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Congress of the United States

Report of Proceedings

Hearing held before

Joint Committee

on the

Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack

S. Con. Res. 27

May 31, 1946

Washington, D. C.

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S. Con. Res. 27

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Friday, May 31, 1946

Congress of the United States,
Joint Committee on the Investigation
of the Pearl Harbor Attack,
Washington, D. C.

The joint committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00
o'clock a.m., in Room 312 Senate Office Building, Senator
Alben W. Barkley (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Barkley (chairman), George, and Lucas.
Representatives Cooper (vice chairman), and
Keefe.

Also present: Seth W. Richardson, General Counsel;
John E. Masten, Logan J. Lane and E. P. Morgan of counsel,
for the joint committee.

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WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1 The Chairman: Admiral, will you come around.

2 Admiral Stark.

3 TESTIMONY OF ADMIRAL HAROLD R. STARK - (Recalled)

4 The Chairman: Gentlemen, I want to explain for the
5 record why I called this meeting. It was called rather suddenly.
6 I regret that it had to be that way because some of the members
7 are away on account of Memorial Day and haven't returned.

8 Senator Ferguson and Senator Brewster are both away.
9 Congressman Murphy, Congressman Clark. Congressman Gearhart
10 is out in California. Congressman Keefe is here. He told me
11 to go ahead, that he would come over as soon as he could, but
12 not to wait for him.

13 The reason I called this meeting is that two or three
14 days ago Admiral Stark called over to the Capitol and gave me
15 a letter, which I will read for the record:

16 "26 May, 1946

17 Hon. Alben W. Barkley, Chairman

18 Joint Committee on the Investigation of the

19 Pearl Harbor Attack, (S. Con. Res. 27)

20 United States Capitol,

21 Washington, D. C.

22 Dear Senator Barkley:

23 "I have testified before the Committee that the
24 President did not call me on the night of 6 December (pre-
25 ceding the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December). I also

Witness Stark Questions by: Mr. Richardson
stated that it was of course possible that I might be
mistaken on this after over four years lapse of time, but
that I recalled no such call.

"I am now informed that I did talk to the President
over the telephone on 6 December, and hasten to put this
before the Committee in order to set the record straight.

"The circumstances are as follows: Last night (Saturday
25 May) Capt. H. D. Krick, USN, now on duty in the Bureau
of Ordnance (Capt. Krick had been my Flag Lieutenant in
my last sea command) and his wife made a social call on Mrs.
Stark and me. During the course of the evening Capt. Krick
asked me if I recalled the evening of 6 December - when I
replied 'no' he recalled that he and his wife had dinner
with Mrs. Stark and me at my quarters, and that we had then -
the four of us - gone to see the Student Prince.

"Capt. Krick also recalled that on returning to my
quarters after the theatre to pick up his car they, the Kricks,
had come into the house for a while and that I was told by
one of the servants that the White House had called me;
that I then went up stairs to talk to the President (the
White House phone was in my house on the second floor).
Krick further stated that when I came down stairs after
the phone call I said to him in substance that the situation
with Japan was very serious.

"I felt I should put this matter before the Committee

Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson^{14,725}

1 immediately. I have again searched my memory for this phone
2 call and I can only repeat that I do not recall it.

3 Very truly yours,"

4 The Chairman: Now, Mr. Richardson, you may proceed.

5 I might state before you start that Admiral Stark advises
6 me that he is leaving this afternoon for a long delayed import-
7 ant engagement in London and that he will be gone three or
8 four weeks; therefore it seemed desirable that we set this
9 in the record before he leaves, in order to accommodate him
10 as well as the committee.

11 Mr. Richardson: Admiral, your arrangements for this
12 trip abroad long antedated the discovery of the knowledge of
13 Lieutenant Krick of this episode of Saturday evening, December
14 6, did it not?

15 Admiral Stark: Yes; months ago.

16 Mr. Richardson: So that your trip away has no reference
17 whatever to any of the transactions in connection with Pearl
18 Harbor?

19 Admiral Stark: Not the slightest. I had been asked
20 for this trip last October and I refused, not being able to
21 leave at that time, and the date was then set the latter part
22 of June (?) which I accepted months ago.

