

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 25

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

These folders contain correspondence with Governor Woodring on the topic of unemployment for the years 1931 and 1932.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1931-1933 : Woodring)

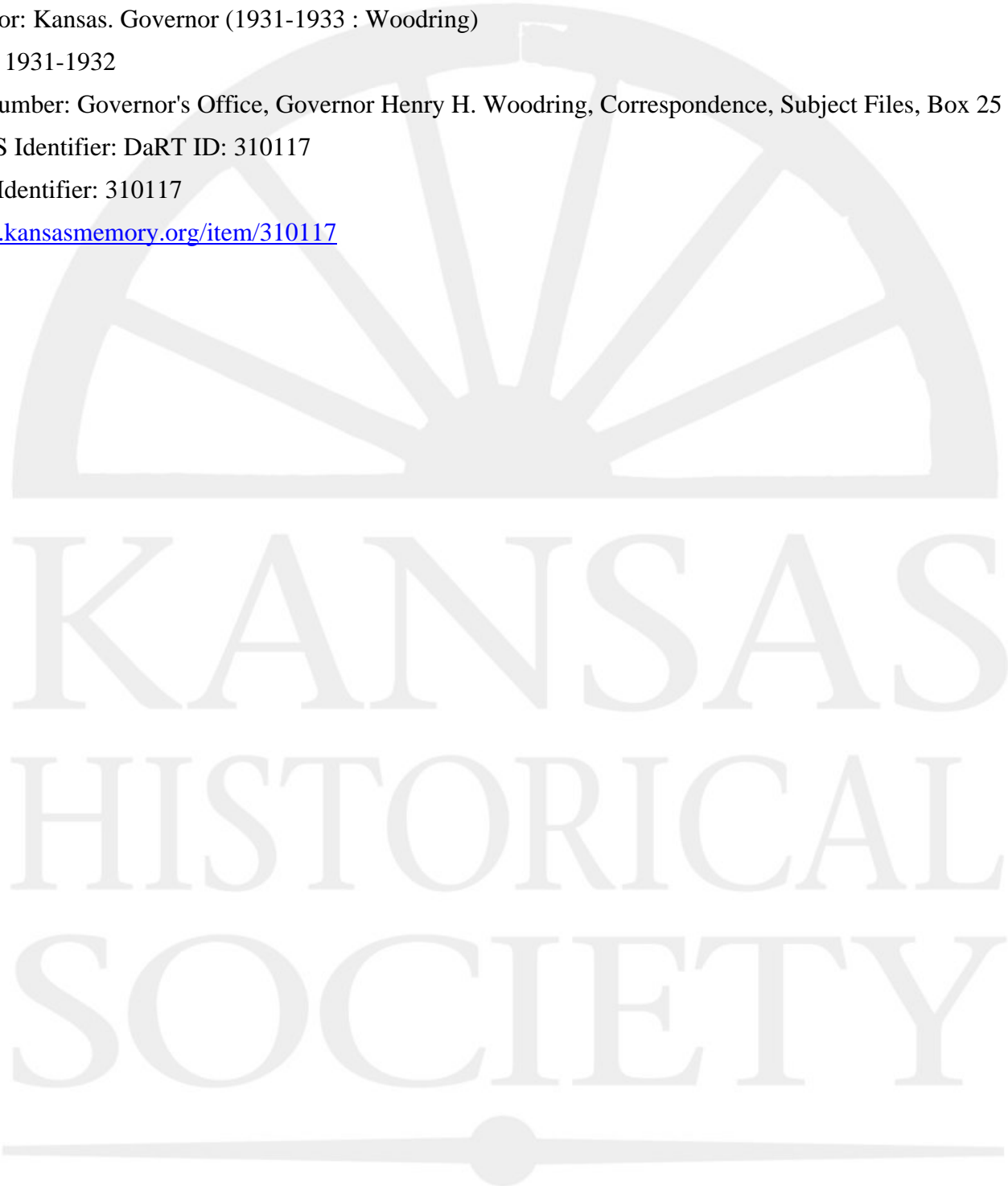
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Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 25

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 12208

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KBB52 110 DL=EMPORIA KANS 8 1051A

GOVERNOR HARRY WOODRING=

TOPEKA KANS=

I AM MEMBER SMALL SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OWEN D YOUNG OF
PRESIDENTS UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ORGANIZATION STOP COMMITTEE
MEETS MIDDLE NEXT WEEK WASHINGTON AND I AM ASKED TO
COLLECT AND BRING ALL POSSIBLE INFORMATION ABOUT REGIONAL
SITUATION AS TO NEEDS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF AND
MEASURES NOW PLANNING AND PENDING TO MEET NEEDS STOP
SHALL BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN WRITE ME SOON AS
POSSIBLE SOMETHING ABOUT KANSAS SITUATION FOR INSTANCE
NOT MERELY WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHAT IS UNDERWAY BUT
WHAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE OUR PROCEDURE I AM HONESTLY
HOPING THAT SOME PLAN WILL COME OUT OF THIS EFFORT TO
GIVE WORK RATHER THAN DISPENSE CHARITY TO UNEMPLOYED
THIS WINTER=

W A WHITE.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 25

STATE OF KANSAS

COMMISSION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF
C. J. BECKMAN, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR
FIFTH FLOOR, STATEHOUSE, 1931
TOPEKA

G. CLAY BAKER, CHAIRMAN
HARRY C. BOWMAN
C. J. BECKMAN
COMMISSIONERS

Mr. William Allen White
Emporia, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Your wire of August 8 to Governor Harry H. Woodring has been referred to me for reply.

