

PSF: War Dept. Harry Woodring

'36-'40

Sec. of War

Box 104

CONTINUED

1
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF
Woodring
1

May 21, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Sent Copies of the attached
from Woodring to McNeill to
Hull.

**WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON**

May 20, 1938.

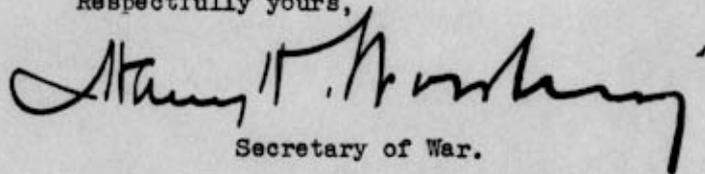
The President,

The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith a copy of a self-explanatory message for you, signed by the President of the Philippines, which was included in a radiogram received in this Department today from the United States High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands.

Respectfully yours,



Secretary of War.

Inclosure:

Translation radio
#361, 5-20-38 from
P.I.

Radiogram received in code May 20, 1938.

1 WTJ MF 22 Bia Manila

Secwar, Wash.,
Burnett,
May 20th. 361.

For the President. CONFIDENTIAL. Thank you for your message of
May 17th. I shall consider the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee
as highly confidential. Quezon.

McNutt.

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1938.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Rudolph Forster, The White House:

Subject: Oklawaha Barge and Drainage Canal.

In the absence of Secretary Woodring, I am sending you herewith for such disposition as you may deem proper a folder forwarded to the Secretary of War by the President on June 27, 1938, together with a preliminary report prepared by the Chief of Engineers.

John W. Martyn
Administrative Assistant.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

EOB DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 3-25-59

Signature- Carl S. Spicer

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. 7245 (St. Johns River - Oklawaha
River Canal) 1

July 8, 1938.

RECORDED 44 E

Subject: Oklawaha Barge and Drainage Canal.

To: The Secretary of War.

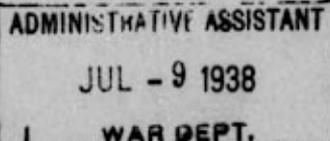
1. In accordance with the memorandum sheet attached to folder forwarded to the Secretary of War by the President, containing a confidential memorandum dated June 21, 1938, prepared for Senator Pepper by H. H. B. concerning the Oklawaha Barge and Drainage Canal, the following remarks based on information presently available are presented.

2. The brief presented by H.H.B. requests that the United States provide a lock barge canal 9 feet deep and 100 feet wide at the bottom from a point five miles south of Palatka, Florida, via the Oklawaha River valley 37 miles to State Highway No. 19 in the immediate vicinity and east of Ocala, Florida. It is claimed that 440,000 tons of commerce will develop annually effecting an estimated annual saving of \$220,000, which would warrant an expenditure of \$2,967,000, which is the estimated cost of the improvement. The route of the canal will follow the route of the proposed Florida Ship Canal.

3. In the report made by the Chief of Engineers on the Florida Ship Canal, the estimated cost of a lock barge canal 9 feet deep and 100 feet bottom width to be built for barge traffic entirely across Florida and following the route of the proposed Florida Ship Canal, was estimated at \$19,867,000. The annual local commerce was estimated at 667,000 tons. The estimates given are not in sufficient detail to permit an accurate and conclusive check of the figures given.

4. In order that definite conclusions may be made, the brief has been sent to the District Engineer, Jacksonville, Florida, where figures for actual comparison are available. The District Engineer has been instructed to keep the subject matter confidential and to expedite his report to the utmost. Immediately upon receipt of his report, final analysis and recommendation will be made.

5. Copies of the brief and the map have been made by photostat, and the basic papers are returned herewith.



J. L. Schley
J. L. Schley,
Major General,
Chief of Engineers.

Enclosure:
Folder. (Serial 1)

H. H. Woodring

To report to me about

PSF
Woodring

7215 (St. Johns R. River Canal) - 1
OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
JUN 28 1938
St. Johns R. River

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
JUN 27 1938
WAR DEPT.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

June 21, 1938

To: Senator Pepper
From: H. H. B.

OKLAWAHA BARGE AND DRAINAGE CANAL
A Florida State W.P.A. Project
(Preliminary Estimates)

1. Applicant: An agency of the State of Florida.
2. Kind of Project: Barge and Drainage Canal.
3. Purpose: I. To afford cheaper transportation to a large portion of central and eastern Florida, by means of a barge canal connecting the central portion of the State with the St. Johns River system and the intra-coastal waterway to points north and south of Jacksonville.

II. To afford drainage for approximately 25,000 acres of good land.
4. Location: From a point near Stokes Landing on the St. Johns River (approximately five miles south of Palatka) via the valley of the Oklawaha River to the intersection of that river with State Highway No. 19, just east of Ocala.
5. Type Canal: Barge, Lock -- 9 ft. depth -- 100 ft. bottom width. (Standard).
6. Length: Approximately 37 miles.
7. Principal Basic Commodities Served:

Outbound

Phosphate
Lime Rock
Citrus Fruits
Truck
Naval Stores
Sand and Gravel
Lumber and Hardwood

Inbound

Building Materials
Cattle Feeds
Petroleum Products
Fertilizers
Miscellaneous Commodities