23 Mr. Richardson: Does this episode which the Lieutenant
24 refers to in your letter refresh your recollection at all
25 today, Admiral?

Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

1 Admiral Stark: No, sir, it does not.

2 Mr. Richardson: You still have no recollection whatever
3 of any events of that evening?

4 Admiral Stark: No, sir.

5 Mr. Richardson: And you have no recollection of going
6 upstairs and using the White House phone in response to any
7 report made to you by any of your servants?

8 Admiral Stark: No, I do not.

9 Mr. Richardson: The evidence, as you know, indicates
10 here that at an earlier time on that evening, when the President
11 was made familiar with the first 13 parts of this now celebrated
12 14-part message, he characterized the message and then sought
13 to get in touch with you, received a report that you were at
14 the theater, and said he would contact you later.

15 From that if we assume that he wished to talk to you about
16 this 13-part message, it would be reasonable that any message
17 to you from the White House that night would have communicated
18 to you the existence of that message, wouldn't you think so?

19 Admiral Stark: That is correct.

20 Mr. Richardson: You will recall the last time you were
21 on the stand you suggested that your visit to your office on
22 Sunday morning was in accordance with your practice to go to
23 your office on Sunday morning, while you were uncertain as
24 to the precise time, being of the opinion yourself that it
25 might have been a little later because it was Sunday morning --

1 Admiral Stark: Yes.

2 Mr. Richardson: (continuing) -- that you didn't go to
3 your office for the purpose of seeing a 13-part message because
4 you had no recollection of having known there was such?

5 Admiral Stark: That is correct.

6 Mr. Richardson: And the first time you saw the message,
7 or the fact that it existed came to your attention, is when
8 you found it in your office when you went there that morning?

9 Admiral Stark: That was my recollection.

10 Mr. Richardson: This discussion, with your letter,
11 the detailed report he gives you, doesn't refresh your re-
12 collection with reference to any of those particulars?

13 Admiral Stark: It does not.

14 I might say in that connection that I talked very
15 frequently with the President. I think you will all be sur-
16 prised to know how much, how minutely he was following every
17 detail, and how fully I kept him acquainted with anything
18 going on that was of any interest that came to my attention
19 in connection with naval matters and international matters at
20 that time. I frequently called the President along about a
21 quarter after six in the evening, which I knew was about the
22 time he was likely to be finished signing his mail, and I
23 frequently called him, and I mean frequently, not only at that
24 time but after the war was on, in the late evening, perhaps
25 around half past eleven, after I had gone over the contents of

WLC

1 Witness Stark

2 my brief case, because at that time the President was likely
3 to be free. I would call and ask if he were free and talk to
4 him over any items of interest.

5 That went on continuously. So there was nothing unusual in
6 my talking to the President that time of night, not the slight-
7 est. I can only assume that when the President called me that
8 he mentioned this note that we had received from the Japanese,
9 that he did not, certainly did not, impress me that it was
10 anything that required action; I took none. I am certain
11 that he gave me no directive or I would have carried it out.
12 It would have been the simplest matter in the world for me to
13 have called up the Department and said to send out that
14 message if it had been anything that I should have seen.
15 The President, of course, knew that I was going to the office
16 the next morning; I was always there; he called me up Sunday
17 mornings, and I called him up. And in connection with that
18 also it is my recollection that every witness who testified as
19 to the material which the President had before him that even-
20 ing, the 13-points, has stated that it was nothing but a rehash
21 and nothing which required any action.

22 I think that was the testimony of both Army and Navy.
23 I remember Ingersoll's particularly, and in talking to him
24 about it later, that there was nothing to it that required
25 any action. I am certain that nothing was indicated to me.

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 I also testified that when I did see that message, that had I
3 seen it the night before I would have taken no action on it.
4 That was in response to a question by one of the members of the
5 Committee. Not only the 13 points but even the 14th point,
6 which was different from the rest, and which struck me in
7 particular because it was almost a paraphrase of what I had
8 included in our message of the 27th and confirmation of what
9 I had sent.

