.

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I think that conclusion is unmistakable, and is approved by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Because it is essential to national defense that the necessary coal production be continued and not stopped, it is therefore the indisputable obligation of the President to see that this is done.

In spite of what some people say, I seek always to be a Constitutional President.

If legislation becomes necessary toward this end, the Congress of the United States will without any question pass such legislation. And, as some of you know, the pressure on me to ask for legislation during the past couple of months, for one reason or another, has been not only constant, but it has been very heavy.

I am telling you this with absolutely no element of threat. To this conference I am stating a simple fact. I hope, therefore, that you will work out some method for the continued production of coal.

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- - - - -

FOR THE PRESS

Grace Tully

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 14, 1941

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The first is that you continue negotiations, with the hope that you can arrive at a conclusion, and that if you do not arrive at a conclusion, you will submit the point, or points at issue to an arbiter, or arbiters, or anybody else with any other name, and that in the meantime coal production continue.

The second is that you consider other methods relating to employment. As I understand it, the wage question and the check off are not involved in this at all.

I tell you frankly that the Government of the United States will not order, nor will Congress pass legislation ordering, a so-called closed shop. It is true that by agreement between employers and employees in many plants of various industries the closed shop is now in operation. This is a result of the legal collective bargaining, and not of Government compulsion on employers or employees. It is also true that 95% or more of the employees in these particular mines belong to the United Mine Workers Union.

The Government will never compel this 5% to join the Union by a Government decree. That would be too much like the Hitler methods toward labor.

I must reiterate that because of the need of continuing and speeding up the defense needs of the United States, because they are so clearly involved, and because lack of coal for our steel plants would injure the defense of the nation, it is a national necessity that the production of this coal be continued without delay.

And so I am asking you -- I never threaten -- I am asking you to please talk over this problem of continuing coal production. If you can't agree today, please keep on conferring tomorrow and Sunday. I don't want any action that is precipitate. I want every chance given.

And let me have some kind of a report on Monday next -- a report of agreement, or at the least a report that you are making progress.

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