THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Please look into this
and prepare reply.

F.D.R.

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, 5/31/43, to the President, in re contracts between Metals Reserve and the Aluminum Company of Canada. Copy of letter retained for our files.
My dear Mr. President:

I was interested in studying the contracts between Metals Reserve and the Aluminum Company of Canada which you asked us to look over in your note of April 30. I am deeply concerned with the effect upon our power developments of the abnormally low price at which Shipshaw power can be sold. This record of Canadian aluminum purchases indicates to me that you did not approve the contract which initiated the interest free method of financing facilities for the Aluminum Company of Canada. In a letter of May 1, 1941, Secretary Jones outlined a contract for the purchase of aluminum which called for an advance of $25,000,000 to cover "a portion of the cost of expansion of their power and manufacturing facilities at Shawinigan Falls and Arvida,..." Interest at 2 per cent on the advance was provided by this contract. Secretary Jones' letter mentioned that in the event of cancellation without cause by the Metals Reserve Company a penalty payment would be required. This penalty payment would have amounted to substantially the entire balance of the advance made by the United States.

Subsequently another contract virtually identical with the first was executed, with a loan of $25,000,000 to the Aluminum Company from the Export-Import Bank of Washington, carrying interest at 3 per cent. There is no evidence of your having been informed of this contract.

These first two contracts, however, were completely superseded by another contract executed as of March 6, 1942. Under this contract, calling for one billion pounds of aluminum, the $50,000,000 which had been made available to the Company under the previous contracts were converted to an outright advance without interest and the cancellation provision permitted the Company to retain the entire balance of the advance in the event of cancellation by Metals Reserve, without further obligation or charge and without the United States obtaining any estate in the facilities financed by the advance. In addition, this third contract made available to the Company a loan up to a maximum of $25,000,000 at 3 per cent, with the Export-Import Bank of Washington. This sum was available to the Company proportionately as aluminum was delivered and the amount of the outstanding advance thereby reduced.

As Secretary Jones points out in his letter of March 24 to Senator Truman, the base price of aluminum was by this third contract reduced from 17 cents to 15 cents for metal to be used in this country; the 17 cent price was retained for metal to be used for lend-lease purposes. It should be recalled, however, that Alcoa, blood brother of the Canadian Company, had reduced the price of aluminum in this country to 15 cents several months before the contract was executed. This fact, plus the practices of ordinary business in cases involving tremendous purchases by a buyer whose credit can hardly be questioned, would indicate that the base price of aluminum should fully compensate the seller, without the necessity for additional inducements. Moreover, it would
be appropriate to inquire whether the base price of 15 cents established by these contracts has in fact been the price of delivered aluminum. The contracts contain escalator clauses by which the base price may be augmented through rises in labor and shipping costs. I am inclined to believe that the actual cost of aluminum to the Government under these contracts has not been held to the 15 cent price upon which there has been so much publicity.

By a letter of March 6, 1942, Secretary Jones informed you briefly of the status of Canadian aluminum purchases and of an offer from the Aluminum Company of Canada to sell an additional quantity upon the same terms as the previous contract, with an advance of $18,500,000 and a loan up to a total of $9,250,000. Secretary Jones' letter states that in the event of cancellation, 5 cents per pound as penalty would be paid for the undelivered portion of the contract. The contract itself, however, provides that the penalty for cancellation will be retention by the Aluminum Company of the entire unapplied balance of the advance, which is equal to 5 cents per pound, and the payment by Metals Reserve of an additional one cent per pound on the undelivered portion of the contract. You O.K.'d the letter of March 6, 1942.

It is possible that Secretary Jones considers your O.K. of the March 6, 1942, letter as an approval also of the third contract, dated as of the same date. However, this may be, that letter did not indicate to you that the contracts effected an outright advance without interest, totaling $68,500,000, to the Aluminum Company of Canada, a large part of which would never be repaid or recouped if the war should end and the contracts should be cancelled. Indeed, the letter of March 6, 1942, makes no clear distinction between the advances and the loans, whereas the latter carry interest at 3 per cent and must be repaid even though the contracts are cancelled without cause by the United States. It is perhaps needless to point out that the new facilities constructed with the money advanced by the United States will in all probability be useful in supplying metal to the United States Government over only a fraction of the life of the facilities.

You know, of course, that with this subsidy from the United States Government the Aluminum Company of Canada has built a gigantic power project. The plant is paid for and without question will be of great utility in (a) preventing the St. Lawrence development; (b) squeezing out the Government aluminum plants in the Northwest after the war; and (c) heaven knows what else.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior.

The President,

The White House.
August 9, 1943

Dear Mr. Jones:

In line with my letter to you of June 29, 1943, requesting that RFC create the Petroleum Reserves Corporation, but do nothing further with respect to it without further instructions from me, I now request that you receive and act upon instructions from Leo Crowley, in line with my Executive Order of July 15, 1943, creating the Office of Economic Warfare, and appointing him Director.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Honorable Jesse H. Jones
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D. C.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES F. BYRNES:

Is this all right?

F.D.R.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 11, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR
HON. JAMES F. BYRNES:

Is this all right?

F.D.R.

Letter signed by the President, 8/11/43, to
Hon. James H. Jones, Secretary of
Commerce, in re the President's request under
date of 6/29/43, that the RFC create the
Petroleum Reserves Corporation. Copy of letter
retained for our files.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Jesse Jones telephoned to say that as the incorporation of the petroleum reserves company goes into the Federal Register, they are getting requests about it. He thinks he should give out the following announcement, if you approve:

"Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce, announced today that with the approval of the President, the R.F.C. has created the petroleum reserve under Section 5-D of the R.F.C. as amended. The purpose of the corporation is to acquire petroleum, petroleum products and petroleum reserves outside the continental United States. The operations of this corporation will be under the direction of the Secretaries of State, War, Navy, Interior and Commerce. While no definite plans have been formulated consideration should be given to one or two projects which may be of value to the war effort. The object is to look ahead, in the unfortunate event of a prolonged war.

The President approved this statement adding the above sentence and Jesse Jones was so notified."
MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

I approve this and ask that it be carried out today, in view of the deadline.

F.D.R.

Letter to the Pres. from Secys. of State, War, Navy, Interior as per attached carbon copy, together with secret recommendations re petroleum reserves.
MEMO FOR URGE:

June 29, 1943

Mr. Stone of the State Dept., called regarding a letter sent to the President yesterday evening -- signed by the Secretaries of State, War, Navy, and Interior, concerning future oil reserves. It has to do with funds from the R.F.C. If the action is not taken before tomorrow night -- which is the budget deadline -- it will not do any good.

When the Secretary of the Interior saw the President at noon, the President said he had not seen the letter.

djb
June 26, 1943.

My dear Mr. President:

As an outcome of discussion held in the Office of Justice Byrnes, representatives of State, Navy, War and Interior/Departments met to consider the situation presented by our prospective shortage of domestic petroleum reserves and the consequent imperative need to assure adequate foreign reserves, and the best means of proceeding to that end. They in addition gave particular attention to the situation in Saudi Arabia. They have agreed upon a signed report which we are transmitting to you. We concur and support this report. You will note that if one of its main recommendations is to be put into effect, that is, the creation of the Petroleum Reserve Corporation, it would be most desirable that this action be

The President,

The White House.
be taken before July 1.

Faithfully yours,

Cordell Hull
Secretary of State

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

James Forrestal
Acting Secretary of the Navy

Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Enclosure:
Report.
PERSONAL

October 26, 1943.

Dear Jesse:

Strictly between ourselves, you and I can make a lot of money out of that contest. Let the odds on Allen’s dog go sky-high. You and I will then bet on Byrnes’ dog. Ross McIntire and I know how to work it.

As ever yours,

Honorable Jesse H. Jones,
Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.
October 21, 1943

Dear Mr. President:

A contest is being considered that should be of unusual interest to the friends of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes and Democratic National Committee Secretary George Allen.

Each of these gentleman owns a wire-haired terrier, and great rivalry has developed between their owners as to which dog can piddle the most times in a given walking distance, when taken for his evening stroll.

The friends of Mr. Allen are offering strong odds on his dog. Having volunteered to walk both of these dogs at different times when their masters were attending to matters of greater importance, I am inclined to back Mr. Allen's entry.

In order that there may be no skulduggery, the dogs will be taken to the contest by disinterested parties, and it has been suggested that the campus of the J. Russell Young School of Expression will be the place of demonstration. Admission will be by invitation.

When the managers have agreed upon rules, regulations and procedure, invitations will be sent.

Sincerely,

The President
The White House
THE ROMANCE OF REX

By Jo Anderson

A farmer's dog came into town,
His christian name was Rex.
A noble pedigree had he;
Unusual was his text.
And as he trotted down the street
'Twas beautiful to see
His work on every corner—
His work on every tree.

He watered every gateway too,
And never missed a post,
For piddling was his specialty
And piddling was his boast.
The City Curs looked on amazed,
With deep and jealous rage
To see a simple country dog
The piddler of the age.

Then all the dogs from everywhere
Were summoned with a yell,
To sniff the country stranger o'er
And judge him by the smell.
Some thought that he a king might be;
Beneath his tail a rose.
So every dog drew near to him
And sniffed it up his nose.

They smelled him over one by one
They smelled him two by two
And noble Rex, in high disdain
Stood still till they were through.
Then, just to show the whole shebang
He didn't give a damn,
He trotted in a grocery store
And piddled on a ham.

He piddled on a mackerel keg—
He piddled on the floor,
And when the grocer kicked him out,
He piddled through the door.
Behind him all the city dogs
Lined up with instinct true
To start a piddling carnival
And see the stranger through.
They showed him every piddling post
  They had in all the town,
And started in with many a wink
  To pee the stranger down.
They sent for champion piddlers
  Who were always on the go,
Who sometimes did a piddling stunt
  Or gave a piddle show.

They sprung these on him suddenly,
  When midway of the town;
Rex only smiled and polished off
  The ablest, white or brown.
For Rex was with them every trick
  With vigor and with vim.
A thousand piddles, more or less,
  Were all the same to him.

So he was wetting merrily
  With hind leg kicking high,
When most were hoisting legs in bluff
  And piddling mighty dry.
On and on, Rex sought new grounds
  By piles and scraps and rust,
'Til every city dog went dry
  And piddled only dust.

But on and on went noble Rex
  As wet as any rill,
And all the champion city pups
  Were pee'd to a standstill.
Then Rex did free-hand piddling,
  With fancy flirts and flits
Like "double-dip" and "gimlet twist"
  And all those latest hits.

And all the time this country dog
  Did never wink or grin,
But piddled blithely out of town
  As he had piddled in.

