

Records of

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON PORTAL TO PORTAL TRAVEL TIME

1943-1944

Accession Number: 61-19

The records of the President's Committee on Portal to Portal Travel Time were accessioned by the National Archives and placed in Record Group 220. On March 8, 1961, they were transferred to the Library. These records are in the public domain.

Quantity: 5 feet

Restrictions: None

Related Materials:

President's Official File
President's Personal File

P R E L I M I N A R Y I N V E N T O R Y

RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PORTAL-TO-PORTAL TRAVEL

TIME COMMITTEE

Compiled by Frank J. Vaccarella
Ninth Institute of Preservation and Administration
of Archives

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INTRODUCTION

A controversy between the United Mine Workers and the operators of the coal mines was settled by Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes. This dispute concerned portal-to-portal pay for the miners and the settlement of Mr. Ickes that such time should be paid for by the operators was not accepted by the War Labor Board. This led to the initiation of the Portal-to-Portal Travel Time Committee. The Committee was appointed by President Roosevelt through the use of a letter on November 8, 1943, the purpose being to secure "more exact information as to the actual travel time" in bituminous coal mining and to investigate the "possibility of reducing travel time." Its members were Norris L. Cooke, Chairman, representing the public; Reuben Ireland, representing the mine operators, and Thomas Kennedy, representing the United Mine Workers of America.

Information on which to base any findings of the Committee, was to be collected by means of questionnaires distributed to the coal mines and returned to Washington for tabulation and analysis. The Office of Solid Fuels Administration for War of the Department of the Interior made its statistical and administrative services available to the Committee. Regardless of this service, the Committee was not to be considered a part of the Solid Fuels Administration, nor was it to be under any other government Agency or body. It was to operate completely independent of anyone else except for such services as just mentioned. The Committee was at the time of this accession by the National Archives still in existence and subject to call.

The President's Committee appointed Joint District Committees in each bituminous coal district as set up by the Bituminous Coal Act of 1937. These District Committees were charged with the administration of the questionnaires to be used in the compilation of the necessary data on which to base the final report to be submitted to the President. The questionnaires endeavored to discover the amount of time consumed in traveling both to and from the site of work once the portals of the mine had been entered by the workers and to discover the amount of outside travel time used. This data was required on both production workers and non-productive workers.

During its active existence, the Committee prepared a progress report on February 2, 1944, one on April 10, 1944, and a final report on May 24, 1944, all of which were submitted to President Roosevelt. The progress report submitted on February 2 outlined very briefly the trend that appeared in the coal mines concerning travel time, and pointed out that the possibility of reducing travel time was an actuality in some places since the initiation of the work of the Committee. The second progress report submitted on April 10 was substantially the same as the first, with the exception that Thomas Kennedy of the United Mine Workers submitted a dissenting opinion to the President. This dissent charged a second report as unnecessary and prejudicial to the interests of the coal miners.

The third and final report was submitted on May 24, 1944, thus completing the work of the Committee. It contained various summary tabulations pointing out that the "data from all districts are so adequate that no subsequent returns are likely to affect the stated travel time." The amount of travel time, approximately 56 minutes, was held likely to remain high until after the war.

The records described in this preliminary inventory comprise all known records of the President's Committee on Portal-to-Portal Travel Time. They are a part of Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions, and Boards and amount to 5 cubic feet. They include general and administrative correspondence and reports, sample forms pertaining to the planning and execution of the studies and the preparation of formal reports, schedules or questionnaires received from the coal mines and punched IBM cards and tabulation sheets. As a whole, they contain significant information on the bituminous coal industry.

RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PORTAL-TO-PORTAL TRAVEL

TIME COMMITTEE

Correspondence and Reports

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. Nov. 8, 1943-May 25, 1944. 10 in.

2

General and administrative correspondence dealing mainly with the questionnaires used in the compilation of the reports of the Committee. It is comprised mainly of typewritten letters, telegrams, handwritten letters and some office memoranda. This correspondence includes (1) replies to delinquency notices sent out by the Committee; (2) inquiries concerning the use and method of procedure in the completion of the questionnaires; (3) letters covering the submission of questionnaires; (4) letters concerning the omission of, in some cases, the signatures of the Joint District Committee, or in other cases, the signatures of the nine operators because of some misunderstanding concerning the content of the questionnaires; (5) letters from the President's Committee concerning omissions in questionnaires; (6) letters concerning the return of questionnaires sent in error to strip mines; (7) duplicate copies of some of the above. Correspondence is from coal mines, union locals and Joint District Committees, United Mine Workers officials and officials of the Department of the Interior, and from members of the President's Committee. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and thenceunder chronologically.

REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT. Feb. 3, Apr. 10, and May 24, 1944. 1 in.

2

Two progress reports dated February 2, 1944, and April 10, 1944, are the results of data from questionnaires received by those respective dates. They are a summation of the facts known at those particular times and were presented to President Roosevelt. The final report, also submitted to the President, dated May 24, 1944, contains the data in its entirety compiled by the Committee and is supplemented with tables of pertinent data on the work of the Committee. Arranged chronologically.

Questionnaires and Related Records

COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRES. Dec. 1, 1943-May 19, 1944. (en.). 10 in.

2

Questionnaires of the Committee sent to the various bituminous coal mine districts as set up by the Bituminous Coal Act of 1937. They contain the data concerning portal-to-portal travel time as well as outside travel time. These were utilized for the reports of the President's Committee. Arranged numerically by districts as set up by law. Covers districts 1 through 25 with District 21 not included. Arranged thenceunder alphabetically by name of coal mine.

INCOMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRES. Dec. 1, 1943-May 19, 1944. (con.) 5 ins. 4

Questionnaires of the Committee sent to the various coal mine districts as set up by law. They also contain the portal-to-portal travel time data as well as that for outside travel time. They are incomplete in that they are not signed by the proper people. There are some signed by management only, including a few duplicates some signed by the Joint District Committee only, some not used at all, and others that have been superseded by subsequent questionnaires. Arranged numerically by districts as set up by law. Covers districts 1 through 23 with District 21 not included. Arranged thereunder alphabetically by name of coal mine.

HAND AND MACHINE TABULATIONS. Jan 31, 1944-Mar. 7, 1944. 1 ft. 2

Work sheets and a tabulation of cards punched from data on the questionnaires concerning travel time and production, including: (1) a work sheet covering all districts except District 21 as set up under the Bituminous Coal Act of 1937; (2) a work sheet compiled by the Coal Operators' Association covering all districts as set up by law; (3) a work sheet prepared by the United Mine Workers according to the union districts; (4) a tabulation of cards punched by the President's Committee on all districts as set up by law. No apparent arrangement.

TABULATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES. Dec. 1, 1943-May, 1944. (con.) 3 ft. 5

IBM cards showing the compilation of data from questionnaires received concerning portal-to-portal travel time as well as outside travel time for both production and non-productive workers and their respective totals and average time. Arranged alphabetically by name of coal mine.

TABULATION OF PENDING QUESTIONNAIRES. Dec. 1, 1943-May 19, 1944. (con.) 3 ins. 2

IBM cards showing the compilation of data from pending questionnaires concerning portal-to-portal travel time as well as outside travel time for both production and non-productive workers and their respective totals and average time. Arranged alphabetically by name of coal mine.

CONTROL SHEETS. Jan. 12, 1944-May 18, 1944. 1 ins. 2

Completed control sheets of the coal districts as set up by law. The code numbers of the various mines are used to show the mines included from each district. The object of these control sheets is to show the average daily production of coal in tons in the various districts as well as the computed monthly production to further aid the completion of the work of the Committee. Arranged numerically by districts as set up by law. Covers districts 1 through 23 with District 21 not included. Arranged thereunder by lot number as assigned to geographical location of the mine.

Miscellaneous

FORM LETTERS AND FORMS. Nov. 8, 1943-May 23, 1944. 3 in.

2

Copies of form letters and forms used by the President's Committee, including: (1) copies of transmittal letters sending additional questionnaires upon request; (2) copies of return franked envelopes sent with questionnaires; (3) copies of the letterhead of the Committee; (4) copies of a delinquency notice used by the Committee; (5) copies of letters regarding incomplete data on questionnaires; (6) introductory data sent to Joint District Committees, including a request asking individuals to serve on the Joint Committee, a request for travel time data, a list of Joint District Committees and both blank and completed copies of the Portal-to-Portal Travel Time Questionnaire. No apparent arrangement.

LISTS OF DELINQUENT COAL MINES. Dec. 1, 1943-May 19, 1944. (m.) 1 in. 10

A complete listing of the numbers of local unions of the United Mine Workers in the bituminous districts of the United States. The list includes a geographical location as well as the code numbers of each of the local unions. From this list was compiled the names of the various mines that were delinquent in submitting questionnaires. A close check on the program of the President's Committee was maintained in this manner and enabled the Committee to expedite the return of questionnaires. Arranged numerically by districts as set up by law. Covers districts 1 through 23 with District 21 not included. Arranged thereunder alphabetically by name of coal mine.