10 The President was familiar with every move we had made.
11 I kept him fully informed. We were all intensely aware of the
12 seriousness of the situation, watching it just as closely as
13 we could. Even on the 6th we had sent a message authorizing
14 destruction of certain codes to the commanders in the Pacific,
15 stating "Hold on to some", in winding up the message, "until
16 the last minute." Everything we had seen, in our opinion had
17 indicated the tenseness of the situation, that anything might
18 break at anytime. In fact, we said so specifically.

19 Mr. Richardson: Now, Admiral, you remember when you were
20 last on the stand the question was asked you whether if you had
21 received any intimation from the President that he thought the
22 13-part message meant war, that would have been a very important
23 statement to you and one that would have stirred you into action,
24 based on the President's statement?

25 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir, if he had said anything to me

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 about the imminence or anything new, or indicated any action,
3 it would have stirred me into immediate action.

4 Mr. Richardson: Well, now, the testimony indicates that
5 when the President read this message he said "This means war",
6 or used equivalent language. Would you, from your knowledge
7 of the President and the detail, as you say, with which he
8 followed the events which were transpiring, would it be your
9 presumption now that the President made no such statement to
10 you if he talked to you on the night of December 6th?

11 Admiral Stark: It would be, decidedly. We had, of
12 course, and I think my letter of the 25th indicated that, both
13 the President and Mr. Hull had stated in my presence that they
14 would not be surprised if the Japanese attacked at anytime,
15 and I think if the President had made any such statement to me
16 on the night of the 6th that I would have recalled it.

17 I also remember Beardall's testimony when the 14th point
18 was presented the next morning and in which, I believe, he
19 testified to the best of his recollection that the President
20 merely said, well, it looked like a rupture of negotiations.
21 That 14th point, of course, was in much stronger, more definite
22 language than the preceding 13.

23 Mr. Richardson: Now, the subject of this message and any
24 discussion with reference to it would be within the limitations
25 of magic, would it not?

1 Witness Stark Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

3 Mr. Richardson: So that any discussion between you and
4 the White House, if Captain Krick is correct, having been about
5 magic, there would be no possibility of discussing with
6 Captain Krick any of the details of your conversation?

7 Admiral Stark: Oh, no; no, sir.

8 Mr. Richardson: So that when he told you that you stated
9 that our affairs with Japan were in a very critical condition,
10 or something of that sort, that would be as much comment as
11 you could make, from such a conversation?

12 Admiral Stark: Yes, I think it would. I had made that
13 statement to others.

14 Mr. Richardson: Then, the fact that you didn't say any-
15 thing to Captain Krick as to the details of your conversation
16 would be entirely in accord with the way you would have to
17 handle any information that had anything to do with magic?

18 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

19 Mr. Richardson: Was Captain Krick one of those who would
20 have any knowledge of magic or transactions that were passing,
21 magic interceptions?

22 Admiral Stark: I think not.

23 Mr. Richardson: Well, it turned out, did it not, Admiral,
24 that this 14-part message was a very significant and important
25 message?

1 Witness Stark Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

3 Mr. Richardson: And there were significances with respect
4 to it which if fully appreciated made it of startling importance?

5 Admiral Stark: Well, we had come to the conclusion
6 previously that we considered Japan likely to attack at anytime
7 in any direction. I wouldn't say that it changed any of our
8 previous conceptions. It was a confirmation, if anything.

9 Mr. Richardson: Would you include in that estimate any
10 of the significances of the use of the 1 p.m. date?

11 Admiral Stark: The 1 p.m. date, and again in the light
12 of hindsight --

13 Mr. Richardson: Yes, I realize that.

14 Admiral Stark: (continuing) -- was different. It set a
15 time and, as you will recall, I was discussing the matter when
16 General Marshall called me, and my first reaction was that we
17 had sent so much, and we had assumed that what we had sent
18 out there was, I previously testified, enough to have everybody
19 fully alerted, it was questionable whether to send anything more,
20 including the message, you remember, which I recalled we sent
21 on the 6th; then, after only a little further reflection I told
22 Marshall to go ahead and send it and to be sure that our people
23 were notified.

24 I put that in a different category because I think there
25 was nothing in the 14-point message which in one way or another

1 Witness Stark Questions by:

2 we had not previously covered.