The city dogs conventions held
  To ask, "What did defeat us?"
But no one ever put them wise
  That Rex had diabetes.
The press reports that Jesse Jones may soon leave the Government. I have never made any comment on this matter but there are one or two facts which are important.

When Stanley Reid was being considered for the Supreme Court, backed by Jesse Jones, his attention was called to the fact that Reid was an appointee of Pres. Hoover, and supported Hoover in 1932, and that there were many thousands of fine lawyers who had given their all to Pres. Roosevelt and should have preference. Jones is reported to have replied that he, also, was an appointee of Pres. Hoover and that anyone who accepted an appointment from Hoover and did not support him would be an ingrate; also that he could get the matter through McIntyre.

When Leo Crowley was under investigation, Jones appointed Sam Husband to review the report. It was being analyzed by Husband and Gus Folger (for many years and at present, Chief National Bank Examiner in the Comptroller's office), and Mr. Brown, appointed by Secretary Morgenthau. Sam Husband told Folger that Jones wanted the report white-washed when it was turned in and Folger reported this immediately to the Comptroller of the Currency, J.P.T. O'Connor, who stated that nothing would be white-washed while he was Comptroller. A few days later Secretary Morgenthau called for all copies of the report and stated to the Comptroller that the matter was out of his (Morgenthau's) hands, after expressing his astonishment at the report.

Jones later advised Crowley that he and McIntyre were able to suppress the report—and thus place Crowley under obligation to him.

When the conflict arose between Vice President Wallace and Jones, Jones won out in that he claimed to have been largely instrumental in getting the appointment for Crowley. Shortly after Secretary Morgenthau cracked down on the Bank of America in California, Sept. 1938, A. P. Giannini went to Washington and, by accident, met Crowley in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel. Crowley told Giannini he was not in sympathy at all with the attacks upon the Bank of America by the President and Morgenthau and would do whatever he could to help him. At that time Giannini did not know that the entire attack was instigated by Crowley; that Crowley carried his criticism to Eccles, Jones, Morgenthau and even to the White House. The Comptroller, at Morgenthau's suggestion, asked Mr. Crowley what criticism he had of the Bank of America, and Mr. Crowley said he had no criticism of the Bank of America. While this is now history, after a long drawn out fight the Bank of America has won every contest in the courts against the Government. This is the first time the above information has ever been set down in writing and I know it will be regarded as highly confidential.

The Dept. of Justice made a searching examination of the Bank of America and found no irregularities. Different reasons have been assigned for Mr. Crowley's attack on the bank.
Dear Mr. President:

Mr. Jones has asked me to forward the attached tear sheet containing his editorial in the Houston Chronicle of Wednesday, July 5th.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Assistant to the Secretary

The President
The White House
INTER-CITY EDITION 5 CENTS
THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE
VOL. 43 NO. 266
HOUSTON, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1944

REDS NEARING TWO BALTIC STATES
Americans Bag Five Jap Ships and 88 Planes

Devastating Night Attacks Resumed
Railroads, Troops and Flying Bombs
Nests Blasted by British.

By Associated Press
London, July 5—In one of the most devastating series of night
attacks since the Normandy invasion began, British, British and
light bombers smashed at railroads, troop concentrations, and
jettisoned bombs near in France Tuesday night, while Mosquito struck

GERMANS SET
FOR FIGHT TO
HOLD LIVORNO
Enemy Strongly Entrenched in Port City and Rush Up
Reserves; Americans 15 Miles Away.

By Associated Press
Homs, July 4—British Army
troops, converging from the
offensive, and much have driven
within five miles of the important
communications center of Athens
on the road to Piraeus, where
Americans until late, had been

RICKENBACKER
HEROES RISING

The Texas Electoral Vote
An Editorial
BY JESSE H. JONES
(Publisher of The Chronicle)
The situation growing out of the action of the state
Democratic convention warrants close examination and consideration
by every Democrat of the state.
No one has contended that the convention lacked the sup-
port of the majority of its delegates. No one has even sug-
gested that its proceedings were other than regular.
There is, however, ample room to question the wisdom of some
of the convention's action. On reflection, there is good rea-
on to believe that the convention—acting in the heat of pol-
tical controversy, as such bodies often do—went much fur-
ther than many of those participating in the deliberations
realized at the time. The ill will at Austin did not help the
situation, but that fact does not excuse extreme measures
by the majority.

WILNO IN OLD
POLAND ALSO
THREATENED

Two Russian Armies May
Reach Latvia and Lithuania in Three or Four
Days at Present Pace.

Yanks Capture 17
Villages in Day
Fall of La Haye Appears Near; Allies
Battle Nazis Near Caen.

SEN. WAGNER
REFUSES DEM
MEETING JOB
Chairmanship of Resolut-
ions Committee Reported
Offered to Another; Vote
Held in Georgia.

By Associated Press
Seno, Robert F. Wagner of New York, two-time chairman
of the platform-making resolutions committee at Demo-
cratic national conventions, has declined the post.

HITLER ADMITS
GERMANS
NEED

(See INVASION, Page 1)
RICKENBACKER URGES BUYING OF WAR BONDS

Phony Patriots Blasted by Speaker; Says Troops Are Getting No Weapons They Need.

Rickenbacker, speaking at a patriotic rally in Miller Memorial Theatre Tuesday night, said too many people purchase bonds one day and sell them the next. There are too many phony bond buyers, he stated. "I know of one man who has not bought a single bond."

"This is a big task for the American people. The war is not yet over. The war is not yet won."

The speech was attended by several hundred people. Members of the American Legion and the American Red Cross were present.

(See ITALY, Page 2)

LIGHT CARRIERS, LIKE SAN JACINTO, TAKE ON BIG TASK

By Associated Press, New York, July 1 — The navy is using its light carriers to attack enemy targets. The carriers are playing a key role in the war against Japan. They are able to operate in the farthest reaches of the sea, making them ideal for such tasks.

Tales Early Onward:

El Campo Officer's Death Laid to Poison

By Associated Press, New York, July 1 — El Campo, a city in Texas, is mourning the death of its mayor, who died of a heart attack.

President Roosevelt has ordered flags at half-staff in mourning for the mayor, who served the city for many years.

(See RICKENBACKER, Page 1)

Invalids of Dead Hero Accept Highest U. S. Medal

By Associated Press, New York, July 1 — Invalids of fallen heroes were presented with the highest U. S. Medal of Honor at Monday's ceremony.

The medals were presented to the families of fallen soldiers who had served in the armed forces.

(See ITALY, Page 2)

10-YEAR-OLD GIRL BROWN'S 4 OTHER CHILDREN ESCAPE

By Associated Press, New York, July 1 — A 10-year-old girl and her four siblings escaped from Japanese prison camp.


ting the war's end, they had planned to escape to freedom. They were finally caught and returned to the camp.

The girl and her siblings were taken to a government hospital in New York, where they were treated for injuries sustained during their escape.

(See ITALY, Page 2)

Miles Away:

Flying Bomb Attacks On England Diminish

By Associated Press, London, July 1 — British authorities have reported a sharp decrease in the number of flying bombs that have been sent to England from Germany.

The attacks have been reduced to a minimum, they said, and there is no evidence that they will increase.

(See ITALY, Page 2)
MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Jimmy told me an amazing story while I was in San Diego and said I could tell it to you if I thought it of sufficient importance.

Shortly before Dewey was nominated, Jimmy was called long distance by someone close to Dewey, asking Jimmy if he could tell them whether you would run or not. Since Jimmy did not know, it was suggested that he find out and further that if Jimmy would come out for Dewey and against a fourth term, he could have an under-secretaryship or name anyone he wished to have it, and that the person through whom Jimmy was to deal was Jesse Jones - that Jesse Jones himself had been promised a Cabinet post if Dewey is elected.

I thought you would like to know this testimony to Jesse Jones' loyalty!

E.R.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
The White House.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a letter to the President, which I am asking if you will kindly read, and decide for me, whether it is worthwhile taking up his valuable time reading it or not?

It may be a totally unnecessary information, and it may be that the idea of replacing the present Sec. of the Treasury with Mr. Jones, has never been contemplated by the President, that it was only rumor which came over the Radio.

I have never written a letter of this nature before, and would not intentionally injure any one's name, unless, as in this instance, it seemed to me a duty, and where duty is involved, I have the courage of my convictions. From childhood I was brought up on what Shakespeare said on this subject — to say nothing of the Bible.

In speaking of this matter, I hold no brief for Mr. Morgantheau, although so far as I am informed, he has made a good Secretary of the Treasury; on the other hand, if these things about Mr. Jones are correct, as I believe them to be, since they were discussed by different people over the state — although after such a number of years, I could give no names; we heard it, then as all such things do, they gradually die down, but when anything of a similar nature comes up again, it is remembered.

And when it may touch the Government in any way, then it would seem that the President should have the facts, or supposed facts.

When I had finished my letter to the President, I read it to my husband, to see if I properly stated the matter — he said I was absolutely correct as to what was said at the time, but he was opposed to my sending it — because he said I could get myself into trouble, but knowing I can depend on the wife of the President, as well as the President himself, I feel impelled to send it on. But, I am requesting that no secretaries see it — it is taking too much risk, and at my age and having lost our money in 1929, I certainly don't want to be sued.

I shall greatly appreciate your reading the letter, Mrs. Roosevelt, and I am relying on your wisdom, to either, the President the letter to read, if it seems of sufficient importance, or to relate it to him, if it seems best, and then to destroy it. If neither seem best, then still destroy it.

I do not know Mr. Jones personally, and he certainly never injured us, so I have no personal motive in what I have related. Mr. Jones has many friends over the state, and many who have benefited from his ability.

I think the President the greatest President who has ever occupied the White House, and he must be re-elected for the 4th term. No one else could know the many threads which he knows about the War all over the world, nor know how to weave them as he does, for the successful conclusion of the War and Peace. And, without flattery, I sincerely say, that our
First Lady is the most intellectual, as well as one of the kindest who has ever occupied the White House. And both you and your husband having the highest ideals, and working for the benefit of all mankind, I resent with every fibre of my being, the unjust ways you both have been treated - it has been disgraceful, beyond words; and it has required stout hearts to endure it; it isn't much consolation at the moment perhaps, but the President will occupy his rightful niche in History, when not a single congresswoman will be remembered, unless for treachery. And you yourself will be remembered.

Due to the paper shortage, you will be the first to not notice my writing on the reverse side of paper.

Thanking you for your kindness in this matter, and with the very best of good wishes, Sincerely yours,

Bertha W. King

(Mrs. S. W. King, sr.)

P.S. I want you and the President to know that regardless of what action, if any, he may take in regard to Mr. Jones, now or later, or no matter what high post he might deem it wise to place him, my lips are sealed now, forever more on this subject; it takes such little things to do great harm, at times. I want to see the President re-elected, because I regard him as necessary for the Country's, and the World's good -- so whatever step he takes in any direction, I know it is both wise and right.

