

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Graybar Building, 420 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

November 30, 1935.

To Members of the Lead Industries Association:

Attached please find a resolution adopted by your Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, with reference to the forthcoming conference in Washington, called by Mr. George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation, on December 9, 1935.

Very truly yours,



Secretary.

P.S. For your information we are enclosing copy of Mr. Berry's communication of November 7th.

J. A. W.



WHEREAS, the Lead Industries Association was invited, under date of October 9, 1935, to attend a conference in Washington, called by Mr. George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation, "for the purpose of conferring upon the advisability of developing a permanent structure contemplating the furtherance of prosperity and stability in our industrial life", and "for consideration of the best means of accelerating industrial recovery, eliminating unemployment and maintaining business and labor standards"; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Industries Association in reply declared itself as opposed to the aforesaid governmental conference at this time as tending to confuse and disturb industry, although indicating a willingness to send a representative if desired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berry's letter of November 7, 1935, giving details of the conference, undisclosed by the invitation of October 9, from which it appears that the meeting will be so conducted that representatives of the Lead Industries Association might be held to have committed the industry and its members to a program adopted at the conference because of participation in it; and

WHEREAS, majority action upon matters placed before the conference might by implication bind an unwilling minority; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Industries Association basically represents a natural resource industry, producing diversified lead products from mine to finished material, with mining and smelting operations generally conducted in remote localities under operating conditions dissimilar to those usually found in other industries and with problems peculiarly its own; and

WHEREAS, the lead industry has made greater progress out of the depression from the standpoint of both employer and employee since the termination of F.S.A. than it did before;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is undesirable for the lead industry as a unit to send a representative to the meeting called by Mr. George L. Berry, to be held in Washington on December 9, 1935.

C O P Y

COORDINATOR FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION
 Department of Commerce Bldg.
 Washington, D. C.

November 7, 1935.

Gentlemen:

In my letter to you of early October, I enclosed a copy of President Roosevelt's letter to the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House. I inquired "if you or your associates or someone designated by you would be willing to engage in round-table discussions looking to the furtherance of the best means of accelerating industrial recovery, eliminating unemployment and maintaining business and labor standards." I indicated that upon receiving a reply, you would be advised of the date of the suggested meeting. Of course, the character and number of the replies to my inquiry were to determine whether or not conferences should be held. A letter identical to the one addressed to you was sent to more than 5,000 representatives of industry, whose names were shown by the records to have been active in code matters.

The response has been quite overwhelming and has far exceeded my expectations. Seventy-three per cent of the replies are unqualified acceptances of the invitation to attend the discussion. Twenty-three per cent have been classified as non-committal -- the writer either wanted to know more about the program or was obliged to delay his reply until the proposal could be discussed with his associates. Only four per cent can be regarded as expressing opposition to the plan.

The response justifies setting a date for the opening of the conferences. I am, therefore, fixing December 9, 1935, as the day upon which the first meeting will be held in Washington.

Permit me briefly to outline the arrangements contemplated, subject, of course, to such changes as the meeting may recommend:

1. Industry, comprising both management and labor, together with representatives of consumer interests, will convene at 10 A.M., on that date, at the Federal Auditorium on Constitution Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets, N.W. This meeting will be held exclusively for the purpose of submitting to those present a suggested procedure. There will be no speeches. The meeting will be as brief as possible and should conclude its business before noon. In no sense should this meeting be regarded as a mass meeting.

2. The representatives gathered in this meeting will be advised whatever facilities (including stenographers and clerks) are required to expedite the proceedings will be provided, but only upon request.

3. It will be suggested that the representatives of the directly related industries meet together. Representatives of management and labor in each industry will be asked to meet separately and discuss their problems among themselves. Each separate group will be asked to reach determinations and to select one of their number to act for the group and express the group point of view.

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4. These group representatives then will be asked to form a council of industrial progress, which they may wish to establish as a permanent institution. This council will receive all proposals of whatever character which the groups may have instructed their representatives to present. The council of industrial progress will then, it is hoped, proceed to prepare a program and determine upon a course of action. I shall act as temporary Chairman and will be the only representative of Government in attendance.

5. It is the intention that the group meetings of representatives and the council of industrial progress shall have complete freedom of action.

It is my conviction that if management and labor, comprising industry, confer and are able to decide what action will most effectively promote and stabilize the well-being of industry in the United States, lasting and constructive results will be achieved.

Representatives of both management and labor are invited to confer with me during November, if they so choose. It will be most helpful in promoting this program if I can secure a complete understanding of the many viewpoints which exist.

I should like to make it very clear that my appointment as Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation contemplates exactly the line of action which the title implies and is being followed. I am contributing my services with no cost whatsoever to the Government. I am actuated by a compelling belief in the principle of cooperation. I am satisfied its application will attain the best results for all those dependent upon industry and for the future progress and prosperity of the Nation.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. L. BERRY (SIGNED)

Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation.

Lead Industries Association
400 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y.