3 Mr. Richardson: Then, it would be your conclusion as
4 Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral, that the fact that the
5 President made no mention to you that in his opinion this
6 message meant war, deducing that -- he couldn't have, because
7 of the fact you have no such recollection in your memory --

8 Admiral Stark: That is the assumption, yes.

9 Mr. Richardson: Plus the fact that when Admiral Wilkinson
10 saw the message, General Miles saw the message, and Beardall saw
11 the message --

12 Admiral Stark: Admiral Ingersoll.

13 Mr. Richardson: Beardall saw the message the night before,
14 I mean.

15 Admiral Stark: Yes.

16 Mr. Richardson: And Secretary Knox saw the message the
17 night before. The fact that nothing immediately was done with
18 reference to that message is because you feel that the message
19 itself was simply a rehash of information which had come before
20 and of which you were already aware?

21 Admiral Stark: I feel that very definitely, yes, sir.

22 Mr. Richardson: And that if any of those high officers
23 had any different view there would have been a different attitude
24 toward this message?

25 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir; I think we all felt the same

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 about it.

3 Mr. Richardson: Then, the first expression of anything
4 unusual about this message in point of action came with the
5 suggestion of General Marshall with reference to a message
6 that he proposed to send?

7 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

8 Mr. Richardson: Did you have any, when you were examining
9 the message, when you went to your office -- I have forgotten
10 your testimony, I am sure you testified on it -- were you
11 informed as to any of the possible significance of this
12 1 o'clock date, from either Kramer's report or the report of
13 any of your aides?

14 Admiral Stark: No, I was not.

15 Mr. Richardson: And as soon as Captain Krick told you
16 of this incident, of his knowledge of this situation, you
17 immediately prepared this letter to the Chairman of this
18 Committee in order to inform him of this much light, at least,
19 on what happened on Saturday night?

20 Admiral Stark: I did, yes, sir. When Captain Krick
21 first mentioned this to me, about our having been to the
22 theater that night together, and about my having gone upstairs
23 and talked to the President, which was the natural way for it
24 to have followed through, that the White House had called, my
25 first thought was, well, I can't add anything to this testi-

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 mony, it doesn't bring up anything which I haven't covered
3 so far as I can, goodness knows I have racked my brains on
4 that evening, why report it, and the more I thought about it
5 the more I realized that this indicated that my testimony was
6 incorrect, the impression of it, and it was quite definite
7 that I had not talked to the President that night; the more
8 I thought of it the more disturbed I became that the committee
9 should have this, the record should have it straight, and I
10 got up around 2 or 3 in the morning, thinking this thing over,
11 and wrote this letter in longhand and had it typed the following
12 day, I sent it for typing on Sunday, got it Monday, and brought
13 it up to Senator Barkley Monday.

14 Of course, I am extremely glad it came up. If it had come
15 up after everything was over I never would have felt comfortable
16 about it, I wouldn't have known how to get it before the commit-
17 tee, and I would have felt I couldn't rest until I squared this
18 away.

19 You may recall -- I think you were not here on my first
20 hearing -- when I stated that if anything whatsoever came up
21 with regard to Pearl Harbor, that I thought of anything of
22 interest to this committee, that I would report it immediately.
23 That was on the conclusion of my hearings. And this is the
24 only thing that has come up which I have thought any different
25 from what I have previously testified to.

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Mr. Richardson: Admiral, if the President had told you
3 in his talk with you that night, assuming that you talked to
4 him, and had told you that it was his opinion that this 13th-
5 part message meant war, thereby impressed you with his very
6 serious estimate of it, what would have been, in accordance
7 with your custom, the action for you to have then taken, with
8 that information?

9 Admiral Stark: I don't know, sir, that I would have, that
10 we would have sent anything more. I think that I should have
11 gotten in touch with Ingersoll and with Turner. We had had a
12 conference a few days previously, going over the seriousness
13 of the situation, if there was anything more we could have sent,
14 and, as I say, we practically repeated this 14th point, repeated,
15 some days earlier we had sent the same thing. We thought, and
16 the President knew every move that we had made, that we had
17 sent everything possible, on that premise, that war was in the
18 immediate offing.