I have deliberated on sending this letter for four months and I am still of the opinion I should send it. B. W. K.

And personally I do not believe Mr. J. is for the President. Thanks again.
To the
President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:
Taking a very real interest in our country's welfare, I feel constrained to give you some information which I feel you should know.

Last week the information was given over the Radio that you were considering requesting the resignation of the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morganthau, and replacing him with Mr. Jesse Jones.

It might be well for you to be acquainted with the following facts, and in giving it to you, I am doing so with the understanding that I know your honor is such, that if I request that you reveal my name to no one, in regard to this matter, that it will not be. I have never in my life been a tale bearer, or scandalmonger; never have mentioned the following before, and never expect to again.

In as much as we are responsible people, you can absolutely rely on the correctness of the following, as being something that was generally talked about over the state, at the time it happened, - perhaps 30 years ago, I don't recall the time.

Mr. M. T. Jones, of the M. T. Jones Lumber Co., was one of the richest as well as the largest Lumber merchant in Texas. Jesse Jones's family, I understood was in moderate circumstances; his uncle, M. T. Jones gave him a position in his lumber business in Houston, Texas, paying him the moderate salaries that were usual in those days. Jesse always had a brilliant mind, and good business mind, but later on, his actions were not open to public inspection - it used to be said.

His uncle, however, had great confidence in him, his ability so much so, that in his will he made Jesse Administrator of the fortune he left his two children - a boy and a girl.

It was said that the father, his son - a boy then, to have the intelligence that Jesse had.

I don't recall the terms of this Trust - if it was a Trust in fact, I just knew he administered it.

Not long after M. T. Jones's death, Jesse, from being a small salaried man, became a rich one - a millionaire, himself. And it was discussed quite a bit at Houston, and over the State, about Jesse having robbed these children of their fortune. Finally, the boy - then a mature man, threatened, or did bring suit against Jesse, and Jesse made a compromise settlement; before this, I believe it was, Jesse, in order to gain complete control of the balance of the M. T. Jones estate, married the divorced widow of Willie Jones - son of M. T. Jones.

It having been - less, or more, than 30 years ago, I don't recall too vividly all the details, but when a thing like that becomes so generally known over the state, certainly must have some basis for fact.
Furthermore, the following is another fact; Jesse having become quite wealthy, built some of the finest Sky-scrappers in Houston, and Ft. Worth, and I believe other places over the state—each had a separate corporation, and Bonded for quite a bit more than the property was worth—then he got in serious (reported) financial difficulties, whether it was 1929, or when the Banks were all failing, I don't recall, but, I believe it was in 29, because when Herbert Hoover made him head of the "R.F.C." he got out of his troubles and bought, or settled for his property for 25 cts on the dollar. And now the report that Jesse is a multi-millionair again. This I know nothing about.

Question: If these things should prove correct, how did he make that money? And if correct, what would he do, if appointed Sec. of the Treasury?

Last summer, when Vice-President Wallace and Jesse Jones had their controversy, I wanted, from a sense of justice, to write you these facts, and to say that Mr. Wallace was right, in my opinion; but, knowing the heavy burdens you were bearing as Commander-in-Chief of this Global War, I felt even a matter like that should not be thrust on you. And knowing Mr. Wallace was in error in starting that matter, without discussing it with you, I naturally did not write him, or discuss the matter at all, because matters like this are too delicate. But, now, if you are really considering appointing him as Sec. of the Treasury, I thought probably you should be in possession of these facts. Naturally I don't KNOW these things from my own personal knowledge, any more than others over the state did. But, You should be able to find out the facts, without it being Known, now or ever, thru the F.B.I., I should think — if it is important to you.

I want you to know that I have always been, perhaps, your most ardent admirer—because I believe in you—your Principles, your great wisdom, and your love for humanity. And I resent with all that is in me, the way Congress has opposed every act you have deemed wise to enact,—except they were all quiet as lambs, when the Banks were all crashing all over the nation, and you became President, and saved the Banks and the Country. — And the Congressmen. There are not words in our vocabulary to express their disgraceful attitude.

And if I were a younger woman instead of 72, I would speak all over this country, showing that Congress is no longer representing the "People"—its all party politics, which I despise. Its my opinion that "the People" will overwhelmingly elect you to a 4th term, as you have always been, but we must be too confidant—remembering how Pres. Wilson was treated by Lodge and the other Republicans. — and sad to say some Democrats.

I think Sen. Barclay's dramatic speech was a very grave mistake on his part.

I listened to the speech of the Chairman of the Democratic party over last week in Dallas, and while I of the great work which you had done, I did not think he was "All out" for you as he should have been—as he said "he would try to elect any man nominated in the Dem. party"—whereas if he wants you to win, he ought not to be able to see anyone but Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the White House. He is a fine speaker, and convincing, but he should know that he is convincingly for you. Thanking you, Sincerely yours,

Bertha W. King (Mrs. S.W. King, Sr.) Please destroy.
January 11, 1945

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose an article on a subject in which you are very much interested, and hope you will take the time to read it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The President
The White House
RFC Gives Aid to Little Business
Seeks to Reverse Mortality Trend Resulting From War

By Jesse H. Jones

Little business operates on the commercial frontier of the United States. In that field, the risks and the rewards are multiplied by the types and profits of individual initiative.

The forces arrayed against little business are not those the little business faced as they moved West, but they are the same forces which are today arrayed against the little business in this country. Competition, depression, and war create many hardships for little businesses, especially for small businesses run by the woman or woman involved with the laundries and small businesses.

Because the impact of war imposes the most severe strain little business has ever faced, its problems and how little business can best be encouraged and protected in our day of mass production and distribution are of great concern.

Early Mortality Rate

When the United States first entered World War II and for many months thereafter, the mortality rate of small businesses was high. There are many factors in this category during normal years, but, over a long period of time, the small business operators who need those which have found the going rough. After we became involved in World War II, the trend was reversed. The establishment of new businesses in small businesses was halted. The establishment of small businesses is a fact of life which requires the participation of small business operators who are now faced with the problem of how to keep their businesses alive.

Nails Help to Win Peace.

Addressing a meeting of the Win the Peace Movement, of which he is president, President Franklin D. Roosevelt added that he feels a chance to win. "It is very easy to say what it is we are doing today, but it is a question of what it takes to win."

The Versailles Treaty, of course, made France a very powerful country for a long time after World War I. The Germans were required to pay reparations to France, and the Versailles Treaty was never ratified in Germany. The Versailles Treaty, of course, made France a very powerful country for a long time after World War I. The Germans were required to pay reparations to France, and the Versailles Treaty was never ratified in Germany.

Air War Against the Air

Air war against the air is the only war that little business was not involved in. The Versailles Treaty, of course, made France a very powerful country for a long time after World War I. The Germans were required to pay reparations to France, and the Versailles Treaty was never ratified in Germany.

(Continued on Page 3)
**Estimated Number of All Operating Business Firms (Small and Large) in 1939 and 1943**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Firms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>5,318,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>6,510,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transportation, communications

- **Railways:**
  - 1939: 1,248,280
  - 1943: 1,253,280

- **Motor vehicles:**
  - 1939: 756,500
  - 1943: 800,000

### Finance, insurance, real estate

- **Banks:**
  - 1939: 18,500
  - 1943: 20,000

- **Insurance companies:**
  - 1939: 300
  - 1943: 350

### General merchandise

- **Wholesale trade:**
  - 1939: 144,800
  - 1943: 150,000

- **Retail trade:**
  - 1939: 150,000
  - 1943: 160,000

### Retail stores with food

- 1939: 140,000
- 1943: 150,000

### General service

- **Hospital and medical services:**
  - 1939: 1,000
  - 1943: 1,200

### Other services

- **Laundries:**
  - 1939: 20,000
  - 1943: 22,000

- **Airports:**
  - 1939: 2
  - 1943: 3

### Number of personnel

- **Personnel in transportation and communications:**
  - 1939: 1,250,000
  - 1943: 1,300,000

- **Personnel in finance, insurance, real estate:**
  - 1939: 30,000
  - 1943: 35,000

- **Personnel in general merchandise:**
  - 1939: 125,000
  - 1943: 130,000

- **Personnel in retail stores with food:**
  - 1939: 10,000
  - 1943: 12,000

- **Personnel in general service:**
  - 1939: 1,000
  - 1943: 1,200

- **Personnel in other services:**
  - 1939: 10,000
  - 1943: 12,000

### Conclusion

The data presented above show the significant growth in the number of operating business firms from 1939 to 1943, reflecting the economic changes and wartime demands. The increase in personnel also highlights the expansion of services needed during this period.
Best Sellers

NOVELS

- The Green Years, by A. J. Cronin
- The 39 Steps, by D. H. Lawrence

STORIES OF NEW

- Stories of the World, by J. D. Salinger
- Stories of the World, by T. S. Eliot

Religious Liberty in Latin America

By George P. Höver, The Washington Post, D.C.

Reviewed by CASPER BANNERS.

A Catholic writer undoubtedly will want to answer the provocative title of this book. It is a work of the moment in Latin America. Mr. Bannister's purpose in writing this book is to make a contribution to the understanding of the Latin American Church and its relation to the national life of the continent. He tells the story of the Catholic Church in Latin America, and he tells it with clearness and accuracy.

Mr. Bannister has done his work well. He has taken a large amount of material and has made it interesting and readable. The book is well written and well edited. It is a book that will be read with profit.

John Steinbeck

Steinbeck's "Cannery Row"

JOHN STEINBECK, who is to his new book "Cannery Row" brings forth, as he did in "The Grapes of Wrath," a world of his own, thoughtfully conceived, with characters as universal as human.

"Cannery Row" is a remarkable book. It is a book of the heart, of the mind, of the soul. It is a book that will be read with profit.

Buffalo Coot

By Cordia Brack, The New York Times, D.C.

In this novel of village life in the little reader will find the essence of a genuine American type. The fact is a remarkable work of fiction. It is a work of the moment and a work of the heart. It is a work that will be read with profit.

"Buffalo Coot," a book of the heart, of the mind, of the soul. It is a book that will be read with profit.

British Firm Favor Hard Peace

"British Firm Favor Hard Peace"

The British government has announced that it will support "hard peace" in any negotiations for a settlement of the current conflict. This statement was made in response to a question from the British press about the government's position on the peace talks.

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Mr. Bannister has done his work well. He has taken a large amount of material and has made it interesting and readable. The book is well written and well edited. It is a book that will be read with profit.
The Week's New Books
Allison A. Cappell, II (Pulitzer Prize Winner)

The Week's New Books
On the one hand, Mr. Wilson writes about the great social reformer, and on the other hand, Mr. Wilson definitely succeeds in expressing the social and personal views of the people who have been most successful in society. It is not because he has made a very great book, but because he has made a very valuable book.