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 3-25-59

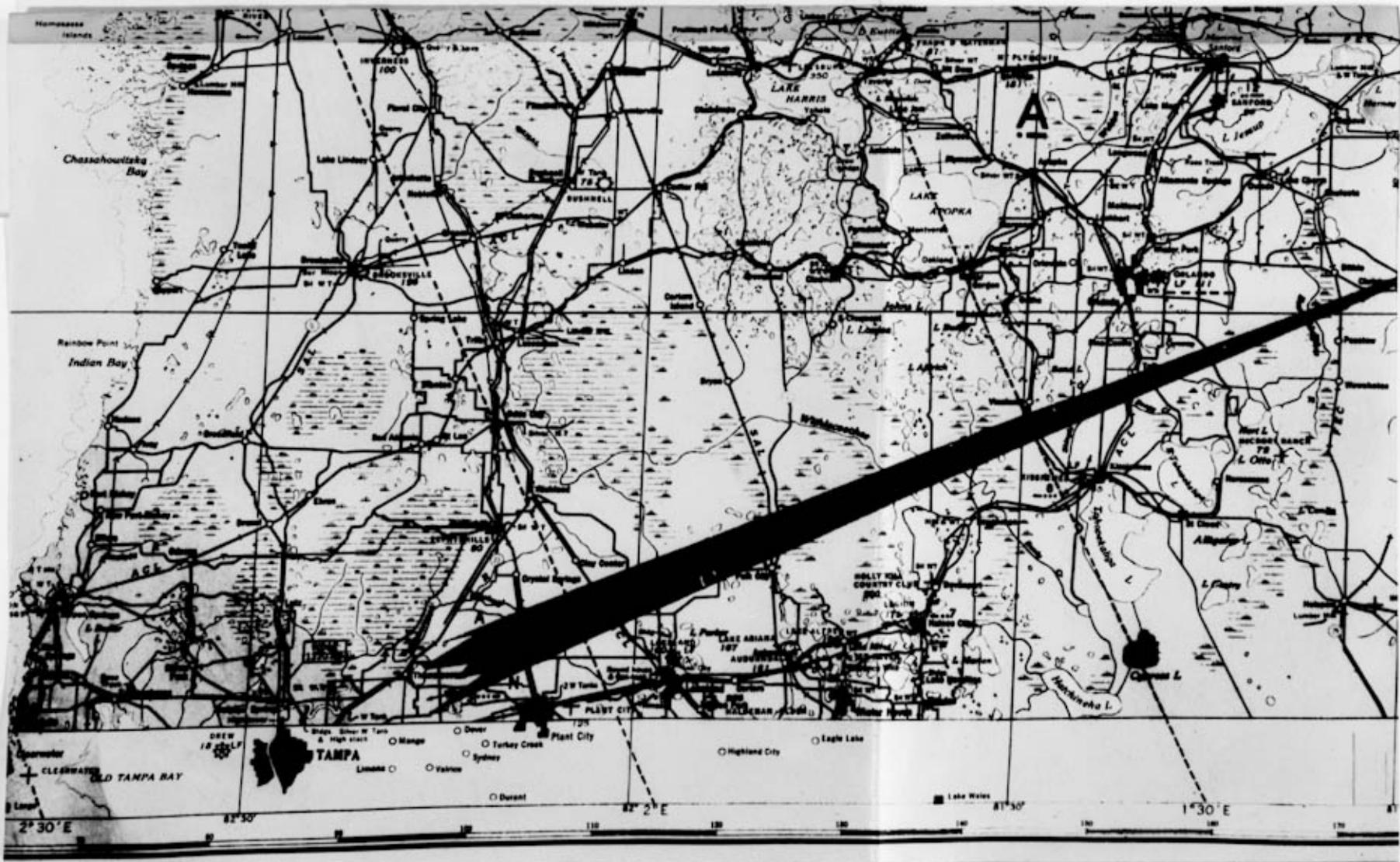
Signature- Carl L. Speer

June 21, 1938

8. Minimum annual available commerce for Canal: 440,000 tons.
9. Savings (minimum): 50¢ per ton, or a minimum annual total of \$220,000.
10. Population in Area Benefited: Approximately 830,000.
11. Cost: \$2,967,000.
12. Time to Complete: 8 to 12 months.
13. Employment: 75% of cost is labor. (Approx.)
14. Local Cooperation: All lands and rights-of-way to be furnished by the State. Major portion already acquired.
15. Construction: By War Department (Corps of Engineers), preferred.
16. Commencement: Plans ready. Lines staked. Can employ upward of 3,000 men on clearing right-of-way within 15 days after allotment. Knocked down cantonments are ready.

THIS OVERSIZE ITEM HAS BEEN
MICROFILMED IN SECTIONS.





PSF: Woodring

300,000,000.

10,705,480.

110,294,520.

32,500.

1,460,713.

454,960,713.

Cost

27,000,000.

[Dec. 1939]

SECRET

**WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON**

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

In my recent message to the Congress on the state of the Union I discussed the various elements that contribute to a sound and effective National Defense. Today I wish to point out some of the most urgent deficiencies in the military element of that National Defense structure and to suggest measures for their correction. Technological developments in implements of war, coupled with the international situation, have emphasized our deficiencies in this respect. Shortages include planes, equipment, personnel, and other elements of preparedness that unfortunately are not only vital for effective operations but also require months to provide. To delay correction of these deficiencies until war becomes imminent would jeopardize our national security.

ARMY AVIATION

Military aviation is increasing today at an unprecedented and alarming rate. Increased range, speed, and carrying capacity of airplanes have produced marked changes in our requirements for defensive aviation. The present aviation component of our Army is inadequate to meet this possible threat to our territory. Therefore, we must take steps now to build up as quickly as possible a strong and balanced combat air force, ready to undertake effective and sustained operations. For this purpose we need sufficient airplanes to complete the equipment of existing units, to permit the creation of approximately 37 new squadrons, and to provide a small reserve. This will require 3000 additional airplanes. With these planes, the air defenses of the United States, Hawaii, and Panama can be very considerably strengthened and appropriate units can be assigned to our strategic outposts in Alaska and Puerto Rico. An efficient and effective air component requires adequate personnel to operate and maintain the airplanes in service and to care for those in reserve. An increase of approximately 3,300 officers and 26,000 enlisted men is required for this purpose. In addition to airplanes and personnel, adequate bases, utilities, bombs, bomb storage, maintenance and organizational equipment, and essential housing are required. Provision must also be made for experimentation in order that we may keep abreast of aviation development. I recommend an additional appropriation of \$300,000,000 for the Fiscal Year 1940 for this purpose. Of this sum \$50,000,000 should be made immediately available for the procurement of airplanes for the Army. This is necessary to correct the present lag in aircraft production due to idle plants.

300,000,000

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SEACOAST DEFENSES

The seacoast defenses for the Panama Canal, for the naval base in Oahu, and for critical areas in Continental United States must be strengthened.

Appropriations in recent years for seacoast defenses have been devoted primarily to improving and strengthening the defenses in Panama, Oahu, and on the West Coast of the United States. However, there are still serious shortages in equipment. Urgent deficiencies in these areas include: searchlights, searchlight towers, anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, fire control equipment and communications for anti-aircraft, and seacoast armament. In addition, other urgent deficiencies exist in the defenses for the Panama Canal; namely, the 16-inch gun project at Fort Kobbe is incomplete, and necessary defensive structures, access roads to defensive positions, ammunition storage, sites for defensive installations and rights of way thereto are lacking.

Present world conditions clearly indicate that the seacoast defenses on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts should also be improved and strengthened. Accordingly, land should be procured and work initiated on long-range batteries for the Atlantic Coast. Essential submarine mine materiel and structures should be provided for these defenses. Seacoast batteries now installed for the defense of important areas on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts lack essential fire control equipment.

10, 705, 480 For the purpose of improving and strengthening the seacoast defenses of Panama, Hawaii, and Continental United States, I therefore recommend an additional appropriation of \$10,705,480 for the Fiscal Year 1940.