There have been so many theories advanced in regard to the proper solving of the unemployment problem in Kansas that it is very difficult to pick out any one theory or set of theories that any representative number of citizens can thoroughly agree upon. Nevertheless I will submit a few thoughts or suggestions as I see the situation.

The only cure for unemployment is work. Charity and loans are opiates, which, like other drugs, are dangerous to use. Emergencies may necessitate resort to these but certainly we do not want a "dole" or anything that might lead into it. Self respecting, physically able men want a chance to work.

Popular thinking confuses the problems of charity, unemployment, and the relief of the business depression. The three are so closely related that it is natural that they should be confused but it is a fact that any one of these three can be treated without regard to the other two. In other words, the staggering problem which confronts business and society may be separated into its parts and each part dealt with alone.

The true field of charity is confined to providing care for those who are physically or mentally without capacity for work. The number of maimed or lame or insane is no greater, proportionally, than it has been before. It may be expected that the usual agencies could and would take care of the charity requirements just as they have in the past, if the task of charity were kept separate from the relief of unemployment.

If we begin with the premise that charity is as it was before and that the relief of the business depression is a problem beyond present means of solution, then the immediate task of the next few months is to formulate plans which will provide emergency employment next winter for those who are able to work and who will otherwise be destitute.

The plan which is adopted should conform to two fundamentals. First, that no beneficiary of the plan shall get something for nothing, and; second, that the man or woman who is given work shall be paid in cash. Violation of either of these is a step toward the dole.

We have unemployment today because there is a surplus of consumable goods of the kind that private enterprise produces. Meanwhile there is a demand for governmental services far in excess of the supply. There is

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not a state in the union that has as many roads and bridges as people want. Some communities need flood prevention, some need grade separation between highways and railroads, some need sewer systems and sanitary improvements, some need highways, and some need bridges.

Logic would conclude that there are but two ways in which the excess of labor can be employed. The immediately available way is in the production of governmental services for which there is a demand. The more gradual and permanent relief will come from the re-employment of labor by private enterprise in the production of new kinds of goods for which there will be demand. Diesel engines, autogiros, television equipment, domestic air conditioning apparatus, redesigning of railroads for pneumatic tires, and similar things which have been developed to commercial standards, will in time re-employ all labor and carry the country to another peak of prosperity.

It is doubtful if any one state can inaugurate and maintain an efficient plan of relief for unemployment. It has been the experience that any plan confined to narrow geographical limits breaks down as quickly as knowledge of it leaks outside. The jobless flock in, and while they may be excluded from the benefits of the employment plan, they cannot be denied the help of charity. The solution would seem to lie in the direction of federal aid. If that is impractical, it calls for a concert of states.

Any relief plan which is adopted will require a local organization in each community for its administration. The Governor's Committee for the Relief of Unemployment can begin by encouraging such organization in advance of any general plan. It is unfortunate that the emergency requires this for it is far easier to organize from the top down, than from the bottom up; but in an emergency where leadership is lacking, it sometimes has to be done.

The above makes no mention of activities designed to stabilize business and avoid recurring depressions.

The Kansas Labor Department, in cooperation with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and with the assistance of faculty members of two of our state educational institutions, some months ago initiated an employment reporting service which provides an index of employment conditions based on monthly reports of the number actually employed in key industries throughout the state. We felt that this data, derived from actual payrolls, would be of great help in measuring the seriousness of the unemployment situation and in forecasting the probable needs of charity. While this index gives the actual number employed in these key institutions, it of course does not give the number of unemployed in the state as a whole; but it does make possible a reasonably reliable percentage estimate of the change in employment from month to month for the whole state or any important subdivision of the state.

With the employment index as a foundation for work, the Chairman of the Governor's Committee, the State Commissioner of Labor, the State Director of Employment (of the U. S. Employment Service), faculty members from Kansas University and officers of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce have worked together in the preparation of a plan of organization applicable to the local communi-

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ties of the state. No one of the participating organizations had any money available for this particular work, so it has not been possible to put out a field representative who through personal contacts could spur each local community to immediate action. In fact, this is the need right now; but we have assurance that a majority of the communities have already organized or will undertake to organize in general conformity with these joint recommendations.

The suggestion which possibly might be of use to your committee lies in this. The scheme provides perfect coordination between the work of the U. S. Employment Service, the State Commissioner of Labor, the technical knowledge of faculty members of the University, business interests as represented by the Chamber of Commerce, and the office of the Governor through his Employment Committee. If succeeding developments in the scheme can be held to present lines it will eliminate all over-lapping of work of the different agencies which will be doing something in the field of unemployment. We believe there is but one thing needed to insure this. If the State Director of the U. S. Employment Service could be named as state representative of your committee and given a small additional expense allowance so that he could spend most of his time on field work, it should provide good administrative machinery without incurring appreciable additional expense.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The first real need in Kansas is representatives who can make personal contact in communities, promoting organization work and furnishing inspiration for the workers.

Second, industries should pro-rate work among employees and unemployed, hoping that present weekly wage can be maintained; if impossible, work should be prorated anyway.

Appeal to employers to refrain from reducing wages, thereby reducing the buying power.

Appeal to industries to eliminate over-time work.