The Week's New Books
Mr. Wilson has brought to the task of writing this book a great deal of his own personal experience and a great deal of his own social knowledge. He has written with a great sense of what is important and with a great sense of what is not important.

The Week's New Books
Mr. Wilson's book is in a class by itself, and it is a book that will be read for many years to come.

The Week's New Books
Mr. Wilson has written a book that is both interesting and valuable. It is a book that will be read for many years to come.
January 20, 1945.

Dear Jesse—

This is a very difficult letter to write — first, because of our long friendship and splendid relations during all these years and also because of your splendid services to the Government and the excellent way in which you have carried out the many difficult tasks during these years.

Henry Wallace deserves almost any service which he believes he can satisfactorily perform. I told him this at the end of the campaign, in which he displayed the utmost devotion to our cause, traveling almost incessantly and working for the success of the ticket in a great many parts of the country. Though not on the ticket himself, he gave of his utmost toward the victory which ensued.

He has told me that he thought he could do the greatest amount of good in the Department of Commerce, for which he is fully suited, and I feel, therefore, that the Vice President should have this post in the new Administration.

It is for this reason only that I am asking you to relinquish this present post for Henry, and I want to tell you that it is in no way a lack of appreciation for all that you have done, and that I hope you will continue to be a part of the Government.
During the next few days I hope you will think about a new post — there are several Ambassadorships which are vacant — or about to be vacated. I make this suggestion among many other posts and I hope you will have a chance, if you think well of it, to speak to Ed Stettinius, who will not leave to join me for several days.

Finally, let me tell you that you have my full confidence and that I am very proud of all that you have done during these past years.

With my warm regards,

Always sincerely,

The Honorable
The Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.
EXECUTIVE ORDER

9971 -

TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS OF THE FEDERAL LOAN AGENCY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Whereas by an Executive order issued this date under Title I of the First War Powers Act several agencies were transferred from the Federal Loan Agency to the National Housing Agency established by such order, and it is deemed advisable that the remaining functions of the Federal Loan Agency be administered in the Department of Commerce;

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Title I of the First War Powers Act, 1941, approved December 18, 1941, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Sec. 1. Transfer of Functions. All functions, powers, and duties of the Federal Loan Agency and of the Federal Loan Administrator which relate to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Electric Home and Farm Authority, AEC Mortgage Company, Federal National Mortgage Association, Disposal Loan Corporation, Export-Import Bank of Washington, Defense Plant Corporation, Federal Reserve Company, Metals Reserve Company, Defense Supplies Corporation, and War Insurance Corporation, together with all other functions, powers, and duties not transferred by the Executive order establishing the National Housing Agency, and transferred to the Department of Commerce are to be administered under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of Commerce.

Sec. 2. Transfer of Records, Property, and Personnel. All records and property (including office equipment) and all personnel of the Federal Loan Agency used in the administration of the functions transferred by this order are transferred to the Department of Commerce for use in the administration of the functions transferred by this order.

Sec. 3. Transfer of Funds. All of the unexpended balances of the appropriations, allocations, or other funds available or to be made available for the use of the Federal Loan Agency in the exercise of any function transferred by this order, as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget with the approval of the President shall determine, shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce for use in connection with the exercise of the functions so transferred. In determining the amount to be transferred the Director of the Bureau of the Budget may include an amount to provide for the liquidation of obligations incurred against such appropriations, allocations, or other funds prior to the transfer.

Sec. 4. Effective and Termination Dates. This order shall become effective as of the date hereof and shall continue in force and effect until the termination of Title I of the First War Powers Act, 1941.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 24, 1942.
John B. Blandford, Jr., since the fall of 1939, has been serving as the Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget. From 1933 to the time of his appointment to the Bureau he held the position of Coordinator and later General Manager of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

He was formerly Director of Public Safety in Cincinnati in charge of police, fire, welfare and buildings inspection; and Director of the Cincinnati Bureau of Municipal Research. Blandford has also been Director of Governmental Research of the Newark, N. J., Chamber of Commerce, Assistant to the City Manager, Petersburg, Virginia, and engineer with the Texas Company in Texas and Virginia. For several months in 1939 Blandford served as a member of the President's Emergency Committee for Employment under the chairmanship of Colonel Arthur Wood.

Mr. Blandford was born in New York in 1897. He graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology with the degree of Mechanical Engineer and later studied Public Administration and became a staff member of the National Institute of Public Administration. During the first World War he served in the U. S. Naval Aviation Service.

He is a member of the American Society for Public Administration, the City Managers' Association, American Public Welfare Association, and the British Institute of Public Administration.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 22, 1945.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
FEB 24 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR
By W. J. Stewart Date ___________

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

If you have any urgent messages which you wish to get to me, I suggest you send them through the White House Map Room. However, only absolutely urgent messages should be sent via the Map Room. May I ask that you make them as brief as possible in order not to tie up communications. If you have very lengthy messages the Map Room officer will have to exercise his discretion as to whether it is physically possible to send them by radio or whether they will have to be sent by pouch.

F.D.R.

(Identical memo sent to all Cabinet Members & memo 1/19 from Adm. Brown re this filed - Adm. Brown folder; 2-45)
THIS MAN JONES
THIS MAN JONES

By
PAUL WAKEFIELD
and
RICHARD LINTHICUM

(Reproduced through courtesy Houston Post-Dispatch)
Jesse Holman Jones
JESSE HOLMAN JONES, unanimously indorsed as the choice of Texas Democracy for the presidential nomination by the Texas State Convention; the Archimedes who "moved the center of political gravity from New York to Houston" when he persuaded the Democratic National Committee to select his home city as the site of the Democratic National Convention of 1928, is a new star of first magnitude in the democratic firmament, but primarily a business man with huge interests in the Lone Star State and in New York City. He is sometimes described as the "leading citizen of Texas" and sometimes as the "leading citizen of the South."

Those who best know his attitude on political affairs and matters of government and who can recall his long and intimate friendship with President Wilson and his war services in Washington and abroad, rank him as an idealist of the Wilson type and accredit him with the mind of a statesman and the attainments of a scholar.

In the business world his titles are those of master builder, banker, lumberman and newspaper owner and publisher. Upward of forty magnificent buildings in Texas and New York make up his record to date as a master builder. In Houston alone there are twenty-odd office and business buildings, including the eighteen-story Rice Hotel, with one thousand rooms, the largest in the South, and the sixteen-story Lamar Hotel, with a ten-story adjoining building, the whole covering an entire city block, all built, owned and operated by him. His latest structure in Houston is a thirty-five-story tower type office and bank building, almost completed.

As the active chairman of the committee of arrangements, or convention committee, of the Democratic National Committee, he supervised the erection in that city the largest convention hall in the world, accommodating upward of twenty thousand people where this year's national convention will be held. A unique feature of this Coliseum, Sam Houston Hall it is called, is a panel of open wire work around the upper part of the building, providing perfect ventilation and through which several thousand spectators outside the building, from a raised platform can see as well as hear the proceedings of the convention.
Buildings constructed, owned and operated in Houston by Jesse H. Jones

1. Lamar Hotel and Metropolitan Theatre
2. Store and Office Building under Construction corner of Main Street and Buck Avenue
3. Mason, Foster and Gulf Buildings
4. Low Theatre and Office Buildings
5. Shuler Motor Co. Building
6. Bankers Mortgage Building
7. Kyle Building
8. Hovesty Furniture Building
9. Wells Fargo Building
10. Electric Building
11. Cadillac Building

Page Six
In Fort Worth and Dallas, Mr. Jones has built a number of the finest buildings in those cities, including a large modern hotel in the former city.

In New York City there are six huge structures, office buildings and apartment hotels erected and owned by the Houston Properties Corporation of New York, of which Mr. Jones is the principal owner. His latest building there is a forty-four-story structure.

Mr. Jones is president of the National Bank of Commerce of Houston; chairman of the board and president of the Bankers Mortgage Company, a consolidation of two large trust companies; president of Jesse H. Jones and Company, representing his lumber, farming and collateral interests, in addition to being the executive head of the corporation representing his New York real estate holdings; he is also owner and publisher of The Houston Chronicle, one of the largest daily newspapers in the South.

JESSE H. JONES has no magic lamp, but his Aladdin-like achievements suggest the possession of a magical mind and an attendant genius. Aladdin had but to rub the magic vessel to summon the "slave of the lamp," who by a wave of his wand created beautiful castles. Seemingly the friction from the quick mind of the modern builder summons an equally powerful force and great palaces of trade and business, hostleries and apartment dwellings arise to form new sky lines, to transform the landscape and to raise the standard of the life of communities.

And the facts that constitute the details of Mr. Jones' career as a master builder, the wonderful transformation he has wrought in the architectural aspect of Texas communities until some of the more important like Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and others, are losing all of their earlier characteristics in this respect and their business sections beginning to resemble the business centers of modern metropolitan cities, are as wonderful and fascinating as the fiction of Aladdin and his magic lamp. The benefits to the cities which have felt this magic touch are not in the mere addition of steel and stone and mortar, but are reflected in the activities and aspirations of their business life, permeating the entire life of the communities.

Many have attempted to account for the prevision and genius of Empire builders like Cecil Rhodes, the late James J. Hill and others. When those qualities shall be accounted for it will probably be found that they did not differ much, if any, from the prevision and genius of Jesse H. Jones, who rears superstructures upon the broad foundations the builders of Empire laid and gives a finishing touch to their mighty work.
Buildings constructed, owned and operated in Houston by Jesse H. Jones

1. Kirby Building
2. Rice Hotel
3. Chronicle Building
4. Houston Lighting and Power Building
5. Chamber of Commerce and Majestic Theatre Building
6. Rush Hotel
7. Woolworth Building
8. Bristol Hotel
9. Crockett Building
10. Pearce Building
11. Randolph Building
12. Walker Furniture Company
13. Prairie and Fannin Building
14. Helberg Building
15. Garage Building
16. Gas Company Building
17. Garage Building
18. Rushford Apartments
The traveler returning from Europe, who finds the sky line of New York changed with each returning trip, could, if he but knew, trace among others, the undulations in the line made by the hand and brain of Jesse H. Jones.

He began his business career, without capital, as an employee of the M. T. Jones Lumber company of Dallas, controlled by an uncle. He was made manager of the business before he was twenty-one years old. He handled the affairs of that company in Texas and Oklahoma, and moved to Houston in 1898. In the exact space of thirty years he has become one of the state's wealthiest citizens.