CRITICAL ITEMS OF MATERIEL

We have a tremendous military advantage in the quality of our manhood. But, without modern weapons, the man, however splendid the type, will be hopelessly handicapped. The young men of this nation should not be compelled to take the field with antiquated weapons, especially when we have already developed and available for production the most modern types. Provision in time of peace of all the modern equipment needed in a war emergency would be economically unsound. Failure to

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110
provide the critical items of equipment which would be needed immediately in time of emergency and which cannot be obtained from any source within the time and quantity desired, would jeopardize our national safety. The Army urgently needs modern materiel such as anti-aircraft artillery, semi-automatic rifles, anti-tank guns, tanks, light and heavy artillery, ammunition and gas masks, to equip existing units of the Regular Army and the National Guard. For some of the most urgent requirements in this respect, I recommend an additional appropriation for the Fiscal Year 1940 of \$110,294,520. Provision for additional anti-aircraft units in the National Guard should be made as soon as the materiel for them is available.

EDUCATIONAL ORDERS

In addition to the funds recommended for the procurement of a portion of Army requirements in certain critical items of equipment, I consider it necessary that such procurement be supplemented by measures designed to prepare industry for the quantity production in an emergency of those military items non-commercial in character and so difficult of manufacture as to constitute bottle-necks. For this purpose the Educational Order, authorized by Public No. 639, 75th Congress, is considered an effective instrument. In order, therefore, that essential private industry may receive necessary training for National Defense, I recommend that there be authorized and appropriated for the Fiscal Year 1940 the additional sum of \$32,500,000 for Educational Orders for the Army.

CHORRERA - RIO HATO ROAD

Certain areas outside the limits of the Panama Canal Zone should be made accessible to the garrison of the Canal Zone by means of all-weather roads. Of great importance in this respect, is the road lying wholly within the Republic of Panama and connecting Chorrera and Rio Hato. The Republic of Panama desires to improve this road at a cost of \$4,243,228. Since the United States would also benefit from the improvement, I think it only fair and just that we should defray a part of the cost thereof, the remainder to be borne by the Republic of Panama. Therefore, for this purpose I recommend an appropriation for the Fiscal Year 1940 of \$1,460,713.

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LEGISLATION

The utilization of these appropriations involves the enlargement of present authorized programs for procurement of equipment; moderate increases in the military personnel, primarily Air Corps; additional methods for the training of personnel; the liberalization of existing general legislation affecting certain classes of procurements; the construction of housing, storage, and manufacturing facilities; and the expansion of present authorized plans for industrial preparedness, including the placing of educational orders with manufacturing establishments; all of which will require legislative authorizations.

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/59)

Date- *2-18-59*

Signature- *Carl S. Spicer*

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**WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON**

The President,

The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

Herewith items suggested for inclusion in your message to Congress on National Defense. In preparing these items, I have been guided by the desires expressed by you at the conference of January 5, 1939.

I take the liberty of pointing out that, while the measures suggested will materially forward the readiness of the Army, nevertheless a serious deficiency of great import to both the Army and the Navy will still exist after these measures are accomplished. I refer to the defenses of the Panama Canal. The strategical importance of this link in our defense chain is well known to you. Unfortunately, at present there are not sufficient coast artillery troops in the Panama Canal Zone to man more than 50% of the anti-aircraft and seacoast defense armament now provided for the Panama Canal and health and climatic conditions make it highly undesirable to send additional troops to this area until suitable housing is made available. The War Department cannot undertake this construction in the absence of Congressional authorization and provision of the necessary funds therefor. In view of the vital and urgent necessity of our being prepared at all times to prevent enemy naval and aircraft raids from seriously interrupting the Canal, I respectfully suggest that you also include in your message to Congress a statement substantially as follows:

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND HOUSING, PANAMA CANAL ZONE

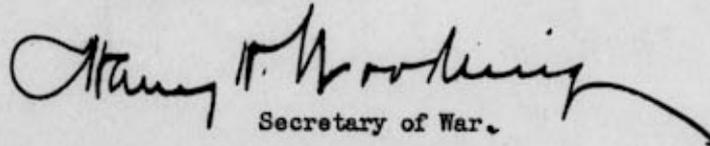
Under present world conditions, the security of the Panama Canal is of utmost importance to our national security. It is essential that there be stationed at all times in the Canal Zone sufficient troops to man effectively the seacoast and anti-aircraft armament provided for its defense. The peace garrison now there is inadequate to defend this vital link in our scheme for national defense. This deficiency cannot be corrected with existing forces without seriously jeopardizing the security of the United States by practically stripping the United States of

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harbor defense and anti-aircraft personnel. In addition, the peace garrison in Panama should not be increased until additional housing facilities are provided. The permanent garrison in the Panama Canal Zone must be increased by approximately 180 officers and 6400 enlisted men to provide the minimum personnel required to man the anti-aircraft and seacoast armament provided for the defense of the Canal. I therefore recommend an additional appropriation for the Fiscal Year 1940 of \$25,000,000 to provide essential housing in the Panama Canal Zone and \$2,600,000 to increase the peace garrison there by approximately 180 officers and 6400 enlisted men, as soon as necessary housing becomes available. \$5,000,000 of the \$25,000,000 for construction should be made available immediately, in order that work on necessary construction can be initiated promptly.

Respectfully yours,


Secretary of War.

1 Enclosure.

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 2-18-59

Signature- Carl F. Spear

SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Woodring*

May 17, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

What can I say on this?

F. D. R.

Letter of May 9, 1939 from
Ambassador Bullitt enclosing a
secret report of the French General
Staff which has been compiled from
information gathered by the French
Secret Service and is the basis on
which the French General Staff has
prepared its plans for coping with
the German Air Force.

PST
Woodring
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August 25, 1939

Memorandum for the Secretary of War and the Acting Sec of Navy

President asks them to speak to him about the enclosed joint letter to the President 8-14-39 from the above secretaries.

Re-draft of precept for the Presidents approval to establish methods of administration and procedure necessary to bring the operations of the Joint Army and Navy Board, the Joint Aeronautical Board, and the Joint Army and Navy Munitions Board under direction supervision of the President. In accordance with Military Order of July 5th.

See: Special Corres marked General Board--Navy folder-Drawer 1-1939

PSF
Woodring
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Memo to the President
From Gen Watson
September 25, 1939

Congressman Snyder anxious to have President proceed
on added construction of the Panama Canal without going
through formality of a bid etc etc
Mr. Woodring expects to speak to the President at Cabinet
Meeting tomorrow-Sept 26, 1939

See: Watson folder-Drawer 2-1939

October 24, 1939

PSF
Woodring
1

Memorandum for General Watson

From Secretary Morgenthau

Re-appropriation for striking a medal for Mrs. Richard
Aldrich--letter from Sec. Woodring of Oct 20, 1939
attached.

See: Morgenthau folder-Drawer 1-1939

Copy

PSF
Franklin

November 30, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Secretary of War informed me today that the Panama contract cost-plus business is merely in the stage of drawing up the preliminary procedure, and the plan is now in the hands of the Attorney General.