Congress should be urged to re-appropriate emergency federal aid for highway projects. Federal aid matching dollar for dollar in fare to market roads might be suggested.

Immediate expenditure of all appropriations for federal projects.

Appeal to all state, county, city and other municipalities to refrain from reducing employees during the depression.

There are many other ways that might be suggested for the different communities in Kansas, but generally they call for appropriations raised by taxation which apparently finds formidable opposition in this state at the present time. The communities organized no doubt will raise many thousands of dollars from public subscriptions, but it seems to me that unless the federal government can outline a general plan of assistance, it will be impossible for this state to successfully cope with the situation this winter.



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The attitude of the unemployed is far different than it was at this time last year. It was very easy to reason with them then. Now they are not in a mood for reasoning, thinking that the government owes them a living. Of course, in a way they are justified in their attitude. Many of them have been unemployed for many months, have lost their property, and heard the hungry cries of their families on many an occasion.

Communists are working in the Pittsburg, Topeka, and Wichita districts.

In the mining districts, the mines are gradually opening up for the season's business.

Placements in our five state employment offices showed 826 less in August of this year than in August of 1930, indicating less jobs available in these five cities.

Every indication in Kansas at the present time is that the trend is toward the cold for the winter months, unless appropriations are available from some source to provide work. The only preventative is federal aid and intelligent, thorough organizing of every community for the purpose of providing work and avoiding the cold.

It is estimated that close to fifty thousand are seeking employment in Kansas at the present time. Of course this includes many who work on part-time jobs.

I am enclosing copy of suggested program outlined for organization in the communities.

I realize that this has been rather lengthy with probably not many helpful suggestions, but the situation is so difficult to handle without funds available to work with that I really am at a loss to render any very valuable assistance.

Wishing you success, I am

Yours very truly

Commissioner of Labor



Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 25

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: WE, the representatives of all labor in the State of Kansas, called by the Honorable Governor for the direct purpose of discussing and formulating plans to devise ways and means of taking care of the unemployment situation in our own state; and

WHEREAS: We, hereby go on record as favoring a resolution requesting the Honorable President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, to call a conference of representatives of the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators of the United States along with representatives of the United States Government to settle the acute mining situation that is confronting the seven hundred thousand miners and the four million dependents; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this conference of all the representatives of labor of the State of Kansas, along with the Honorable Governor, Harry H. Woodring, go on record as favoring this resolution, that we insist and demand that the Honorable President, Herbert Hoover call such a conference to be held immediately in Washington, D. C. between representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, Coal Operators and representatives of the United States Government, for the direct purpose of outlining a program of stabilization of the coal mining industry of this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution immediately to the Honorable President, Herbert Hoover.

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Topeka, Kansas
August 31, 1931

In response to an invitation issued by the Honorable Governor of the State of Kansas, Harry H. Woodring, calling upon representatives of Labor to participate in a meeting with him for the purpose of devising ways and means of meeting the unemployment situation now existant in our state, the following proposal is submitted for the consideration of the Conference.

First: It is our opinion that Kansas must not wait for a definite constructive program to be outlined by the Federal Government; that the condition in Kansas is too acute to speculate upon Federal action.

Second: That it is the position of the Kansas State Federation of Labor and the representatives of other State labor organizations who are co-signers of this proposal that the responsibility for the welfare of Kansas citizens rests primarily with the State governmental authorities, and that in view of the present unemployment conditions existing in the state, the governmental authorities must be invoked to provide employment or charitable relief.

It is the history of economic depressions that where suffering and want become rampant the result has inevitably been one of three things: employment, charity, or violence. Organized labor does not and will not approve of violence and organized labor has found that charity destroys the moral uprightness of the people, also that in the majority of instances, charitable funds are raised or collected from those who can least afford to pay them. Therefore, the provision of funds to furnish employment for Kansas citizens who would otherwise suffer the wants that accompany unemployment should be a state measure, provided for by an equitable plan of taxation, and administered by the chief executive or competent associates of his selection.

It is not intended that the burden of the tax be passed along to the laboring people and the farmers, but that it be borne principally by Capital and Industry who have enjoyed large earnings for many years.

Thirs: We propose the following for legislative action, by special session at once.

- A. That an adequate appropriation be made to be distributed for relief work among the municipalities and counties of the state, and to be spent wherever possible for the employment of men during the winter on public works.

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- D. This appropriation to be raised by increasing the present state tax on gasoline from three to five cents per gallon.
- C. The creation of an emergency relief board of three members, appointed by the Governor, to administer the fund, these members to be selected from present state employees to serve without additional compensation.
- D. A five-day week and six-hour day for men engaged on State and Municipal public works without reduction in the present weekly stipend.
- E. Authorization for the issuance by cities and counties of three-year bonds, the money raised to be spent on the relief of the distress of persons who have lived as citizens in the state for at least two years.
- F. In the event that the above proposals fail, that the legislature authorize the issuance of State scrip, the scrip to be redeemed when funds from the sale of such bonds are available.

Fourth: We further recommend that the State Administration and the Chief Executive, the Honorable Governor, call a conference of the representatives of Labor and Industry and the employers of Labor of the State of Kansas and insist that there be no further reductions in forces of their employees and that they put into effect the five day week and six hour day, without reductions in the weekly wage. Also, that extension work on the part of public utilities, the general overhauling and repairing of equipment, and such other profitable made work as could be performed, be suggested as a program for immediate inauguration.