The attention of national leaders of the democratic party was first attracted to Mr. Jones in the presidential campaign of 1924, in which he served as director of finance of the Democratic National Committee, an office which he still holds. When he was about to board the steamer for a European trip he was induced to accept this office to aid his close personal friend, John W. Davis. Since the close of that campaign, in connection with the democratic national chairman, Clem L. Shaver, he converted a party deficit into a working surplus for the 1928 campaign, after providing for all of the expenses for running the party machinery between times and of the Democratic National Convention this year. These invaluable party services have won the appreciation of party leaders throughout the country and coupled with his master stroke of winning the National Convention for Houston have brought him into unusual prominence as a national party leader and a possible presidential nominee.
When Houston came under consideration as the seat of this year's national convention there were indulgent smiles among the unknowing, followed by surprise when the decision was announced, and climaxed by admiration for the man who had worked an apparent miracle. The financial inducements were attractive, of course, but other cities, notably San Francisco, represented by that veteran committeeman, Isadore Dockweiler, who never attends a pre-convention meeting of the national committee in a presidential year without a certified check for $200,000 in his pocket, offered larger financial inducements by $50,000. Houston won because the far-sightedness of Jesse Jones had seen the party advantage of holding the convention in the South this year. The psychology of the situation was with him, and by the same direct methods that characterize him as a business man, he presented his case in such a clear and convincing way that there was no resisting him. He won, not only because Houston was willing to provide a liberal fund for the convention, but also because he had an invincible case and was able to outthink the other contestants in presenting it to his colleagues on the committee.

It is not likely that there ever was a more dramatic meeting of the Democratic National Convention Committee than the one last winter when Jesse H. Jones captured the meeting for Houston.

Characteristic of the way he does things, he went to the convention without any advance fanfare about his plans. Editors who were watching their news wires for the flash on the winner saw Houston's name entered and never gave it a second thought.

"Too small a town; too far away from the center of things," they thought.

San Francisco made a large bid, Detroit came in enumerating its advantages, and other towns offered their claims. The voting narrowed down to San Francisco and editors watched the bulletins with mounting surprise. Finally, speeding over the wires came the announcement that Jones and Houston had won.

Democrats
choose Houston

Extras spread the news in Houston in short time. Everywhere it was received with awe and admiration for Jesse H. Jones. Leaders of the city banded together and started preliminary plans at once.

Mr. Jones' trip back home was a procession of triumph from the minute he crossed into the Lone Star State. At every station crowds met and cheered until he came out to speak a few words with them. Not a few carried banners of "Jones for president," a sentiment which has found favor over a large area in the Southwest.

Old timers there say that the reception for Mr. Jones was the greatest Houston ever has given an individual. Between 35,000 and 50,000 people blocked streets to the railway station where he arrived and hung on every word he spoke to them. Bombs from speeding planes overhead burst in the air, bands blared, whistles all over the city blew themselves hoarse. When he arose to speak, Mr. Jones disclaimed the honor for himself, sharing it with others, and told Houstonians they must meet the obligation with true Southern hospitality.
Buildings constructed, owned and operated in Fort Worth and Dallas by Jesse H. Jones

2. Worth Hotel and Theatre Building, Fort Worth
3. Molina Theatre, Dallas
4. Postoffice Garage, Dallas
5. Medical Arts Building, Fort Worth
6. Campbell Hotel, Dallas
Houstonians declared a holiday when Jesse H. Jones returned from Washington after securing the National Democratic Convention for the South. He is dimly shown on the platform being received as Houston's "first citizen."

The mammoth new Democratic Convention Hall built under the supervision of Jesse H. Jones to house the meet of the party June, 1928, which he secured for the South single-handed.
A few days later some 600 persons fought to get in the banquet hall to do him honor. Speaker after speaker arose and paid him honor first as a man, as a builder, as a citizen, who had done more for his city than any other man, as a figure who had passed the boundaries of his native town and had become a nation-wide figure.

One Dr. Stockton Axson, of the faculty of Rice Institute and a brother-in-law of Woodrow Wilson, spoke, saying:

"I say to you tonight that Jesse H. Jones has passed all local boundaries. He is now a great national figure. I know that his principles are those of Woodrow Wilson and were Wilson alive today I believe that I am safe in saying that he would favor Mr. Jones, of all men, to be president of the United States."

The friendship of Wilson for this boy from the Tennessee Hills, now a graying, majestic figure of a man with soft grey eyes and charming manner, was one of the greatest factors in his life, his friends say.

And on the night that he sat in that great banquet hall, amid the encircling smiles of his friends and heard their warm expressions of friendship, this attachment of the great wartime leader came back, a living, glowing thing, to do him even greater honor.

The chief assets of men who have won distinguished success in political leadership and public life are brains and personality. Jesse H. Jones has an ample supply of both. A highly attractive personality is usually defined as "personal magnetism," and is manifested in as many different forms as there are men who possess it. Thus the personal magnetism of Blaine was as much in contrast with that of Roosevelt as Bryan's attractive personality differs from that of Governor Smith. Woodrow Wilson brought the world to his feet through the force of his transcendent intellect and humane ideals rather than by any personal magnetism in the popular acceptance of that term.

But "personality" and "personal magnetism" are such indefinable qualities that it is difficult if not impossible to translate them into words. They can best be expressed by explaining the reaction they have upon others.

There is an old proverb that "when one meets a Welshman, he meets a true man." It was probably written by a Welshman, but, nevertheless, that is the indelible impression left upon those who come in personal contact with Jesse H. Jones, whose name tells his
Buildings constructed, owned and operated in New York City
by Jesse H. Jones and associates

1. Two Hundred Madison Avenue
2. Forty-Four-Story Store and Office Building under construction 10 East 40th Street
3. 1128 Fifth Avenue—Co-operative Apartments
4. 950 Fifth Avenue—Co-operative Apartments
5. 812 Park Avenue—Co-operative Apartments
6. Mather House, 610 Park Avenue—Apartment Hotel

Page Fourteen
Welsh descent as do the names of Jefferson, Davis, Williams, Lewis, Thomas and others of that blood, whose illustrious deeds have given new lustre to the South and to Democracy. Mr. Jones would attract attention in any group or gathering—even at Forty-second street and Broadway, where the world goes by, and where there is fierce competition to be noticed—as about as perfect a physical specimen of American manhood as is to be found anywhere. He is of a typical type for which his native state of Tennessee is noted—six feet three inches tall, broad shoulders and well proportioned. There is nothing about his personal appearance that would identify him with Tennessee or any section of the country, Midwest or Farwest, any more than New York. In dress, in bearing and in manner he is as much cosmopolitan as metropolitan. His strong, handsome features are in accord with his general physical appearance and accentuated by his rapidly whitening hair.

His voice is evenly modulated, with a musical quality belonging to the best orators. There is a friendliness and kindness and sincerity in his voice and manner, which latter is wholly devoid of affectations. His speech is direct and lucid, without involutions that leave any doubt of his meaning.

He listens to what is said to him and says what he has to say without giving any impression of arrogance or haste or hurry, and yet he has more details of large affairs to engage his time and thought than any other man in the state of Texas and none the less than men elsewhere who are directing enormous diversified business interests.

The one thing that puzzles even those who surround him is the ease with which he apparently gets through the heavy demands of each strenuous day; his unruffled, calm, good nature and apparent leisure, despite his multifarious activities. And yet when the day is done, everything has been attended to that requires his personal attention. This can only be accounted for by his power to concentrate upon the matter in hand at the moment, enabling him to dispose of it in the least possible time and in the most agreeable way—no fuss, no flurry, no lost motion, no wasted moment.

aptly described by
an old Houstonian

This characteristic of Mr. Jones was aptly described by an old Houstonian, who said: "He's got more business to attend to than any other man here, but no matter how much he has to do he always has time for something else."

The impression he leaves upon a visitor is stimulating and lasting. No man can come in contact with Jesse H. Jones and go away without a feeling of friendliness for him, heightened by a consciousness that the friendliness is reciprocal. Many strong friends of Governor Smith attribute this same quality of personality to him as the one more than any other that binds men to him in lasting friendships. Mr. Jones' visitor, too, will have the inescapable impression that he has met a great man, a friendly, kindly man; an unselshless man, who seeks to promote the public welfare as well as his individual interests; a man of imagination and vision, with an alert mind, a sympathetic temperament and a warm heart.
Moreover, if the talk happens to be on political lines he will be impressed with the idea that the growing complexities of our system of government could be better solved by men of this type, who successfully direct great enterprises that reflect their own integrity and mental sufficiency. It is natural, therefore, that the people who know Jesse H. Jones best and are friends of good government; of a government with high ideals and sound material policies, are encouraged by the fact that he, and some others like him, are coming more and more to take a keen interest in political affairs and party activities and give of their time and means to promote the efficiency of government and to aid in giving this republic its rightful place as a model and as the moral leader of the nations of the world.

What may be the aspirations of Mr. Jones to figure individually in the public life of America, this writer does not know, but if he have ambition in that particular, or a willingness to accede to public demand, he may go far—perhaps to the summit. In so far as the people of Texas could determine the matter he could have anything he wants or is willing to take. Their affection for him amounts to devotion, and the same is relatively true in other parts of the South, and is becoming manifest in some circles of party leadership. The democratic party throughout the nation is rapidly becoming acquainted with his great qualities of citizenship, leadership, and business genius. Those who know of him only through his exhibition of financial acumen which raised the national party organization from bankruptcy to solvency, and therefore know him least, are anxious to know more about him.

His political light has long shone above the horizon, but until this year has not approached near enough to the zenith to be visible in all sections of the country. To those who know him now only as the man who captured the Democratic National Convention for Houston, he might be mistaken for a comet flashing across the sky to disappear into unknown space; but to those who know of his long devotion to Jeffersonian principles and doctrine, his faithful and self-effacing services to the Wilson Administration; his personal devotion to that great modern interpreter of democracy; his personal sacrifice to direct the finances of the last campaign, he is recognized as a star of the first magnitude in the democratic planetary system, and one whose light has grown stronger with the years.
Jesse H. Jones, Joseph Tumulty and President Woodrow Wilson heading the great Red Cross parade in New York in 1917
His victory in the national committee when he induced its members to abandon a mistaken custom in effect since the Civil War of ignoring the claims and interests of the party in the South was a master stroke of politics. The Houston convention, strictly speaking, will be the first Democratic National Convention to be held in the South since the convention at Charleston, in 1860. The Baltimore convention, although held in a city of strong Southern proclivities, was a border state convention, rather than a Southern convention. The Houston convention is a recognition of the South as an integral part of the democratic party in the nation; that it has the same claims to party consideration as any other section; that its loyalty in furnishing a solid electoral vote to the party every four years despite the fact that the other sections have raised a barrier against the nomination of a Southern man for president for nearly three score years, is recognized and appreciated. It is a belated tribute that Jesse Jones brings from the other sections of the country to his native Southland, but it is a genuine one, and perhaps a prophetic one in forecasting an end to party sectionalism and insuring national party solidarity of action and interest.