The Secretary of War assures me that he will consult you fully before anything is done in connection with these contracts.

E.M.W.

PSF
working

December 25, 1939.

Dear Harry:-

This metal can be
stamped out into a hand
grenade if you need it!

My best wishes for
a Merry Christmas.

As ever yours,

P.S.F. Woodring

[1940?]

The New Cabinet Appointments

Johnson County Democrat *Oletha*
Kaiser
Imbued with patriotism over politics, President Roosevelt has appointed Henry L. Stimson and Frank Knox to his cabinet as secretaries of War and Navy respectively. Upsetting all precedent, the President appointed two Republicans, first because of their wide experience as executives in a military way, and secondly to unite the people of this country as a single unit working toward a definite end in this time of World emergency.

The Democrat approves the appointments of the President, realizing that in times like these today, there is no time for politics and party differences, but that it is the duty of every American citizen to back the government as a unit for the common cause. After the World has again settled down, we know not when, then, and only then, can our two great National parties settle their differences.

Why did the President appoint two Republicans to his cabinet? This is a common question on the lips of many people in the country, and again we reiterate the President's stand of placing patriotism over politics.

No doubt the President through various diplomatic and governmental channels has information leading him to believe that the United States is in danger or might soon be in danger of invasion. The defeat of Great Britain, with its large and mighty fleet, would immediately put this country on the spot. Therefore the military and naval posts in the cabinet must be filled with men of wide experience, dynamic in character, men who can conduct with quick results the offices for the best interests of our national defense and security. Men who in case of emergency have the military ability to protect our country; who have the ability to execute the building for this country of a large and powerful army, navy and air force, second to none. When this program is completed, it will be the country's greatest safeguard for peace.

BSF War *Woodring*

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY WOODRING FROM THE PRESIDENT--March 11, 1940

Re:Railroad bridges across the Potomac in case the one in existence now should be blown up--could tracks be laid across Georgetown or Memorial bridges etc?
Woodring's reply of April 12, 1940 to above memo with the map of Potomac River and data for possible expedients on the KEY BRIDGE--MEMORIAL--14th STREET BRIDGE is attached.

See:Raw File-Drawer 4-1939

FST: Woodring

CONFIDENTIAL

HOLD FOR RELEASE June 20, 1940.

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

The President has sent to the Senate, today, the nomination of Colonel Frank Knox of Illinois, to be Secretary of the Navy, in place of Secretary Charles Edison, whose resignation was announced several weeks ago to take effect on June 24th.

The President also sent to the Senate, the nomination of Henry L. Stimson of New York, to be Secretary of War in the place of Secretary Woodring, who has resigned.

The President sent the following letter to Secretary Woodring:

"Dear Harry:

"It is with real personal regret that I accept your resignation as Secretary of War. You have given loyal and unselfish service to the Government during these past seven years, and during that period the Army of the United States has made greater progress in providing for national defense than in any similar peace-time period in our history. You are entitled to very great credit for your share in this.

"Secretary Dern and you and I were faced with a problem of great difficulty in 1933, especially because of the failure to keep the equipment up-to-date. Since then great strides have been made in modernizing this equipment. The new program, which has been made necessary in the past few months by events outside of our own Continent, will, of course, take a long time to complete, but it has been well thought out and is a logical development of the policy of these past few years.

"It is, of course, a defensive program, not aimed at intervention in world affairs which do not concern the American Hemisphere.

"I shall hope to see you and the family before you leave.

"With my affectionate regards,

"Faithfully yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

PSF: Woodring

TY STAR. Extra

PAGES.

PRICE: In Kansas City... 2 Cents
Elsewhere 5 Cents

KNOX, STIMSON TO POSTS

President Appoints Republicans as Secretaries of Navy and War Respectively in Cabinet Shakeup.

WOODRING OUT IN ANGER

Letter of Resignation by Kansan Is Termed "Too Personal" to Be Made Public.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, June 20.—President Roosevelt took steps to form a coalition cabinet today by submitting to the senate the nominations of Col. Frank Knox to be secretary of the navy, and Henry L. Stimson to be secretary of war.

Knox, publisher of the Chicago Daily News, was Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1936. Stimson was secretary of state in the Hoover administration and secretary of war under President Taft.

The submission of the nominations was accompanied by a White House announcement—without amplification—that Secretary Woodring had resigned his cabinet portfolio, effective on senate confirmation of the nomination of his successor.

White House officials did say that Woodring's letter of resignation was





COL. FRANK KNOX OF CHICAGO, NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY OF THE NAVY IN THE NEW COALITION CABINET.

"so personal" that the usual custom would not be followed and it would not be made public.

Knox will succeed Charles Edison, whose resignation as navy secretary



SECRETARY WOODRING WHO RESIGNS HIS POST AS HEAD OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE WHEN HENRY L. STIMSON IS APPROVED AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

becomes effective June 24. Edison quit the cabinet job to run for governor of New Jersey on the Democratic slate.

PSF: Woodring

TALK UP FOR WOODRING

KANSAS CITY TIMES - June 22, 1940

Woodring Resignation the Big Topic in Washington.

The resignation of Harry Woodring as secretary of war and the transfer of military supplies by the United States government to the Allies continued to be chief topics in Washington yesterday.

Senator Nye charged in the senate that the reason Woodring was ousted was because he refused to allow the transfer of equipment which was needed by our own military establishment.

Then last night the senate approved a proposal to place restrictions on the transfer of army and navy material to other nations. The proposal made by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts followed criticism of the navy's release of twenty-three "mosquito" torpedo boats to the Allies.

Members of Congress from Kansas last night criticized Secretary Woodring's forced resignation.

Woodring Called "Biggest Man in U. S."

WASHINGTON BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
616 ALDEN BUILDING

(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Harry Woodring of Kansas, forced to resign from the cabinet because of his refusal to give the Allies military equipment he believed needed for the protection of the United States, today was termed "the biggest man in America."

Speaking of Woodring, Senator Bennett Clark suggested the Kansan might easily emerge the Democratic candidate for President.

"I would be happy to cast my vote as a delegate to the convention for a man who has shown such patriotism. Harry Woodring today is the biggest man in America," the Missourian said.

T > T: Woodring

KANSAS CITY TIMES - JUNE 22, 1940

SEEK LETTER KEY

KANSAS CITY TIMES - JUNE 22, 1940

TALK UP FOR WOODRING

CRITICISM OF OUSTER EXPRESSED
BY KANSANS.

Senators and Representatives See
Further Steps Toward War in
Knox-Stimson Cabinet
Choices.

(By the Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, June 21.—KANSANS in the senate and the house today strongly criticized the forced resignation of Harry H. Woodring, secretary of war.

