3 October 1946

Mr. Harrison talked with Dr. Bush and Dr. Conant by telephone this morning and informed them of the current situation with regard to the introduction of the legislation. He reviewed for them the state of affairs as reflected in Mr. Harrison's memorandum for the record of this date.

3 October 1946

At the request of General Greenbaum, Lt. Arnesson met in on a meeting in General Greenbaum's office with Paul Tobenkin, a labor reporter from the New York Herald Tribune, who had a labor story concerning the Manhattan Engineer District which he wanted to publish. General Greenbaum stated that the War Department would very much prefer that the story not be published until the bill going before Congress today had been passed by both Houses, for fear that to inject any labor problems into the picture at this stage might possibly cause delay in the bill. Mr. Tobenkin agreed to this.

Mr. Tobenkin raised the question whether security considerations would continue to be controlling over any program for unionization in these plants after the bill became law. General Greenbaum replied that while security would be relaxed...
it would certainly remain an important factor but that he did not know to what extent it would affect the labor situation.

General Greenbaum arranged for copies of an exchange of correspondence with Mr. Hersog, Chairman of NLBB, to be sent to Mr. Tobenkin from which he can quote in his article when it is released. This was checked by telephone with Mr. Hersog, who had no objection.
Secretary Forrestal called Secretary Patterson yesterday to inquire why the Navy Department had not seen the bill before it went to Congress. Commodore Strauss raised the same question with General Greenbaum. On being asked about this, Mr. Harrison explained that Mr. Bard, as a member of the Interim Committee, had been in on all discussions of the bill and had been given copies of several of the various drafts. This log shows, for example, that a copy of the third draft was given to Mr. Bard by Mr. Harrison on July 25 and that Mr. Bard returned this copy the same day without comment. It should be pointed out that at this time Mr. Bard was no longer Under Secretary of the Navy but at the request of Secretary Forrestal he continued to be a member of the Interim Committee. Mr. Harrison explained to Secretary Patterson further that at about this same time he suggested to Mr. Bard that he, Mr. Harrison, see Secretary Forrestal to bring him up to date on the bill and the project generally. Mr. Bard reported back that Secretary Forrestal saw no necessity for so doing and felt that Mr. Bard could keep him adequately informed. Accordingly the matter was dropped.

The foregoing was explained to the Navy by Secretary Patterson and by General Greenbaum yesterday. Today Secretary Forrestal called Secretary Patterson and stated that this recital of facts was correct and that the complaint of the previous day was unjustified.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

I went over to the State Department with Judge Patterson and at his request reviewed the situation concerning the Combined Policy Committee: first, the lack of an American Joint Secretary; second, changes in U. S. membership; and, third, the request of the British for a meeting, if possible, on Saturday of this week.

Judge Patterson raised the question whether now is not the time to consider revamping or doing away with the Quebec Agreement. Forrestal was of the opinion that this should be done (though I think he has never seen the Quebec Agreement). Byrnes was a little hesitant, feeling, as I did, that there may be some advantage in not changing the Agreement just now. My argument was that the period during which we were obliged to comply with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Agreement was now over, and that paragraph 4, which gives us all the commercial advantages and rights except to the extent that the President might make specific arrangements with the British with respect thereto, might be favorable to us during a period of discussion of the international situation. All present agreed with this point of view. It was suggested, however, that we consider what, if any, changes might be recommended at the meeting next Saturday.

All present felt that it was important that there be representation of the State Department in the American membership. Secretary Byrnes said he would like to be a member himself, and that he would be glad to attend the meeting next Saturday as suggested by the British.