And this master stroke was characteristic of all the major activities of Mr. Jones. He starts with a sound premise and a just cause. He does his thinking before he acts, and therefore knows what he wants and how to get it. He keeps his plans to himself until he is ready to act. Then he moves quickly and surely to his objective. If he talks about it publicly, it is an ex-post facto deliverance—after it is all over.

Mr. Jones is recognized throughout his state as a great civic leader, whose sense of civic duty is not measured by local boundaries. Two years ago he was named as director general of the Texas Centennial to be held in 1936, and he has already evolved a tentative plan for the observance of this centennial that is unique in its originality and magnitude. He has conceived a celebration that leaps beyond the bounds ever set in these United States.
Where, in the past, Chicago and St. Louis had their world fairs and California its Panama Exposition, Mr. Jones proposes a vast project that will give the entire state of Texas a vital, living part in the observance of its hundredth birthday. Briefly, he proposes a dozen different observances in as many different parts of the state, each a separate undertaking and each glorifying some outstanding incident or endeavor in Texas' growth from a vassal state to a republic and finally to the largest of the states of the union.

At San Antonio he suggested a celebration to honor those men who fought to the death and asked no quarter against the overwhelming odds of Santa Anna, those men of whom it has been said: "Thermopylae had its messenger of defeat; The Alamo had none."

Near Houston, on the San Jacinto Battlegrounds, he suggested a huge pageant commemorating the battle of General Sam Houston's six hundred troops against Santa Anna's thousands which won Texas' Independence.

Other features would be a shrine at Goliad for the heroes who were massacred there; a celebration at Matagorda Bay where LaSalle landed; an observance at Austin, capitol seat, possibly of an educational nature built around Texas University; a great farming and engineering laboratory at College Station, home of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College; a vast panorama on the plains country depicting the days when the buffalo and steer ran wild and the Indians and plainsmen moved among them; an exposition in the fertile Rio Grande Valley to show its wonderful strides and possibilities; another exposition in the vicinity of Dallas and Fort Worth, glorifying the black land farming belt; a shrine at Nacogdoches to recall the work of East Texas settlers for independence and a memorial at Columbia, first capital of Texas.
The Centennial has been called the “greatest dream of the Master Builder” and it
over-shadows in size and conception anything of its kind undertaken in the United States.
It has been praised as the greatest vision of the man whose visions have built lasting memoi-
rals in business edifices over the nation.

The late Woodrow Wilson admired Jesse Jones as a great business genius and had
an affectionate regard for him as a personal friend. Unquestionably the close association
with Mr. Wilson inspired Jesse Jones as no other influence in his life. His outlook became
tinged with the Wilsonian principles and the contact served to give him a national as well
as international viewpoint.

President Wilson
appointed him

Mr. Jones was made Director General of the Department of Military Relief of the
American Red Cross during the World War, in July 1917, and President Wilson ap-
pointed him a member of the Red Cross War Council. The mighty task that faced Mr.
Jones was an almost world-wide challenge to his organizing genius. He met the challenge
standing up and won world-wide acclaim for his labor.

The Department of Military Relief was one of the major divisions of the American
Red Cross. It was made up of bureaus of camp service, canteen service, sanitary service,
motor service, medical service and construction.

Director General Jones organized 50 base hospitals. He recruited 145 ambulance
units of 124 men each. He improved sanitary conditions around camps and maintained
canteens and rest stations at several hundred railroad stations and embarkation points.

Army officials unhesitatingly give his work credit for a great deal of the good
health and morale that was noticeable in the American doughboy and the will to win
that was generated back in the camps that Mr. Jones looked out for.

Then, when the war was over and the Allied troops came sailing home victorious, Mr.
Jones was called upon to help consolidate the Red Cross work that had been done. He was
an American delegate to the Red Cross Conference at Cannes, France, and Geneva, Swit-
zerland, in 1919, and aided in organizing the League of Red Cross Societies.

The years of contact and friendship between President Wilson and Jesse H. Jones
were intellectually congenial as well as politically. Mr. Jones had no such background as
a scholar as did his great and good friend. A few terms in a rural Tennessee school and a
course in a Texas commercial college comprise his institutional schooling, but in the course
of his remarkably active life he has acquired enviable scholarly attainments, while at the
same time developing a talent for statecraft. These talents are so well recognized that in
1926 the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Southwestern University,
Rice Hotel, owned and operated by Mr. Jones
Georgetown, and in 1927, he was given the same degree by the Southern Methodist University at Dallas. A few years ago he delivered the address to the graduating class of Southwestern, clothed in such simple language and so impressive in thought that it brought to him laudatory comment from many eminent and learned men.

"You laid down a doctrine of life that will do these youngsters good," wrote Chief Justice William Howard Taft of the Supreme Court of the United States.

"I had great pleasure in reading it and subscribe to every word you said therein," was the comment of Charles M. Schwab.

"I have just been reading with much interest the address you made at Southwestern University and this is simply a note to congratulate you on it," was the comment of Dr. Livingstone Farrand, president of Cornell University.

"It was a wise and thoughtful discourse and deserves to be taken to heart by all who heard it or read it," came from Judge Robert S. Lovett.

Of late years Mr. Jones has developed his talent for expression until he is now an accomplished public speaker. His speeches read smoothly; his words flow easily; thoughts are expressed in their logical sequence. He knows how to fit his utterances to the occasion. Thus, in a speech at a cattlemen's convention when he was excoriating the thievish of public officials who have been exposed from time since the return of the republican party to power in 1921, he declared: "We are going to drive the thieves out of office just as you cattlemen drove the cattle thieves out of Texas." His audience understood that; they had a mind picture of the thieves in public office stealing from honest citizens just as the cattle thieves had stolen cattle from the honest Texas cattle raisers; they realized the despicable nature of the crime, and they visualized themselves driving out the political thieves as the cattlemen had driven out the cattle thieves. The cheers were loud and long, with an occasional yell reminiscent of the old days when the cattle thieves were in full flight and the cattlemen in hot pursuit.

Not only has Mr. Jones overcome his early reluctance to public speaking, but he has given to his speeches that exactness of thought that makes them so effective. In committing his thoughts to paper, whether it be a speech, or a business or political communication, he is never satisfied until he has revised and changed and corrected words and sentences to give them the exact form that suits him. He weighs the value of a word as carefully as an assayer weighs gold dust, and shapes and reshapes his sentences until they convey the exact shade of meaning he wishes them to convey. This habit of writing is perhaps an index to his habit of thought in business affairs. That is to say, to reduce his problems to a state of accuracy, clarity and terseness before acting upon them.
Altogether, here is a man of many attainments and of qualities of greatness often described as genius. He is a dreamer of dreams and quickly sees the dreams materialize; he is a builder under whose magic touch sky-scrappers seem to rear upward over night; he is a banker with a knowledge of money conditions that amazes other bankers; he is a publisher with the heart of a true newspaperman, a deep sense of fairness in all things and publication of all topics conservatively and truthfully; and last, he is known by his closest friends as a great philanthropist. Stories of his acts of philanthropy leak out now and then to be told with shining eyes and a lump in the throat.

What is the secret of the uniform, marvelous success of Jesse H. Jones in all his undertakings, huge and comparatively small? He himself perhaps could not answer to his own complete satisfaction. Great men are usually modest concerning their own abilities, of genius or the particular quality that makes them great, and Mr. Jones is no exception. Some of them may be the least conscious of all, that they possess powers other than what they consider ordinary processes of their minds and natural instincts and impulses. Whatever that transcendant quality may be, it is certain that it is the product of years of development and that one must go far back in the life of every man or woman who has it in order to understand it and give it even the semblance of a definition.

His father had a tobacco farm

Thus in the boyhood of Jesse H. Jones, it is found that while always an intense worker he was not overly fond of work merely for work's sake but wanted always to get the job done and done well, whatever it was, and as quickly as possible. His father had a tobacco farm with many croppers, and employing a large number of farm hands, mostly colored, and Jesse himself had a small acreage of his own, which he cultivated—the proceeds from which belonged to him. One of Horatio Alger's boys would have worked days—and nights, when necessary—to keep that tobacco free from worms and weeds. But young Jesse Jones was not a type of the Alger boy except in the matters of
Jesse H. Jones and his friend Woodrow Wilson during a review of Red Cross workers in New York when Mr. Jones was Director of Military Relief of the American Red Cross.
honesty and fairness and good nature and manly qualities; but he was not enamored alone with lonely manual labor. Thinking and fellowship were more in his line, and he could think ahead as well as for the present. A little clear thinking got his tobacco patch worked and "wormed." In the odd hours and spare time of the cropper and farm hands they worked the boy's tobacco patch while the boy planter bossed the job, took a hand's part and saw that it was well done, and all hands, he included, had a good time—a sort of picnic in the doing.

At the age of twelve he had discovered one of the great secrets of success: To do nothing yourself that you can get others to do for you—on a fair basis, of course—and then to see that they do it right. A great army of men and women now do the work in the enterprises of which Jesse H. Jones is the head and with the details of which he is in intimate touch; he sees that they do it right, with the same equanimity he exhibited as a youth.

Jesse H. Jones explodes all theories of the modern stories wherein the capitalist executive is painted as working like a human dynamo or so much chain lightning. Mr. Jones spoils that fiction characterization completely. His calmness, simplicity and the complete ease of manner with which he approaches the problem of directing and creating his enterprises; his adroit handling of political problems, these and other talents have given him a dominant place as an outstanding leader in the democratic party and indicate clearly that he has traveled many roads often. Those who have worked close to him for any length of time know there is a sure caution linked with this ease of accomplishment which makes false steps a complete stranger to this man.

His powers of concentrated thought are concealed behind a slow and engaging smile—a smile with a meditative element which has both warmth and humaneness. Through a natural slowness of speech he has developed a verbal restraint which has made him a wizard of words in their choice and application. He is a genius in the conservation of mental motion. His thoughts when expressed seem to be born with legs on which they stand straight and upright.

It is difficult to place a finger on his greatest talent, so varied are his abilities. From his boyhood associates at old Hopewell School in Robertson County, Tennessee, where he was born, come many stories which pointed clearly towards the genius for organization which he afterward developed.

"at the lumber yard
of his uncle"

The accompanying information from the time he worked with the other hired hands as a country boy on his fathers' tobacco plantation in Robertson County, Tennessee, where he was born April 5, 1874, through his early business training with his uncle in Dallas, Texas, and later to his rise to a high place in finance and now a leader in national politics, has been compiled from many sources.
Jesse H. Jones at the age of 17, when he worked a small farm in Robertson County, Tennessee

Jesse H. Jones at the age of five
When the writer set about to secure family photographs and data of Jesse Jones as a boy and the environment in which he grew up, he learned at the outset that sources of information on his early life were limited to a discouragingly small number. This made getting the facts the more interesting. The object was to get a true composite picture of the boy and man.