19 I don't know that I would have done anything. I couldn't
20 say.

21 Mr. Richardson: Would there have been any customary
22 acceleration of getting the completed message? The evidence
23 indicates that the message was completed around 4 or 5 o'clock
24 in the morning; it then lay without attention until Kramer came
25 down about 7:30, and it passed out of Kramer's hands along about

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 9 or 9:30, somewhere in there.

3 Admiral Stark: At 10:30 -- Well, the 1 o'clock part.

4 Mr. Richardson: What I am wondering is whether if you
5 had been apprised it would have proper and usual to have taken
6 steps to see to it that someone was waiting and ready to receive
7 the full message for the purpose of effectuating such action as
8 might be necessary.

9 Admiral Stark: Well, I think it might of, sir, if I had
10 had any feeling as you have just represented, I think I should
11 myself.

12 Mr. Richardson: Admiral, let me ask you another odd ques-
13 tion. Are you able to state from your recollection of Saturday
14 the 6th that there was not at the White House an extensive
15 conference between the heads of the Army and the heads of the
16 Navy in discussion of matters and things which in part had to do
17 with this 14th-part message?

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1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Admiral Stark: I never had heard of such a conference,
3 I know of nothing now regarding such a conference, I was not
4 present at it, I had never even heard anyone suggest such a
5 thing until it was mentioned here in previous hearings.

6 My honest opinion is that nothing of the sort took place.
7 It was a complete surprise to Marshall that even the question
8 came up. It was to me. I am certain that I didn't leave the
9 house after the Kricks left. I just can't think of any such
10 thing as happening. Certainly I was not present, and Colonel
11 Knox never mentioned any such thing to me.

12 Mr. Richardson: And despite your inability to recollect
13 detail, such a conference at the White House, under those
14 circumstances, would be so extraordinarily unusual, that don't
15 you think that would at least stand out in your memory, even
16 though you don't remember the details of this evening?

17 Admiral Stark: I think so, unquestionably.

18 Mr. Richardson: That is all the questions I have.

19 The Chairman: Admiral, had Captain Krick ever said anything
20 to you about this matter that he mentioned last Saturday night,
21 until last Saturday night, when his wife and he were guests
22 of Mrs. Stark and you?

23 Admiral Stark: No sir, never. It was out of a clear
24 sky to me.

25 The Chairman: You realize that it might seem strange that

1 Witness Stark Questions by: The Chairman
2 a thing like that would escape your memory altogether. What
3 is your explanation or interpretation of the reason why, if
4 all this happened as he said, that it still doesn't register
5 in your mind?

6 Admiral Stark: Well, lapse of time, I would say, was
7 certainly an important factor. The immediately following
8 events, which stand out crystal clear, as to some other events;
9 and an awfully busy time since then probably has simply wiped
10 it out.

11 And I might say there was nothing unusual about the Kricks
12 being with us for any entertainment or otherwise. One's Flag
13 Lieutenant gets very close to one, and we had been together
14 afloat just previous to my coming ashore for a couple of years,
15 attending many, many functions together, and coming ashore
16 about the same time, and they were often with us.

17 The Chairman: Would the fact that you had, as you have
18 testified, frequent White House talks over your direct line
19 with the President, maybe night after night for a period, or
20 as often as several times a week, would that have anything
21 to do with your ability to identify this particular night as
22 against any other night when you had a conversation with the
23 President over the telephone?

24 Admiral Stark: I think so, because it wasn't something
25 unusual which might stand out. I mean, my talking to the White

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1 Witness Stark

Questions by: The Chairman

2 House. I would pick up the phone and talk just as freely to
3 the President as I would, almost, pick it up and call my own
4 home.

5 The Chairman: Any questions?

6 Mr. Keefe: Mr. Chairman, if I may interrupt at this
7 point. As I told you on the phone when I called I had just
8 then received notice that this meeting was to be held, just
9 a few minutes before 10 o'clock, and I hurried to get here.