In conclusion, it is needless to point out to this conference the humiliation and the suffering that will exist during the coming winter unless some positive action is taken by those in authority to meet it.

Respectfully submitted,

STATE-WIDE LABOR ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

President State Federation of Labor _____
 Secretary State Federation of Labor _____
 President United Mine Workers of America, District 14 _____
 Secretary United Mine Workers of America, District 14 _____
 President of the Bricklayers _____
 President of the Carpenters _____
 Vice-President Missouri Valley Typographical Union _____
 Chairman Legislative Board - Order of Railway Conductors _____

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Chairman Legislative Board - Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers _____
Chairman Legislative Board - Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen _____
Secretary Legislative Board - Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen _____
Legislative Representative - Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen _____
Chairman Legislative Board - Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engi-
men _____

OTHER LABOR REPRESENTATIVES APPROVING

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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Omar B. Ketchum, Topeka, Kan.
 Fred Palmer Salina Kans.
 Thos Sinnott Council Grove
 M W Swape Fort Scott
 Ben Fox - Topeka
 S B Weaver Topeka
 Wm. Garrison city
 B. L. Marchant - Wichita
 A. B. Winston Wichita
 J. S. Luengene Topeka
 Frank C. DARBY, Box 78, Hutchinson
 John C. Hughes, Hutchinson
 Jay M. Rescoe - Topeka
 Guy Hammond, Wichita
 E. J. Jenkins, Topeka
 W. A. Fern Salina
 C. L. Beard Wichita
 R. J. Sharskal Topeka
 Henry Allai Pittsburg
 Lucin V. Doud Topeka
 F. C. Bausch Topeka
 J. A. Warren Topeka
 M. Ellinger Topeka
 Joseph E. Hornick Pittsburg
 C. B. Bruce, Topeka
 Dr. J. Smith Salina
 E. J. Roppert, Kansas City Kansas
 Melford Gentry Pittsburg Kan

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G. A. Sackett Pittsburg Kansas
J. B. Blakely Emporia "

L. F. Burnett Wichita "

J. W. Arwood Hutchinson

J. H. Edwards Radley Kansas

Harry H. Burr Pittsburg Ks.

James R. Latham Pittsburg, Kas.

Wayne L. Riddle Herington Kansas.

Robt H Brentnall Topeka

C. H. Taylor Topeka

J. B. Gundy Hutchinson

Joe Overby Topeka

O. GREEN NEWTON, KANS.

Nathan G. Peck, Salina, Kans

W. P. Lamberton M. B. Rep 1st Dist

J. L. Elliott Topeka Ks

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" I am calling a conference of labor leaders for Monday, August 31, to consider their suggestions for ^{the} Kansas unemployment situation. After this conference I will call the Governor's Unemployment Committee to consider both the suggestions of this Kansas Labor Conference and the Unemployment Conference called by Governor W. H. Murray of Oklahoma to be held at Memphis, Monday, August 24. *Those invited include:*

George Blakely, President State Federation of Labor, Emporia, Kansas.
 Harry W. Burr, Secretary State Federation of Labor, Topeka, Kansas.
 William Ferm, President of the Bricklayers, Salina, Kansas.
 O. O. Bruce, Vice-President Missouri Valley Typographical Union, Topeka.
 Joe Overby, Representing the Barbers, Topeka, Kansas.
 Fred Rausch, Representing the Painters, Topeka, Kansas.
 Henry Allai, President of the Miners, Pittsburg
 Joe Hromek, Secretary of the Miners, Pittsburg
 Leslie Doud, The Labor Weekly, Topeka
 Frank Van Gundy, The Labor Review, Hutchinson
 John Wolf, The Labor Bulletin, Kansas City, Kansas
 Fred Palmer, Chairman Legislative Committee, O.R.C., Salina
 Wayne Riddle, Chairman Legislative Committee, B. of L.E. Herington
 E. L. Beard, Chairman Legislative Committee, B. of L.F. & E., Wichita
 E. T. Rafferty, Legislative Representative, B. of R.T. Kansas City
 M. M. Swope, Secretary Legislative Committee, B. of R.T., Ft. Scott

Other Labor Leaders invited

N. G. Peck, Salina, Kansas	Abe Garrison, Arkansas City
Omar Ketchum, Topeka, Kansas	Charlie Scott, Wichita
Ben Fox, Topeka, Kansas	R. J. Sharshal, Parsons
Tom Sinnott, Council Grove	Charlie Nuzum, Kansas City
J. W. Arwood, Hutchinson	E. L. Jenkins, Topeka
W.B. Smith, Salina, Kansas	Frank Darou, Hutchinson
Ira Hall, Pittsburg	J. C. Hughes, Hutchinson
M. Gentry, Pittsburg	Guy Hammond, Wichita

C. H. Taylor, Representing Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Topeka
 Harry Darby, Jr. Chairman Governor's Committee for Employment, K.C. Ks.
 S. B. Weaver, President State Carpenters, Topeka
 Samuel Wilson, Mgr. State Chamber of Commerce, Topeka
 C. J. Beckman, Commissioner of Labor, Topeka
 J. M. Besore, State Director of U. S. Employment Service, Topeka

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CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

AUGUST 31, 1931.

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CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 31, 1931.