Senator Reed, Republican, said it appeared to him that Woodring had been treated "pretty roughly" by the administration. He added that he favored the suggestion to call Woodring before a senate committee to explain the circumstances of his sudden resignation.

"The President has taken two of the most conspicuous Republicans in the country who are interventionists," Reed said. "Stimson's declarations would virtually take us into war. Knox is not far behind. The President is creating a war cabinet, not a non-partisan or bipartisan cabinet.

"A war cabinet will lead to a pro-war party. I am not for it."

Senator Capper, Republican senior senator, declared:

"Many people here believe our fellow Kansan, Harry Woodring, was fired because he opposed United States intervention in the European war."

Representative Winter, Republican, said that, in view of the statement attributed to Woodring that he had been forced out by a small group because he opposed stripping national defense to aid the Allies, he would support the Carlson resolution for an investigation.

"I'm disgusted," he said, referring to the Stimson-Knox appointments.

Representative Hope, Republican, said the rumors concerning Woodring's resignation "seem grounds for asking investigation."

"Stimson and Knox were appointed because of their record as interventionists," Hope charged. "I regard their selections as another step toward war."

Representative Rees, Republican, said he had no comment on Woodring's resignation, but he believed Stimson and Knox were appointed by President Roosevelt because they are "more in line with his views."

Representative Houston, Democrat, said he was sorry to see "the capable, efficient secretary of war resign" and only hoped that Knox and Stimson "make good."

WOODRINGS TO MOVE SOON.

Plans to Leave Capital Next Week
Are Completed.

(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Harry H. Woodring, ousted yesterday from the President's cabinet because of his disagreement with the administration's foreign policy, and Mrs. Woodring will leave Washington early next week to make their home in Topeka. For the time being the Woodrings will live in a rented house but will start immediately to remodel the old estate they purchased recently near Leocompton.

"Mrs. Woodring and I are very happy to be going back to Kansas," the former war secretary said today. "We are both tired and will enjoy a good rest."

Woodring said today he was "happy to be known as a non-interventionist. He declared:

"No one sympathizes with the European democracies any more than I do, but I feel it is America's duty to put our own defenses in order before going to their aid. I simply could not go along beyond the point where I felt we would be jeopardizing our own defenses."

Friends of the Kansan said Woodring has several business projects under consideration in Topeka and Kansas City. He employed Kansas City architects to furnish plans for the remodeling of the farm home he purchased and is ready to start work in the near future.

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RST: Woodring

KANSAS CITY TIMES - June 22, 1940

SEEK LETTER KEY

Washington Wants to Know
What Woodring Wrote to
the President.

DEBATE ON BOMB SIGHT

Secretary Refused to Turn Over
Device to British, Senator
Nye Says.

Assurance of Air Chief Cited in
Prompt Denial by
Barkley.

TRY TO FORCE HEARING

Clark Plans Resolution Asking
Release of the "Personal"
Document.

By DUKE SHoop.
(Member of The Star's Washington Bureau.)

Washington, June 21.—All
Washington buzzed today
with but one subject of con-
versation—what was in the
letter Harry Woodring of
Kansas wrote President
Roosevelt that was so "per-
sonal" according to the White
House, that it was not made
public?

Senator Gerald P. Nye of North
Dakota charged in the senate today
that Woodring was ousted from the
cabinet because of his refusal to
strip the army of needed equipment
and to turn over to the British the
country's No. 1 defense secret, the
Sperry bomb sight.

"I should be very much surprised,"
Nye declared, "if the committee did
not find that this break came on
Mr. Woodring's refusal to surrender
the No. 1 national defense secret—
the all valuable bomb sight."

Denied by Barkley.

Replying, Democratic Leader
Barkley told the senate he had been
advised by Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold,
army air corps chief, that "at no
time or under any conditions has
any consideration ever been given
to revelation of any secret bomb
sight."

"I think it is rather unfortunate
that here in the senate which is sort
of a court of public opinion should specu-

"I should be very much surprised," Nye declared, "if the committee did not find that this break came on Mr. Woodring's refusal to surrender the No. 1 national defense secret—the all valuable bomb sight."

Denied by Barkley.

Replying, Democratic Leader Barkley told the senate he had been advised by Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold, army air corps chief, that "at no time or under any conditions has any consideration ever been given to revelation of any secret bomb sight."

"I think it is rather unfortunate that here in the senate which is sort of a loudspeaker, we should speculate about some dereliction of duty when we do not agree with the policies of the President," Barkley added.

All in all, today was a day long to remember in Washington. The largest crowd in years jammed every inch of space in the house and senate galleries, expecting forensic fireworks from the lawmakers in the wake of yesterday's sensational cabinet shakeup that found the President naming two outspoken proponents of armed intervention in the European war—Col. Frank Knox of Chicago and Henry L. Stimson of New York, both Republicans, to the cabinet.

Suggestions were made that Woodring be asked to testify before the military affairs committee and reveal what prompted him to write the President a letter so personal. Mr. Roosevelt refused to divulge its contents. Representative Frank Carlson, a Kansas Republican, introduced in the house a resolution asking a congressional investigation of what he termed Woodring's "dismissal" and in the senate Bennett Clark of Missouri, openly threatening to bolt his party if Roosevelt seeks re-election, prepared for introduction a resolution demanding the White House release the letter of resignation written by the Kansan.

Won't Be Revealed.

There was little likelihood, however, that Congress and Republican leaders meeting in Philadelphia will be able to lick their chops over the Woodring letter. Friends of the Kansan said tonight he would not divulge the contents of his letter, and that Woodring felt certain the White House never would. Nor was there much chance that the house would sanction Carlson's suggestion that a congressional airing be had of Woodring's ouster.