10 The Chairman: I explained the reason for the sudden call
11 was that Admiral Stark is leaving tonight for London to fulfill
12 a long-delayed engagement, and upon the receipt of this letter
13 I felt that whatever pertained to it ought to go in the record
14 and not simply have the letter filed with the Committee,

15 Mr. Keefe: I raised the question because I had understood
16 that the hearings had, by action of the committee, been closed,
17 and that the testimony had been closed, and I want to keep
18 the record clear, in the absence of my colleagues, none of
19 whom are present here this morning.

20 I assume that the Chairman felt that it was due propriety
21 that the action heretofore taken by the committee in closing
22 the testimony in this matter should be vacated and set aside
23 in order to permit this testimony to go in, but I wonder if
24 we have established a precedent now that may plague us in
25 the future, because I understood very definitely that the

1 Witness Stark

2 testimony in this case was closed, definitely closed by vote
3 and action of the committee.

4 Now, if it is to be reopened for this purpose, it may
5 be perfectly proper to reopen it for some other purpose, and
6 this committee will go on and on.

7 I want the record to show that I have raised this question.
8 I do not know, I haven't had any notice of action by the
9 committee vacating the previous action closing the testimony,
10 but it seems to me that we ought to keep our record clear, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12 I don't know whether this testimony amounts to anything
13 or not. I didn't hear the first part of it. I don't know
14 what it is except what I heard since I came in, and that
15 doesn't seem to cast very much light on the testimony as it
16 heretofore appears.

17 Unless Admiral Stark knows when he talked to the President
18 and what the President told him, what they talked about, I
19 don't know that it makes much difference to now confirm the
20 fact that he attended the Student Prince that night.

21 The Chairman: All you say is true now, Congressman, that
22 the hearing were closed

23 Mr. Keefe: I am not criticizing the Chairman.

24 The Chairman: This situation was brought suddenly to my
25 attention. The Admiral was on the verge of leaving the country

1 Witness Stark

2 for three or four weeks, and I felt that in view of what
3 Captain Krick had said to him about it, and will say here in a
4 few minutes when he is called, that it was the part of wisdom
5 to get the committee together, even though all of them
6 couldn't be here, and make this matter of record by public
7 testimony, instead of simply filing Admiral Stark's letter
8 with the committee.

9 I don't think it sheds any light on it, but Admiral Stark
10 felt, having been told this by Captain Frick as late as last
11 Saturday night, that he ought to bring it to the attention of
12 the committee, and he having brought it to my attention, I
13 felt whatever was done about it ought to be done publicly and
14 not just hand the letter in to the committee and simply file it.

15 Mr. Keefe: I take it, Mr. Chairman, that if the testimony
16 means anything it means that Admiral Stark now says his memory
17 has or has not been refreshed by reason of his conversations
18 with Captain Krick.

19 Now, if his memory has not been refreshed by reason of
20 his talks with Captain Krick, his whole testimony, it seems
21 to me, is utterly inconsequential and immaterial.

22 I am not interested in the fact that Captain Krick comes
23 in and now says that he was at the dinner with Admiral Stark
24 and that they went to the theater and saw the Student Prince,
25 and then went home and had a lunch and Admiral Stark went to

1 Witness Stark

2 the telephone and talked to someone, and then he left. I
3 don't see that that is of any particular probative value
4 unless those facts related to him will recall to Admiral Stark's
5 mind those facts and the fact that the President did talk to
6 him and what the President said and what was the discussion.

7 I understand that it doesn't click with him, he doesn't
8 remember any such situation. So under those circumstances,
9 I feel compelled to object to any further repetitious testimony
10 going into this record on a matter that is not of any probative
11 force or value, in view of the fact that the committee has
12 definitely voted to close the testimony, and it would estab-
13 lish a precedent which would clearly offer the opportunity for
14 my colleague, Mr. Brewster, or Senator Ferguson, or somebody
15 else, to plague the committee with offers of testimony that
16 will continue this thing on and on and on.

17 I have made my statement. That is the way I feel.

18 The Chairman: The Chair appreciates your statement and
19 cannot controvert it. I mean, all you have said about the
20 matter is undoubtedly accurate.

21 Senator Lucas: Mr. Chairman, I want to subscribe to
22 the statements made by the Congressman from Wisconsin. He
23 has said exactly what I was about to say. As he has said,
24 if we are going to continue hearings on this matter, there
25 is no question but what somebody will continue to bring

1 something forward, and cause delays.