The first thing to consider was that little or nothing had been written about the formative period of this very extraordinary man's life. For the most part newspaper and magazine writers had concerned themselves with the man as a builder and financier.

Seeking a term to sum up his genius for building and his contribution of more than a score of buildings to a Texas city skyline, one writer gave him the title of "Master Builder," trite but nevertheless true, but limited to the man well rounded out by years of activity and accomplishment. Always the boy seemed to be overlooked; his boyhood seemed to be vague and far away.

No one had gone back of his arrival as a young man in Dallas to take up his duties as a clerk at the lumber yard of his uncle, M. T. Jones.

By reason of the fact that he was removed so completely from the scenes of his boyhood in Robertson County and later at Adairsville, Kentucky, his second home, there were barely half a dozen people in Texas familiar with the early chapters of his life.

From J. B. Farthing, his earliest school teacher at old Hopewell School, Robertson County, Tennessee, we learn that "Jesse Jones in school as a youngster was not particularly bright nor did he differ greatly from the other boys of the countryside who attended old Hopewell. If I was impressed by any different trait of Jesse Jones as a youngster it was his genius for getting into scraps which his brother, John, always seemed to pull him safely out of. He never seemed to study very hard nor did he seem to need to. His lessons were always fair and his grades averaged high enough not to cause him any worry from me. It can be said with truth and without discredit to the man that Jesse H. Jones was a typical example of the rural boy of his time who was not without a goodly amount of devilment in him.

"the old blueback
spelling book and
Appleton reader

"He used the old Blueback Spelling Book and the Appleton Reader, geography, and a limited amount of arithmetic. So far as I have been able to learn Jesse Jones missed grammar and its use completely. Although a victim of the rural school system, which prevailed at that time in so far as grammar was concerned, he was to later develop the art of self expression to a fine degree. This was done before he had reached the mark of two score years. That which he lacked as a young man he seemed to master before he reached forty. As a young man he liked hunting and fishing but was always a clean sportsman and observed the ethics thereof."
The birthplace of Jesse Holman Jones, Robertson County, Tennessee, and where he lived until his father bought a larger farm near Adairsville.

Where he went to school.
His early teacher recalled that he was a great favorite with the negroes who worked with him and his brother, John, on his father’s farm. About the time when he and John were big enough to take care of a plot of three acres of tobacco, Jesse bought an old fashioned horse pistol. Firearms among the negroes at this time were almost unheard of and Jesse often on Saturday afternoon, when the hands were having their half holiday, would get his three acres of tobacco “wormed” and “sucker ed” for a shot around among the negro boys. Another of his ingenious labor saving devices was to get his tobacco plot as close to the house as possible so that the chickens and the family turkey flock would keep it free of worms.

Through the years of his prosperity and success he has not forgotten the negroes who worked on his father’s farm. Many of them have received a much needed piece of money from him without the asking at Christmas time.

His father, W. H. Jones, was known throughout his part of Tennessee and Kentucky as a good neighbor and staunch citizen. To most of his wide circle of clients and friends, from whom he bought and “prized” tobacco he was known as “Billy” Jones. Through his fair dealings with tobacco planters his business grew and with it grew his friends, and at the age of 14 Jesse was manager in complete charge of one of his tobacco factories. While Jesse was yet a younger the family moved to Adairsville, Kentucky, into a fine old brick mansion, only a short way from the Tennessee line. This plantation was much larger than the Robertson County place and included some 80 acres in Tennessee and 600 acres in Kentucky.

On the death of his mother while he was yet a baby, “Aunt Nancy,” who was to have a great influence over him and the person on whom he leaned until her death a few years ago, came to mother the two boys and three girls. Of all members of the family, it was “Aunt Nancy” for whom he manifested the greatest affection. Her husband, a member of a Tennessee volunteer regiment, was killed during the first months of the Civil war. “Aunt Nancy,” as she was known to all of the family,mothered the flock of five as well as her own children and came to Dallas and established the home for their father in 1884. The family spent only two years in Dallas. While here the children attended grammar school. Miss Blanch Aldehoff was their teacher during these two seasons. At a recent testimonial dinner given him by the representative citizens of Dallas, Mr. Jones paid this tribute to his teacher:

“My teacher was Miss Blanch Aldehoff, and she was about the prettiest woman that I ever saw and the most patient. I shall never forget her gentleness and her kindness to one timid country boy who had great difficulty in keeping up with his classes.”

During their stay in Dallas, when he was in his teens, through the first years of his big success in Houston and later in New York, “Aunt Nancy” remained the same guiding
Jesse H. Jones at the age of 24. The picture was made on his first visit to New York.
star for him as when she came to "mother" the youngsters at the death of his mother, when he was just beginning to toddle. From what the writer can gather from members of the family no one was ever as close to "Jesse" as "Aunt Nancy."

In 1915, Mr. Jones provided a comfortable home for "Aunt Nancy" in the Rice Hotel, and every morning on his way to business stopped by her rooms to visit with her. She was shrewd, kind and wholly devoted to him. She was of the old school and from her Jesse learned many of life's best lessons.

Mr. Jones made his home for many years with Mrs. M. T. Jones, widow of his uncle, of whose estate he was one of the administrators, in a fine old mansion on Main street, until his marriage to Mrs. Mary Gibbs Jones in 1920.

To this old house came friends of former years from Tennessee and members of the family still living back in Kentucky and the native state. He watched over his two aunts with a possessive air. They were never let to want for anything that money or attentions could secure.

"Joe" Diodot met Jesse H. Jones when he came back to Texas after his father returned with his family to Tennessee.

Seated in his office on McKinney Street, which sits back on a little terrace like a cottage from the big gates of the Jones Lumber Company, a few days ago, he talked of his friend and employer whose respect and admiration he has enjoyed for more than three decades. "Joes" French eyes twinkled in retrospect as he recounted the arrival of the young Tennessean at the lumber yard of his uncle, M. T. Jones, in Hillsboro, in 1892. This was his first step on the road to success over which he moved with such rapidity.

"He was then of the commanding appearance, tall, but somewhat thinner than we know him today; he was only 18 and not yet grown. On his arrival among us he soon be-
came a part of the business and social cosmos of the town. He was considered a good "mixer" of more than ordinary talent and ability and also had some predilections for the gentler sex. Those corn-fed prairie girls began to "cast an eye to windward" to the newcomer as an escort to church, prayer meeting and choir practice. The last was considered the big social event of the week. Prayer meeting and "sparking" were synonymous with us all. I remember that Sunday garb of his distinctly; a black Prince Albert with cream colored "pants" of figurative design, a long pointed turn down collar, the small and short black bow-tie of that era suspended by a small rubber loop; and he looked the part of the well dressed man of that day and was popular alike with young and old men and women.

"His love of his fellows and employees cannot be excelled, backed up and supported by a purse that has no puckering string to retard its lavish flow. Generosity is good in every man; but when generosity has the material things of life to spend or dispense with lavish store, it is like that old Shakesperian mercy that comforts him that gives and receives.

"And looking through and acquainted with the past twenty-five years when we have known him the best, no deaf ear has he ever turned and no reluctant attitude has he ever shown to any man whose cause was worthy of any import or consideration. That good right hand does not know what the genial left puts out. He is one of America's first citizens and she would do well to call and honor him; no East or West or North or South has produced his greater and those who know him well and best, know him to be worthy of any honor old America can bestow.

"During these early years he must have had a dream between the adolescent and young manhood's hour and of the years yet afront. He dreamed of the material things of
Life and honor that fall to men of position and the influence and set himself to acquire that end. Shortly after his departure from Hillsboro we changed his title from that of “Jesse” to Jesse Jones and he is Jesse Jones to all. Just a few years at Dallas, and he came to Houston headquarters for the Jones’ interests, and was soon in charge of his Uncle’s entire business. The successful management of that end of all his other allied interests is now a part of the business life of his beloved and adopted city and patent to all.

“Those who know him longer love him best,
I’ll ask if this is not the truest test,
For what is life worth then to me and you,
If we can’t love and honor those who have proved true.

“One day after he had been in Hillsboro about two years, he came to me in the lumber yard where I was at work. He stood around for a few minutes and speaking as though he might be going to town he said, ‘I’m leaving for Dallas tomorrow, Joe. Come along with me. I’m going on up. The next day I told him goodbye.”

In connection with Mr. Didot’s church-going stories about Mr. Jones, it should be stated that today he is a consistent member of the Methodist church, regular in his Sunday attendance; a steward in St. Paul’s Methodist church, Houston, and among all his other activities finds time now to help plan and finance a great new church edifice. Twenty years ago he was chairman of the building finance committee that built the beautiful St. Paul’s Church. Now he is on the same committee helping to build a new and bigger St. Pauls. Only a few weeks ago, he gave $50,000 to the new building fund, but did not mention it to anyone, even his secretary. He does not like to talk about his achievements or his benefactions.

The following illustrates the estimate in which he is held by the citizens of Texas as expressed on one of the occasions named:

“Jesse Jones is one of the greatest assets of the State of Texas. Jesse Jones is Texas’ most distinguished and useful citizen. Texas was brought out of a wilderness by men with vision and courage; Texas is being built into a great commonwealth by men with vision and courage; Jesse Jones personifies that type.”

From Jed C. Adams, democratic national committeeman for Texas, comes this tribute: “The time has come for Jesse Jones to grace the White House. No man stands above

Page Thirty-three
him in patriotic purpose. No man stands above him in power to do good for the people." This sentiment is indorsed by Mrs. J. T. Bloodworth, the national committeeewoman from Texas.

In addition to receiving the indorsement of his own state for the democratic presidential nomination Mr. Jones has been widely discussed as one of the foremost among the available nominees for vice-president if the presidential nomination shall go to another, and if the strategy of controlling forces in the Houston convention should decide upon a Southern man.

The following from the pen of Dr. Stockton Axson, member of the faculty of Rice Institute and brother of the First Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, narrates and analyzes the close personal relations, ripening into deep mutual affection, between Mr. Jones and Mr. Wilson. It is the first detailed account of that relationship ever given the public:

"Dear Mr. Wakefield: I have read with keen interest the article by you and Mr. Linthicum on Jesse H. Jones. It is a good idea to picture the backgrounds of Mr. Jones' life and achievements, to reveal the foundations of his character and career.

"You have done well to accentuate the formative influence upon Mr. Jones of Woodrow Wilson, and I can confirm what you have said because I have been intimately acquainted with both men and have personal knowledge of the reciprocal esteem and affection which existed between them. Before I knew Mr. Jones he had met President Wilson—shortly after the inauguration in 1913.