Proceedings of the Conference on Unemployment, called by Governor Woodring at his office in Topeka on August 31, 1931, at 3:00 P.M., at which the following representatives of labor were present:

Omar B. Ketchum, Mayor of Topeka
Fred Palmer, Salina
Thomas Sinnott, Council Grove
M.M.Swope, Fort Scott
Ben Fox, Topeka
S.B.Weaver, Topeka
Abe Garrison, Arkansas City
B. L. Marchant, Wichita
G. B. Winston, Wichita
W. S. Luengene, Topeka
Frank C. Darou, Hutchinson
John C. Hughes, Hutchinson
Jay M. Besore, Topeka
Guy Hammond, Wichita
E. L. Jenkins, Topeka
W. H. Fern, Salina
E. L. Beard, Wichita
R. J. Sharshal, Topeka
Henry Allai, Pittsburg
Leslie V. Doud, Topeka
F. W. Rausch, Topeka
F.A.Warren, Topeka
M. Ellinger, Topeka
Jos. E. Hromek, Pittsburg
O. O. Bruce, Topeka
W. B. Smith, Salina
E. T. Rafferty, Kansas City, Kansas
Mulford Gentry, Pittsburg
G. A. Sackett, Pittsburg
G.E.Blakely, Emporia
L. F. Burnett, Wichita
J.W.Arwood, Hutchinson
J.W.Edwards, Radley,
Harry W. Burr, Pittsburg
James R. Tatham, Pittsburg
Wayne L. Riddle, Herington
Robt. H. Brentnall, Topeka
C.H.Taylor, Topeka
F.B.Van Gundy, Hutchinson
Joe Overby, Topeka
C. Green, Newton
Nathan G. Peck, Salina
W.P.Lambertson, Fairview
J.L.Elliott, Topeka

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Charlie Muzum, Kansas City
Samuel Wilson, Mgr. State Chamber of Commerce
C.J. Beckman, Commissioner of Labor

GOVERNOR WOODRING: It is hardly necessary for me to recite the purpose of this meeting. All of you have had letters, or the organizations you are representing have had letters, about the purpose of the meeting. There is hardly any time for speeches. Briefly, I want to say that recognizing the unemployment situation in this economic depression, I felt that it was only fair to the state of Kansas, to labor, to industry, that we meet for the purpose of discussing plans for employment and temporary employment of as many of these unemployed as possible through the winter. I have no plan, but I believed that the best way is simply to have an open forum of discussion by the leaders of labor and get their suggestions and their viewpoint, in order that it might help direct the forces of government in Kansas and particularly toward any plan or program that might be a help at this time. It occurs to me that in a situation like this we must not confuse an effort to aid temporary unemployment with charity. There will be, possibly in every community this winter, the same as there has been in every year, there will be the mission for charity to handle just the same as there has been in every year. We must also not confuse a plan or program which we try to work out in this situation with any attempt, nor our meeting here today, to direct the

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the officials in government to bring back prosperity, because they can not do it. It can not be done by a governor or by, perhaps, some of the other officials of the nation. It seems to me like there is a happy medium in between that we can consider, between charity,- most men that I have talked to who are out of employment do not want charity,- but there is a happy medium between charity and the impossibility of bringing back immediate prosperity of the nation that we can accomplish, working all of us together, and that is working out a plan devising ways and means to alleviate as much as possible the unemployment, the temporary unemployment, I believe, through the severe winter months when there might be suffering.

With that brief statement I think the meeting will be open for discussion, for any plan or program anyone may have at this time. I think this meeting comes at an opportune time, because there has been an unemployment meeting down in Memphis, called by Governor Murray, to which three representatives went from Kansas, because the Governor asked me to appoint three, and the federal government at this time is considering a federal plan; and at the same time the state of Kansas has what is called a Governor's Unemployment Committee, appointed by my predecessor, of which Harry Darby of Kansas City, Kansas is chairman, and I think it started out with a dozen or so members. I have asked them to meet,- they have met twice recently,-to enlarge it so there will be a representative on that committee in each Kansas community of 5000 or over.

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Now this conference, I think, should be open to discussion, for plans and suggestions that would probably work or dovetail into the work of that committee already set up, and help direct them, as they will get into work certainly within the next few weeks on a definite plan to aid in relieving unemployment.

I might ask the Commissioner of Labor if he has anything to say on the subject.

MR. BECKMAN, Commissioner of Labor: The Memphis conference was attended in the afternoon by approximately 800 delegates from sixteen states, comprising U.S. senators, state senators, U.S. congressmen, state legislative representatives, and governors and officials of all kinds and classes. Many leaders of industry, representatives of the American Federation of Labor, and different state federations. They discussed plans, speeches were made, and the general opinion was that something must be done. Possibly one hundred different theories were advanced. Governor Murray had two theories or two he had in practice in Oklahoma; one was one-half cent additional tax on gasoline to develop farm and market roads, and the other was that the state employees were contributing 10 per cent of their salaries toward the relief fund. The conference recommended to the U.S. government that all funds that had been appropriated for any construction during the period should be released at once to help out the situation this winter. They also recommended that each state appoint five representatives to meet during the month of September, and the meeting will probably be in St. Louis. They recom-