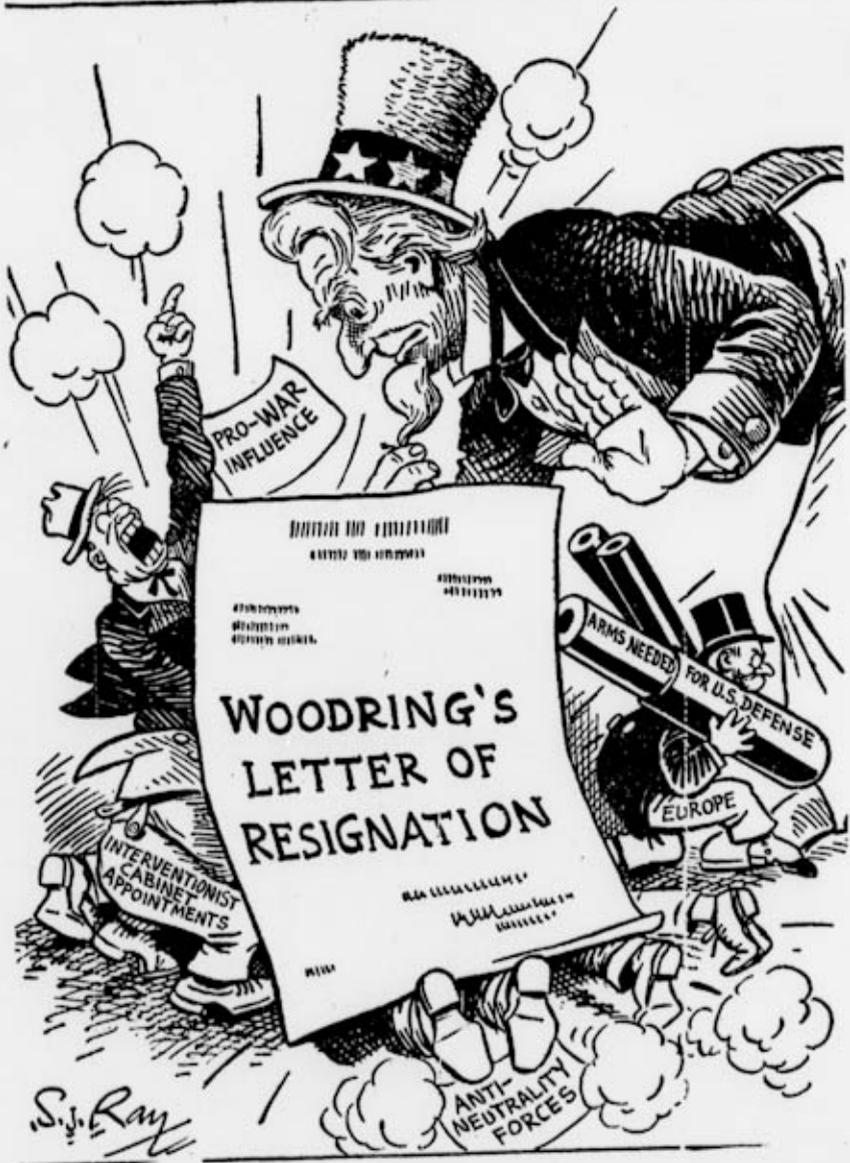
Senator Nye began his address, which concluded with a demand that Roosevelt resign, by declaring his opposition to the Knox and Stimson appointments. An investigation by the military affairs committee would disclose, he said, "that Secretary Woodring's resignation was directly attributable to his refusal to sign orders turning over further army equipment to the Allies."

Nye declared Germany and Italy already hate the United States because of our assistance to the Allies and because of the name calling by public officials. Great Britain and France are going to hate us soon, he predicted, because of a feeling that we have not lived up to our commitments.

PSF: Woodring

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1940.

WHAT ELSE IS BEHIND IT?



Memor 1-40

PSF: Woodring
Wan

PERSONAL

June 25, 1940.

Dear Harry:-

In view of the fact that certain purely partisan elements in the Senate seem to be making much ado about nothing in regard to your letter of June twentieth to me, I have re-read your letter and for the sake of your personal record and mine believe that one point should be made clear for all time.

In the second paragraph of your letter you say "I assure you that my refusal of yesterday morning to agree to your request for the release of the flying fortress bombers to foreign nations was based upon my own belief, supported by the General Staff, that it was not in the best interests of the defense of our own country".

The record shows that you have evidently some slight misunderstanding of facts and dates.

The simple fact is that on June seventeenth, in going over a list of Army and Navy equipment with the Secretary of the Treasury, there appeared a number of "flying fortress bombers" which had been in service in the Army for quite a long time -- in some cases between two and three years. It was suggested that if these bombers, because of their age, had become obsolete, it would be in the interest of national defense to turn them in to the builders in exchange for new bombers of the latest type.

RECEIVED
JUN 22 1942
PERSONAL

I thereupon asked General Watson to get the opinion of you and the Chief of Staff as to whether such a turn in would be in the interest of national defense, making it wholly clear that the recommendation of the Chief of Staff and of yourself would be final.

On June eighteenth -- the next day -- the Chief of Staff recommended against the release or turn in of these planes. This recommendation was approved by you the same day, June eighteenth, and I was informed of this recommendation the next day, June nineteenth. I promptly told General Watson to inform you and the Chief of Staff to forget it and that nothing further would be done in regard to the proposed turn in.

This action was reported to you by telephone and by Major W. D. Smith.

Your statement, therefore, that your refusal of June nineteenth to agree to my request for the release is not in accord with the facts for the following reasons:

1. I made no "request for the release of the bombers. As above indicated, I asked for the opinion of the Chief of Staff and yourself. By no stretch of the imagination can this action on my part be construed as a request for release.
2. You did not "refuse any request for the simple reason that all you did was to approve the recommendation of the Chief of Staff that the bombers be not released. This was again a reply to my request for a recommendation and is in no sense a refusal either on your part or on the part of the Chief of Staff.

I am quite sure that you did not intend to create any impression contrary to the very clear record of the facts. As you know, every item of Army equipment which has been sold or turned back has been either sold or turned back without objection or disapproval on the part of the Chief of Staff.

On the second page of your letter of June twentieth you urge that I maintain my pronounced non-intervention policy. As I have written you and told you before, I see no reason for any change in the policy which this Government has pursued in its foreign relations for the seven and a half years past.

Doubtless many efforts of mere partisanship in these days, when we should be thinking about the country first, will be directed to having you appear before Committees in order to stir up controversy. You are, of course, as well aware of this as I am, and I think you agree with me that partisan efforts of such a nature not only stir up false issues but do much to retard the progress of the defense program in which both you and I have been and are deeply interested.

With my sincere regards,

As ever yours,

Honorable Harry H. Woodring,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

6/20/40

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MEMORANDUM

Mr. President -

I will not give out
my statement, nor
release my part of
your letter or my
reply -

Inasmuch as I
am packing my
personal files I
fear the situation
may leak out over
here - so I suggest
that any announcement
should not only come
from the White House
but perhaps
immediately -

Chas. W. -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COPY

June 19, 1940

Dear Harry!

Because of a succession of recent events both here and abroad, and not within our personal choice and control, I find it necessary now to make certain readjustments. I have to include in this a change in the War Department --- and that is why I am asking that you let me have your resignation.

At the same time it would be very helpful to me if you would accept the post of Governor of Porto Rico. In the light of the international situation Porto Rico and its administration are of the utmost importance to this country.

Your service as Secretary of War has been carried out loyally and faithfully --- and for this I shall ever be grateful to you. This note goes to you with the warmest feeling of friendship on my part. And let me repeat, Harry, that I shall be always thankful to you for your help to me during all these seven years.

Affectionately yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

June 20, 1940.

Dear Harry:-

That is a mighty nice letter of yours and I greatly appreciate it. I wish though that you and Helen could have gone to Porto Rico, if only for a few months, because I know you would have been greatly interested in the difficult problem down there and also because I wish much that you could continue as a part of the Administration as long as it lasts.