"From 1913 to Mr. Wilson's death in 1924, there was a steady growth in the relationship of the two men, from admiration to friendship and from friendship to deep personal affection.

"I met Mr. Jones in 1914 and gradually became aware that Woodrow Wilson's

A view of the garden apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Jones, covering the roof of the new Lamar Hotel

Page Thirty-four
personality, ideals and accomplishments were progressively captivating the mind and fascinating the imagination of Jesse Jones.

"At first I was a little surprised that an eminent young business man, builder and promoter had such a sympathetic understanding of and allegiance to a president who was looked upon with suspicion, sometimes actual hostility, by many interesting American men of affairs.

"President Wilson was supposed to be antagonistic to what is known as "Big Business" 14 years ago. Those who penetrated surface appearances realized that Woodrow Wilson was averse to big business only when it attempted by indirect and covert methods to control government or create monopolies. Those who knew him intimately knew that he was by nature conservative, but by conviction "progressive" because of what he had learned in New Jersey, because he saw that in the early years of this century corporate interests were virtually dictating legislation in New Jersey. As governor of that state, Woodrow Wilson smashed the alliances between machine politics and privileged business and restored the government of New Jersey to the people of New Jersey.

"He had no quarrel with big business so long as it attended to its own affairs, but when it came in conflict with the constitutional rights of a supposedly free people. Woodrow Wilson was on the side of the people. As their champion he was elected governor of New Jersey, as their chief representative he was elected president of the United States.

"In the contest between what were known as "progressive" and "reactionaries" 18 years ago (and later) Woodrow Wilson was such an outspoken and two-fisted "progressive" that he became unpopular with many leaders of commerce.

"Therefore his personal and political friends got rather in the habit of expecting to find an opponent to Woodrow Wilson under the hat of an outstanding man of business.

"That is why I did not anticipate the ardent Wilsonian in Jesse Jones, whom I first knew as the chief builder and developer of Houston 14 years ago.

"But as I came to know him better, I discovered a convinced democrat inside this busy financier, and I realized that Woodrow Wilson was for him the incarnation of pure and just democracy.

"This quiet man (he was very quiet in those days) was doing a lot of thorough thinking (he has always been thorough) and was weighing the extravagant arguments between the extreme "radicals" on the one hand and the extreme "conservatives" on the other.

"I fancy that Jesse Jones had no expectation at that time of engaging personally in practical politics, but he had an earnest patriotic interest in public affairs. Thinking through the heated discussions of that era he came to believe that the Wilson doctrines were sound, that no prosperity can last which is not grounded in justice, that whatever violates the fundamental principles of representative government imperils the republic.

"He saw in President Wilson that restorer and interpreter of stable popular government.

"Though allied in his interests with what was then known as the "capitalist class," he came to subscribe in mind and spirit to the Wilsonian conceptions of enduring democracy, of untrammeled representative government, of lawfully selected leadership, of
“pitiless publicity” for those whose self-interest prompted them to thwart the open processes of legislation, the end and object of which should be justice for all and private favors for none. All of Jesse Jones’ early training and all his abiding sympathies drew him to this man Wilson who was seeking to equalize opportunities among all groups of our people; whose interest in those who labor with their hands was not lip service for political advantage but was genuine, deep and abiding; whose active concern in the welfare of the American farmer led to more practical and beneficial legislation in behalf of the farmer than has the administration of any other president in the history of our country.

"Through the years from 1913 to 1917 the Woodrow Wilson ideas permeated the thinking of Jesse Jones on public matters, widened his political horizon and strengthened his faith in American institutions. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that Woodrow Wilson was the chief factor in the political education of Jesse H. Jones.

"After the declaration of war in 1917, Mr. Jones was one of a number of eminent Americans who were summoned by Woodrow Wilson to meet in conference at Wichita, Kansas, to devise ways and means of raising a one hundred million dollar Red Cross war fund which had been recommended by Henry P. Davidson, whom President Wilson had appointed as chairman of the newly founded emergency American Red Cross War Council.

"Mr. Jones responded with alacrity. He had been searching his heart and seeking means of being useful to his country in the great crisis.

"Here was one step, the first step, toward war service. Mr. Jones attended the meeting at Wichita, lent his financial wisdom to the discussions, then returned to Houston to head the first big drive in this section for Red Cross funds and carried his section over the top.

"Immediately after, he was invited to Washington to become director general of military relief, one of the most important offices in the Red Cross organization.

"As is well known, President Wilson “adjourned politics” during the war by appointing many conspicuous and able republicans, heads and members of the most important wartime boards and committees.

"Thus it came about that most of the leading officers of the American Red Cross were republicans. It is no reflection on these devout and public spirited men to say that while they sedulously avoided injecting politics into the Red Cross, they naturally did not feel as close to the president as they would have felt toward a republican president.

"Mr. Jones and I were practically the only avowed democrats holding high office in the organization. Instinctively President Wilson looked to us as liaison officers between himself and the Red Cross.

"Through these contacts the president and Mr. Jones became intimately acquainted with each other.

"Jesse Jones’ admiration for the president had been long standing, and as the president came to know Mr. Jones the admiration became mutual.

"They frequently conferred on Red Cross matters and the president’s interest in the Red Cross was strengthened by his increasing confidence in Mr. Jones.

"They discussed not only Red Cross and other war problems but public matters in
general, politics, national and international, men and measures, and the things which lay nearest the president’s heart, the speedy ending of the war and plans for rehabilitating the world and drawing the nations into a better understanding for the prevention of a repetition of world war.

"Mr. Jones persuaded the president to go to New York and head the immense Red Cross parade which opened the campaign for a second Red Cross war fund. And it was Mr. Jones who suggested to the president that his speech on this occasion be not merely a Red Cross speech, but an address of hope and comfort to a war stricken world, a ringing summons to the allies and associates for a renewed faith and confidence in their cause, a reunited push against the common enemy, a final check of the armies of the central powers and a preparation of the world for permanent paths of peace. This was one of President Wilson’s famous war speeches, reported and read all over the world.

"In the summer of 1918 President Wilson gave striking evidence of his faith in Jesse Jones as a man and his confidence in the man’s judgment, ability and unselfish devotion to the cause of the war.

"The president confided to a few friends a project for sending to Russia a special commission with the object of bringing that country back into the war on the side of the allies and associates, and he stated that it was his purpose to put Jesse Jones at the head of that commission.

"Mr. Jones heard of this with solemn satisfaction. Though he was beyond the age of military service, he had been growing increasingly restless in a “safe” job, and talked frequently with his friends about resigning from the Red Cross and enlisting for field service.

"Once he was on the verge of accepting a call to head aircraft production, but was dissuaded by President Wilson, who told him that he needed him in the Red Cross.

"Now (in the summer of 1918) it seemed as if Mr. Jones was about to receive orders from the president himself to lead a perilous adventure into Russia, and quietly Mr. Jones began to set his private affairs in order, saying that he thought it altogether un-
likely that he would return alive from Russia. He was more than reconciled—he was happy in the prospect.

"As the Russian revolutions became more entangled it seemed hopeless to make any attempt to lead Russia back into the fold, and therefore President Wilson did not establish the commission. However, he appointed Mr. Jones a member of the Red Cross war council.

"Mr. Jones sailed for Europe immediately after President Wilson's departure to participate in the peace treaties and Mr. Jones had several visits with the president in London and Paris, and it was chiefly on the advice of Mr. Jones that President Wilson appointed Dr. Livingston Farrand chairman of the American Red Cross, when a few months after the conclusion of hostilities, Mr. Davidson and the other members of the war council laid down the offices which they had so ably, honorably and patriotically filled.

"While in Europe Mr. Jones, with Mr. Davidson, was a representative to the councils in Paris, Cannes and Geneva, which led to the organization of the League of Red Cross Societies.

"Mr. Jones remained in Europe several months, attended open meetings of the peace conference and was an outstanding figure among the staunchest advocates of Woodrow Wilson and his plan for insuring the world against a repetition of the dire disaster of 1914-1918.

"Upon his return to America, Mr. Jones brought to completion his public work in Washington and came back to Houston.

"Between him and Mr. Wilson there had been established a bond of sympathetic understanding which was destined to strengthen with the years.

"After President Wilson had partly recovered from his physical collapse, Mr. Jones visited him in the White House and was greeted by the maimed president with the words: "Well, Jones, they got me," pointing to his half-paralyzed side, and meaning that the long strain of struggling with adversaries abroad and at home had been too much for mortal flesh—though the immortal spirit was untamed.

friendship between
the two men ripened

"Friendship between the two men ripened into an affection which is attested by many letters—among the tenderest from Mr. Wilson being that which says 'your generous letter of a few days ago came to me as a benediction. I thank God that I have such a friend as you.'

"During Mr. Wilson's prolonged illness Mr. Jones was among his most considerate friends, doing everything in his power to alleviate the distress of the stricken man. Mr. Jones was one of the honorary pallbearers at the funeral when the body of Woodrow Wilson was laid to rest in the cathedral at Washington.
“After Woodrow Wilson’s death Mr. Jones did as much as any living man to keep before the people of America the image and ideals of the great leader. At his own expense he has circulated throughout Texas and in various other parts of the country the impressive film in which Woodrow Wilson lives again in many of the most dramatic episodes of his official life.

“Mr. Jones has patterned his political life on the Wilson model. He has taken into the fibre of his being the Wilsonian philosophy of government, the strict accountability of leaders to the people at large, the conception of this great nation, not as groups of separated classes, but as a society of all the people united in the great adventure of self-government.

“Mr. Jones has some of Mr. Wilson’s mental habits; the capacity for complete concentration on the tasks before him, the tireless endeavor to leave no job until he has finished it, the power to think through a problem to its limits, the courage to put into action that which his mind and conscience tells him is right, the sympathy with his fellow beings, the determination to expose fraud and to rectify error.

“No really great man is a replica of another great man. Mr. Jones is a disciple of Mr. Wilson, not a copyist. But his political thinking has been vitalized by the precepts and example of Woodrow Wilson.

“Should Mr. Jones be nominated and elected president of the United States, he would make his own decisions, act on his own judgment in council with his official advisers and with all the facts before him; but it is safe to say that Woodrow Wilson’s career and influence would be a sort of mariner’s chart to which Mr. Jones would often refer. New Times bring new problems. What the disciple learns from the master must be fitted and applied to new conditions unencountered by the master.

“Scarcely is there a man in the country so well qualified to conduct a Wilsonian type of administration, so well equipped to apply undying principles to new problems, fresh exigencies.

“If Woodrow Wilson were alive I feel certain he would give hearty indorsement to the nomination of Jesse H. Jones for the presidency of the United States.”

Sincerely yours,

STOCKTON AXSON