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mended that the governors appoint five from each state, and that these five choose a chairman and between now and the time of the meeting that these five get together and work out some recommendation for that conference, so they may use what efforts they can to help put it into effect. They went to the conference, everybody with different ideas, and it was very difficult to get much done, but they went on record for a five day week and a six hour day for federal employees, also for highway employees. They supported the shorter work day and shorter work week, maintaining the present wage limits. A good many constructive things were recommended along these lines that they did not have authority to put into effect. What we can do in Kansas is difficult for any one person to say. It is going to be very difficult to do anything without funds available. How funds may best be raised is an argumentative matter. Appropriations for state and county governments have been appropriated for different things and can not be diverted. How how they can raise money is to be determined. I am convinced that before the winter is over more than popular subscriptions will be needed to relieve unemployment. I am thoroughly convinced of it. The temperament of the unemployed is so far different than it was last winter. Last winter the unemployed were just going into it and they made requests for assistance. The temper now seems to be that they are demanding; they do not seem to ask for anything any more. They are coming to the free of mind that it really is going to be serious, and they are demanding that something be done. We have some marching



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in some cities, and there are possibly more floaters, transient laborers, moving through our state at this time than in years and years. Possibly the peak of any harvest season never saw more transient unemployed in Kansas on the trains and highways. Those folks, most of them, are going to be burdens upon charitable organizations. In that case it will put our counties and cities in the red attempting to take care of their own. Fifty-three counties last year spent in Kansas ten hundred and eighty-eight thousand dollars, \$906,000 and \$182,000. From the county poor funds alone they reported \$182,000 in the red from those counties. It is rather discouraging, entering into a winter like this.

I hope that you representatives of labor at this conference will try to determine on some concerted plan for immediate relief. It will be necessary to pro rate the work, make shorter work weeks. We may have to divide not only the funds but some of our work, as it is a certainty that the industries of this state are going to have to put their shoulders to the wheel, and there is no doubt that all revenues of the state are going to have to be used before the winter is over.

GOVERNOR WOODRING: Mayor Ketchum, have you anything to say on the Memphis conference?

MAYOR KETCHUM: I think Mr. Beckman covered the text of the conference at Memphis very thoroughly, although he neglected to say that the reason the five day week and the six hour day for federal employees was brought up was in hope that private industries would follow the lead. I rather opposed

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that argument, feeling that the public is skeptical and suspicious of the fact that we have too many on the payroll now and they are not doing enough to earn the money, and if you divide merely federal and state employees there would be suspicion. That is not right, but I agreed to the resolution because it was done hoping that the federal government would set the pace for private industries. We can not relieve the unemployment situation through governmental agencies alone, and the resolution was designed with the hope that the government would set the pace for this particular thing.

I must have one thing more to say: I understand the boys in this conference have had a conference to decide on some things. We would be glad to hear from them.

One thing I want to call to the attention of this conference a moment, and that is what happened in the Memphis conference. Do not permit this assembly here today to wander off telling how bad conditions are and telling personal experiences. That was the trouble in the Memphis conference, and it almost used up the time. Very few suggestions were offered. Today I think remarks should be confined to suggestions and not to generalities as to how bad conditions are.

E. L. BEARD:

Those who met with the labor representatives in caucus yesterday and today formulated several suggestions. We have that list of suggestions with us today, and Mr. Harry Burr, who is secretary of the State Federation of Labor has been selected as our spokesman to present these suggestions, and if in order I would like for Mr. Burr to present them

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at this time. We will then open the way for further discussion.

GOVERNOR: I think that is all right.

MR. BURR: I might say in the way of explanation of the proposals we are about to submit that the representatives of organized labor were serving in the capacity of officials or executives of state wide organizations in the meeting last night. Later in the evening we met with other members of organized labor who had been invited by the Governor to participate in this conference. As Mayor Ketchum stated, during these caucuses, as we may call them, many ideas were advanced and many statements made as to conditions, and in order to expedite proceedings in this conference we wrote up our proposals and they ^{were} ~~written~~ submitted to representatives of labor at a meeting at 2:00 o'clock today, and I believe all of these representatives of labor, with the possible exception of three who were invited by the Governor to participate in this conference, were in attendance, and these suggestions were unanimously adopted. So I may tell you that so far as the members of organized labor are concerned, we have been able to get together on our proposals. Other than that action by the caucus there was a resolution proposed by President Allai of the Mine Workers' Union which possibly deviates a little bit from your invitation; however, I believe that in view of the fact that it was accepted by those present in the caucus it would probably be well to dispose of that first, so with your permission I will read that resolution:

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RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS: We, the representatives of all labor in the state of Kansas, called by the Honorable Governor for the direct purpose of discussing and formulating plans to devise ways and means of taking care of the unemployment situation in our state; and

WHEREAS: We hereby go on record as favoring a resolution requesting the Honorable President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, to call a conference of representatives of the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators of the United States, along with representatives of the United States Government, to settle the acute mining situation that is confronting the seven hundred thousand miners and the four million dependents; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this conference of all the representatives of labor of the state of Kansas, along with the Honorable Governor, Harry H. Woodring, go on record as favoring this resolution; that we insist and demand that the Honorable President, Herbert Hoover, call such a conference to be held immediately in Washington, D.C. between representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, coal operators, and representatives of the United States government, for the direct purpose of outlining a program of stabilization of the coal mining industry of this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution immediately to the Honorable President, Herbert Hoover.

GOVERNOR: Do you want to put the adoption of that as a motion?

MR. BURR: We have already adopted it.

GOVERNOR: Is there any objection to including this resolution as an expression of this conference? If no objection we will call it one of the resolutions adopted by this conference. (No objections).