Don't worry about maintaining the non-intervention policy. We are most certainly going to do just that — barring, of course, an attack on the validity of the Monroe Doctrine.

When all is said and done, I think you and I have a pretty good record on preparedness because there has never been a peace-time period when as much was accomplished for the Army as during the past few years, and we have been wholly justified in waiting until this Spring for setting in motion the enormous new program.

Give my love to Helen and I hope to see you both very soon.

Affectionately,

Honorable Harry H. Woodring,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

June 20-1940

PSF

Dear Mr. President -
Your request of yesterday afternoon for my resignation as Secretary of War is acknowledged and you may consider this note compliance therewith.

I assure you that my refusal of yesterday morning to agree to your request for the release of the flying fortress bombers to foreign nations was based upon my own belief, supported by the Genl. Staff, that it was not in the best interests of the defense of our own country.

Fearful of a succession of events to which I could not subscribe I prefer not to accept your proffer of

continued service in another post.

For the stated reasons I ask that my resignation be considered effective today.

I feel, Mr. President, that I cannot retire with my knowledge of the inadequacy of our preparedness for war without most respectfully urging you to maintain your pronounced non-intervention policy. I trust you will advise those who would provoke belligerency - a state of war for our nation that they do so with the knowledge that we are not prepared for a major conflict.

Billions appropriated today cannot be converted into preparedness tomorrow.

I am indeed grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to serve my country and the President of the United States to the best of my ability.

I am also grateful for your kind expression of friendship and to live me I retire with equally warm personal affection. May I remain always most respectfully,
Harry H. Woodruff -

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

The President has sent to the Senate, today, the nomination of Colonel Frank Knox of Illinois, to be Secretary of the Navy, in place of Secretary Charles Edison, whose resignation was announced several weeks ago to take effect on June 24th.

The President also sent to the Senate, the nomination of Henry L. Stimson of New York, to be Secretary of War in the place of Secretary Woodring, who has resigned.

The President sent the following letter to Secretary Woodring:

"Dear Harry:

"It is with real personal regret that I accept your resignation as Secretary of War. You have given loyal and unselfish service to the Government during these past seven years, and during that period the Army of the United States has made greater progress in providing for national defense than in any similar peace-time period in our history. You are entitled to very great credit for your share in this.

"Secretary Dern and you and I were faced with a problem of great difficulty in 1933, especially because of the failure to keep the equipment up-to-date. Since then great strides have been made in modernizing this equipment. The new program, which has been made necessary in the past few months by events outside of our own Continent, will, of course, take a long time to complete, but it has been well thought out and is a logical development of the policy of these past few years.

"It is, of course, a defensive program, not aimed at intervention in world affairs which do not concern the American Hemisphere.

"I shall hope to see you and the family before you leave.

"With my affectionate regards,

"Faithfully yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

PSF: Woodring



—Associated Press Photocopy

"WE'RE NEARING TOPEKA," SAID HARRY H. WOODRING FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF THE STATION WAGON THAT HAD CARRIED THE FAMILY FROM WASHINGTON. . . . "OH!" SAID ONE OF THE "THREE LITTLE TOWHEADS," "I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO KANSAS." . . . THE FORMER SECRETARY OF WAR BROUGHT HIS FOUR NEW KANSANS IN ON U. S. HIGHWAY NO. 24, BUT LEFT THE STATION WAGON ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOPEKA TO RIDE INTO TOWN IN AN OPEN MACHINE. . . . THE FAMILY BEHIND WOODRING, LEFT TO RIGHT: 5-YEAR-OLD MELISSA, 3-YEAR-OLD COOPER, MRS. WOODRING AND 6-YEAR-OLD MARCUS.

department of justice.

Members of the board are on the way to Leavenworth. Several stops will be made on the way, so it was impossible to say what day the board would start on the Higgins case. The former police director will appear in person to present his case, if the usual procedure is followed.

The former police director becomes eligible to apply for a parole tomorrow, after serving one-third of his sentence of two years.

When you want to buy, sell, rent or exchange anything, put a want ad in The Star. Under "General Classifications" 17 words, three days, costs only \$2.43. Telephone Harrison 1200.—Adv.

stodgy performer on the platform. But with Willkie as an adversary the administration leaders realize they have a foe in November who will give a good account of himself, one who is just as capable a performer on the stump as is the President himself.

To Build Up Issue.

Present indications are the new deal's attack will be centered on Willkie's financial and business connections, and on the public utility issue. The White House has obtained detailed information from its scouts on nearly everything that happened in Philadelphia before Willkie's nomination. The new

(Continued on Second Page.)

vised by Newell. "Me, I had twins twice. It saves time and it counts double."

CALLS BY FRIENDS.

The Woodrings rode into Topeka's downtown streets in the late afternoon sunlight. Here and there citizens rocking on their porches waved a greeting. Down Kansas avenue there came occasional calls of "Hi, Harry," and "Hello, Mrs. Woodring."

When the car pulled up in front of the Hotel Jayhawk, the Neodesha municipal drum corps of girls struck up their music and a moment later the Phil Billard post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars hit off with "I Been Working on the Railroad." Woodring arose and spoke to the

(Continued on Second Page.)

tack, it said the Hungarian raid began at 10:55 p. m. Sunday and lasted until 1 a. m. Monday.

Frontier outposts were attacked with rifles, machine guns and even artillery, the report said, and there were casualties on both sides.

In the same hours the Bulgarians were said to have attacked three Rumanian posts on the Dobruja frontier. Casualties resulted there, too.

Seeking Hitler's Favor.

The German bombing planes reached Brasov a few hours after the Rumanian cabinet had thrown out the old British guaranties of Ru-

(Continued on Second Page.)

PST: Woodring

THE RECENT SECRETARY OF WAR BEARS THE BANNER OF
Kansas City Star July KANSAS. 15, 1940



Harry H. Woodring, recently snubbed out of the President's cabinet to be replaced by a Republican, holds aloft the Kansas standard at the first session of the Democratic convention today in Chicago. With him is Mrs. Woodring and Guy T. Helvering, United States commissioner of internal revenue. The former cabinet member is a delegate at large to the convention.

Ex-Secretary of War Woodring is scheduled for an American speech on the Fourth of July program in Topeka. This address will be under the auspices of the American Legion—will be heard by thousands of peace-loving Kansas citizens, both Republican and Democrat—it should be heralded to the world over WIBW.

• ★ •

The Kansas City Times

KANSAS CITY, AUGUST 3, 1940—SATURDAY—22 PAGES.

'NO DRAFT NEED'

Conscription Bill is Denounced by Harry H. Woodring as Unwarranted Step.

SEES A TOTALITARIAN MOVE

Military Necessity Does Not Require Such Drastic Action, He Declares.