MR. BURR: (Reading the proposals made by the representatives of labor).

"In response to an invitation issued by the Honorable Governor of the State of Kansas, Harry H. Woodring, calling upon representatives of Labor to participate in a meet-

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"ing with him for the purpose of devising ways and means of meeting the unemployment situation now existent in our state, the following proposal is submitted for the consideration of the conference.

First: It is our opinion that Kansas must not wait for a definite constructive program to be outlined by the federal government; that the condition in Kansas is too acute to speculate upon federal action.

Second: That is is the position of the Kansas State Federation of Labor and the representatives of other labor organizations who are co-signers of this proposal that the responsibility for the welfare of Kansas citizens rests primarily with the state governmental authorities, and that in view of the present unemployment conditions existing in the state, the governmental authorities must be invoked to provide employment or charitable relief.

It is the history of economic depressions that where suffering and want become rampant the result has inevitably been one of three things: employment, charity, or violence. Organized labor does not and will not approve of violence, and organized labor has found that charity destroys the moral uprightness of the people. Also that in the majority of instances charitable funds are raised or collected from those who can least afford to pay them. Therefore, the provision of funds to furnish employment for Kansas citizens who would otherwise suffer the wants that accompany unemployment should be a state measure, provided for by an equitable plan of taxation, administered by the chief executive or competent associates of his selection.

It is not intended that the burden of the tax be passed along to the laboring people and the farmers, but that it be borne principally by capital and industry, who have enjoyed large earnings for many years.

Third: We propose the following for legislative action, by special session at once:

A. That an adequate appropriation be made to be distributed for relief work among the municipalities and counties of the state, and to be spent wherever possible for the employment of men during the winter on public works.

B. This appropriation to be raised by increasing the present State Tax on gasoline from three to five cents per gallon.

C. The creation of an emergency relief board of three members, appointed by the Governor, to administer the fund, these members to be selected from present state employees to serve without additional compensation.

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"D. A five day week and six hour day for men engaged on state and municipal public works without reduction in the present weekly stipend.

E. Authorization of the issuance by cities and counties of three-year bonds, the money raised to be spent on the relief of the distress of persons who have lived as citizens in the state for at least two years.

F. In the event that the above proposals fail, that the legislature authorize the issuance of state script; the script to be redeemed when funds from the sale of such bonds are available.

Fourth: We further recommend that the state administration and the Chief Executive, the Honorable Governor, call a conference of the representatives of labor and industry and the employers of ~~state~~ labor of the state of Kansas and insist that there be no further reductions in forces of their employees and that they put into effect the five day week and six hour day, without reductions in the weekly wage. Also, that extension work on the part of public utilities, the general overhauling and repairing of equipment, and such other profitable made work as could be performed, be suggested as a program for immediate inauguration.

In conclusion it is needless to point out to this conference the humiliation and the suffering that will exist during the coming winter unless some positive action is taken by those in authority to meet it.

Respectfully submitted,

F.W.Rausch, Representing the Painters, Topeka
Joe Overby, representing the Barbers, Topeka
S.B.Weaver, President State Carpenters, Topeka
C.J.Beckman, State Labor Commissioner
E. L. Beard, Chm. Legislative Comm., B.of L.F. & E.,
Wichita

Ben Fox, Topeka
Leslie V. Doud, The Labor Weekly, Topeka
James Tatham, Pittsburg
M. Gentry, Pittsburg
Thomas Sinnott, Council Grove
Abe Garrison, Arkansas City
C.H.Taylor, Topeka
W. L. Riddle, Herington
Fred Palmer, Salina
G. A. Sackett, Pittsburg
G.E.Blakely, Emporia

MR. BURR: This was approved by all members of the conference appointed by the Governor with the possible exception of three.

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I know of nothing further at this time other than the submitting of this proposal.

Mr. C. Green, representing the order of telegraphers of the A.T. & S.F. Railway Company, asked at this time to have his signature included on this resolution.

Mr. Rudolph Sharshal, Parsons, one of the representatives to the Memphis Conference, asked to have his name attached to the resolution.

Mr. L. F. Burnett, Wichita, stated that he was unable to attend the previous conference and wished to have his signature attached to the resolution.

Mr. M. G. Peck, Salina, also asked to have his name attached to the resolution.

GOVERNOR: This is going to take some time to consider and I think the eventual action should be to refer it to the Governor's Conference for final decision. I think we should talk it over here and see how you arrived at these conclusions. It might be helpful to everybody.

MR. BEARD: I might say that in forming these suggestions we were resting under the delusion that you might have some plan, and I think the suggestion is a good one that we might handle it paragraph by paragraph, or something along that line. We are more or less at sea because we imagined that you perhaps had something that emanated from the Memphis convention and that you had a concrete plan.

GOVERNOR: There didn't much come out of the Memphis conference.

MR. BEARD: I might say, Governor, that is the consensus of opinion that we want to be fair. We want to cooperate with you in every manner possible to alleviate suffering and bring the most good to the people of Kansas, and we want to be broad and fair about everything you have to suggest that would make for the benefit of all. That is what we want to talk about. Let us get down and talk about

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this thing we want to do for our people and forget about generalities.

GOVERNOR: That is the idea of the meeting.

MAYOR KETCHUM: I gather from this resolution, while I didn't know it in full I had some inkling of it and what it contained, and it seems to me that the opinion of those gathered here today is that very little can be done unless a special session of the legislature is convened. It seems like the majority of the action hinges on this resolution. I wonder if anyone has any other suggestions, in this group, for some solution or remedy without the necessity of that.

GOVERNOR: A special session of the legislature couldn't do the thing you want done. It couldn't raise the gasoline tax from three to five cents and use the money for that purpose, because it takes an amendment to the constitution to change the expenditure of gasoline funds. Chapter 4, when this law was passed relating to motor vehicle and motor fuel taxation, goes on to say that there is submitted to the electors of the state of Kansas an amendment to Article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, by adding a new section thereto, Sec. 9:

"Sec. 9. The state shall have power to levy special taxes, for road and highway purposes, on motor vehicles and on motor fuels."

I think the gasoline tax, under this special amendment, is limited to use for highway purposes.

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MAYOR KETCHUM: Then we get right back to what I said. I believe that it was the opinion of those who drew that resolution that this money could be used on, perhaps, a farm to market road system, such as the Governor of Oklahoma is working out. Would it be possible under that particular clause to include road facilities in Kansas?

GOVERNOR: Well, that might be, yes; just for road building purposes.

MAYOR KETCHUM: It of course would employ hundreds of men on a large scale.

GOVERNOR: Then you have a controversial opinion in Kansas. I need not remind you that in several counties, possibly a half dozen recently, they are having tax payers' league meetings in which the controversial opinion is prevailing, and that is that you must decrease the taxes, and that of course includes gasoline taxes. You have that public sentiment, which is controversial to the increasing of any taxes.

MR. BURR: I might say that in the opinion of those participating in our caucus it seemed to be unanimous that representatives of labor were very favorable to the income tax plan. However, as that requires a constitutional amendment and was up before the last legislature, I believe, and would be submitted at the next general election, it wouldn't under any conditions be available at this time, and we felt that this road work and this two cents per gallon was probably the most fair way of creating this fund. Just as to how it should be used we have left a wide latitude by sug-

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gesting a board of administration through the chief executive to work out ways and means of expenditure.

GOVERNOR: Just a minute right there: Even though it were raised from three to five cents I think it would have to be handled in the same way that all legislative expenditures are made, and that would be through the highway department.

MR. BURR: I couldn't say, but we seemed to feel that our problem is arriving at some way of creating a fund; regardless of how we might feel in our desire to employ men we can't do it without funds.

MR. PALMER: We know this tax would reduce the property tax. In Saline County we paid \$20,000 out of the city taxes. If we could use this two cents of gasoline tax it would relieve the property tax.

GOVERNOR: I don't believe it would. I think you are going to have to spend that and perhaps this amount besides that.

MR. W. L. RIDDIE:

Governor, this instrument is the result of a number of different propositions brought before this caucus. It seemed to me like the only way anything could be done is through the raising of funds. Now I had a proposition to call the legislature. I didn't state that, but that is the only way it could be done, to permit municipalities and localities to raise funds in order to start needed improvements right now, and as I understand it, the only way this can be done is through an enabling act of the legislature. Am I right on that?

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GOVERNOR: I think so. You meant to vote bonds?

MR. RIDDLE: Yes, I was under the impression emergency bonds could be issued without an act of the legislature.

GOVERNOR: I don't believe they could be, could they?

MR. BECKMAN: The law says, providing you can show an emergency. They are undecided whether an emergency from the labor standpoint would apply under the law.

MR. RIDDLE: I can't see how we are going to relieve a condition which is so large unless some big action is taken to start this thing, and to get the funds together that are going to be necessary to alleviate the suffering that is bound to come this winter. If it can't be done through a gasoline tax,--and I think many cities would be willing to do that if in a position to do it, because they know it is either that or the regular tax money must be used.

GOVERNOR: I have an open mind on it.

MR. RIDDLE: I am just offering this suggestion in line with our resolution.

GOVERNOR: There are about 10,000 people in the highway department being given employment, that is, contractors and all the work being done.

MR. RIDDLE: Are they our own citizens?

GOVERNOR: No, a lot of them are not. But even though it were increased that factor couldn't be corrected in so far as the federal government participates. I took that up with the highway department, asking them if it would be possible to restrict contractors to the employment of Kansas labor, and they took it up with the Bureau of Highways in Washing-

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ton, and the ruling is that the federal government will not permit a restriction of that kind from one state to another, because if you say to a contractor that he can only hire Kansas labor, they hold that the contract price might be higher than it would otherwise be, and they wouldn't participate unless the contract is given to the lowest bidder, and the contractor has his own policy on that. But you can see why the government wouldn't do that. They can't make a restriction between Kansas and Missouri labor.

MR. BURR: Doesn't the state let the contracts?

GOVERNOR: Yes, but the federal government pays half of it.

MR. BURR: Make it so disagreeable for this contractor that he couldn't get the contract.

GOVERNOR: How could you do that? What if the other man bid higher on the job? Your hands are tied; even though you were in charge of it and wanted to do it, your hands are tied. This is not a Kansas problem. It is all over the nation. What I was going to say is that these men are working largely under the emergency appropriation made by congress available last September. Now shouldn't this conference pass a resolution memorializing the Secretary of Agriculture, who is at the head of highways, and the President, perhaps, -but not necessarily the President, - to petition congress in its first week or two to again reappropriate an emergency appropriation for federal highways available immediately in December? That way Kansas would get another two million one hundred and ninety and some odd thousand dollars, as it did last year, and there