Letter to Senator Vandenberg Says Volunteer System Deserves a Better Trial.

WOULD HIKE ARMY PAY

CCC and WPA Offer More Money Than Present Salary Scale for Privates.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE KANSAS CITY STAR 610 ALBION BUILDING (By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

Washington, Aug. 2.—Harry H. Woodring of Kansas, former secretary of war, today condemned compulsory military training as a step toward totalitarianism, unwarranted and unjustified by military necessity.

"How any fair-minded member of Congress could say we have given the voluntary system of enlistment a fair trial is beyond my understanding," the Kansan declared in a letter to Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.

His Opinion Was Asked. The Republican senator, a foe of conscription, released Woodring's letter for publication here tonight. He said he had asked Woodring for his opinion on the controversial issue, feeling that his long service as head of the war department entitled him to speak with authority upon the problem.

The significance of the Woodring letter, bristling as it did with criticism of the handling of the national defense problem, is that Woodring always in the past represented the views of the army's general staff. In high governmental circles here, it has been intimated that President Roosevelt as commander in chief of the army and navy persuaded the army to propose conscription against its better judgment.

Woodring's opposition at this time gave rise to the belief that his views undoubtedly coincided with the army at the time he faced the alternative of releasing to the Allies military equipment needed for the defense of the United States or resigning. The Kansan chose to resign and is known to have carried back to Kansas with him records and reports that some day may provide interesting reading. Woodring's letter of resignation to the President was, the White House said, "too personal" for publication.

Urged to Try Volunteers. The voluntary system of enlistment, the former war secretary said in his letter to Vandenberg, has not been given a fair trial. Partly to blame, he said, is the competition the army faces with the CCC, the WPA and the navy. While an army recruit receives only \$21 a month, the navy pays its enlisted men \$30 a month at the start and soon advances them in grade to an even higher wage.

Until such time as the army chief of staff can advise the Congress in writing that all attempt at voluntary enlistment has failed, conscription should not be considered, Woodring said.

"If through the influence of an increasing tendency toward paternalism, we have broken down the moral stamina and fiber of the American youth, and made him a regimented atom, rather than a free individual, and thereby broken down the voluntary instinct to serve in a patriotic way, we then unquestionably will have to adopt a compulsory system for the defense of this country," Woodring said by way of criticizing the paternalism of the new deal, which he asserted, has placed the army in competition with relief agencies.

"But," the Kansan said, "we must be assured when we adopt the compulsory system that we have unquestionably left the American principle based on the individual's freedom of action and have adopted a bill that smacks of totalitarianism."

Should Increase Pay. By raising the enlisted pay from \$21 to \$30 a month, thereby giving an army recruit equal advantage with the navy, the CCC or a WPA job, it will be possible in Woodring's opinion to obtain the necessary personnel for the army.

"If we need a million or 2 million young men for trained service let us first give equal advantages to the voluntary system and if necessary let us provide for one year voluntary service at \$30 a month," Woodring's letter suggested. "I am for a trial of the voluntary system before changing to the compulsory system. If the voluntary system fails, then I will join with others in obtaining the number of men, in the necessary time to defend this country, through a compulsory system."

Some observers concluded from Woodring's letter to Vandenberg that the opposition of the Kansan to compulsory training may have been another reason for his forced

(Continued on Second Page.)

'NO DRAFT NEED'

(Continued from First Page)

retirement from the cabinet to make way for Col. Henry L. Hinson, 73-year-old Republican interventionist. Hinson, it was recalled here today, publicly endorsed universal compulsory training in a New York speech June 18, two days before the President "purged" Woodring, a strict non-interventionist, from the cabinet, and appointed Hinson to succeed him as secretary of war at the same time Col. Frank Knox, another Republican interventionist, was made secretary of the navy.

Text of the Letter. Following is the text of Woodring's letter:

"In answer to your inquiry on the compulsory military bill now before the senate, I cannot see the need of compulsory military training at this time, and I should like to see the bill amended so that it does not become effective until, and after, the chief of staff of the United States army has first advised the senate in writing that the voluntary system has completely broken down.

"The voluntary system is traditional, and I believe is an important factor in the American way of free government as to free speech, the will to worship God as one's own conscience dictates, free assembly, and other American principles. If through the influence of an increasing tendency toward paternalism, we have broken down the moral stamina and fiber of the American youth, and made him a regimented atom, rather than a free individual, and thereby broken down the voluntary instinct to serve in a patriotic way, we then unquestionably will have to adopt a compulsory system for the defense of this country. But we must be assured when we adopt the compulsory system that we have unquestionably left the American principle based on the individual's freedom of action and have adopted a bill that smacks of totalitarianism.

"I believe it is the duty of Congress, and particularly the senate, to be certain that the voluntary system has not failed for these reasons, but because it has had disadvantages for which our government itself is to blame. For instance several years ago, and also several months ago, I proposed to the administration the increase of the basic pay of the enlisted soldier of the United States army from \$21 to \$30. The reply was that it was inconsistent with the financial program of the administration. Whether that inconsistency holds good today, I would be willing for the senate to decide.

At a Big Disadvantage. "I believe the voluntary system is at a great disadvantage. We go out over the country and propose to the American youth that he enlist in the army for a period of three years at \$21 a month basic pay. That young man knows that 95 per cent of such enlisted men receive the \$21 a month in the full 3-year period. And he also knows that the youth who enlists at the same time in the United States navy at \$21 basic pay is advanced within sixty or ninety days to \$30, and in many instances soon thereafter to \$36 per month.

"In fact there is a letter addressed to Chairman Sheppard, bearing my signature, before the senate military affairs committee, written only six or seven months ago, bearing fully on this question of inequality of pay between the two services. I have not the figures before me, but I believe it is safe to say that within a year more than 60-70 per cent of the youths who enlist in the United States navy receive \$30 a month or more.

"The same youth who is asked to join the army at \$21 pay for three years sees his neighbor join the CCC for a year at \$30 a month, and in many instances the CCC camp and the army post are side by side. How any fair-minded member of Congress could say that we have given the voluntary system of enlistment for the United States army service a fair trial, and that it has broken down, and therefore we need the compulsory service, is beyond my understanding.

"I also think the senate should ask if our present quota of enlistments as outlined by the war department have failed to be reached in any instance. Perhaps we of the war department several months ago did not place the quota high enough. That is not the fault of the voluntary system. If we need a million, or 2 million, young men for trained service in the United States army, let us first give equal advantages to the voluntary system of training this quota, and if necessary let us provide for one year voluntary service at \$30 a month.

"I am for a trial by voluntary system before changing to the compulsory system. If the voluntary system fails, then I will join with others in obtaining the number of men, in the necessary time to defend this country, through a compulsory system."

ST. Woodring
Ward