2 I know that the Chairman has been tremendously busy
3 with legislation on the Senate Floor, and I think perhaps
4 I am not criticizing him but I think if we had discussed
5 this in executive session we might have accomplished something
6 without this testimony.

7 I didn't know that we were going to have hearings this
8 morning.

9 The Chairman: I will state this, that I conferred with
10 counsel of the committee in respect to the proceedings that
11 ought to be had in view of the Admiral's letter to me. If
12 we had had all the time that might be available we might have
13 had an executive session and decided it wasn't worth while to
14 even put the letter in the record.

15 The Admiral felt compelled to address the letter to me,
16 in order not to be in a position of holding back something that
17 somebody had told him, and I called the hearing this morning
18 because the Admiral is leaving the city and might not be back
19 until we have made our report, or were on the verge of doing
20 so.

21 Mr. Richardson: Might I make this suggestion, Mr. Chairman.
22 Suppose we take the Lieutenant's testimony, which will be very
23 brief, and then if the committee later decides not to use any
24 of this testimony, all right; on the other hand, if they allow
25 it to go in, we have it.

Witness Stark

(7)

I would like to state for the record that one of the issues that I think is involved in the record is the fact that about 9:30 on Saturday evening the President sought to get in touch with Admiral Stark. He was unable to do so. There, up to this morning --

The Chairman: If you will permit, it was about 10:30 when Commander Schultz delivered the message.

Mr. Richardson: All right. Whenever that time was.

It, therefore, would stand upon the record as though the President paid no more attention to contacting Admiral Stark, because Admiral Stark remembered nothing of any message from the White House that evening. Apparently, from Lieutenant Krick's testimony, it now becomes definite that there was a communication after Admiral Stark came home from the theater, between Admiral Stark and the President on that evening.

So that, so far as the President is concerned, his statement that he would later contact Admiral Stark was accomplished.

I advised the Chairman that I thought that that fact should be in the record.

Senator Lucas: Well, it just shows one thing, that the President was more alert than anybody else.

Mr. Keefe: Does Admiral Stark recall what the conversation was?

The Chairman: No.

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Witness Stark

Senator Lucas: He doesn't recall a thing.

Mr. Keefe: He doesn't recall that they even had a conversation, or that he was called, or anything else?

Senator Lucas: That is right.

The Chairman: Nor that he went to see the Student Prince.

Senator Lucas: I don't see how Admiral Stark can go to London this afternoon, in view of the fact that this has been reopened, and in view of the fact that Senator Brewster and Senator Ferguson are not here, they are the individuals who voted not to close the hearings, and they are the two individuals who are going to have much to say if when they return they don't have a chance to examine Admiral Stark, notwithstanding the fact that he doesn't know anything about the conversation.

I have observed Mr. Brewster, and I say this not because he is absent, but from beginning to end, trying to make -- well --

The Chairman: I might say that I asked Senator Ferguson after the vote in the Senate Wednesday at 5:00 o'clock if he would be here this morning. He was rushing to catch a plane. And he said he would be here. I learned from his office that he wouldn't be here until this afternoon. And Senator Brewster may be here this afternoon.

The committee can do what it wants to do. I did what I

1 Witness Stark

2 thought was my duty in calling the meeting, under the circum-
3 stances. If the committee wants to postpone the meeting in
4 order to get all the members present, to let them examine
5 into this matter as much as they please, it suits me. I did
6 what seemed to me to be the best thing to do. I didn't feel
7 like, with Admiral Stark on the verge of leaving for London
8 for three or four weeks, that the matter should be withheld
9 from the committee.

10 Mr. Keefe: Mr. Chairman, I have not talked to Captain
11 Krick, I don't know what he is going to say, but from what
12 has been stated, and what appears in Admiral Stark's letter,
13 there must have been conversation between Admiral Stark and
14 Captain Krick which would inform Captain Krick that the
15 President had called and that the telephone conversation was
16 between Admiral Stark and the President.

17 Admiral Stark: That is right.

18 Mr. Keefe: Now, then, Admiral Stark doesn't remember
19 a thing. He can recall nothing. Therefore the statement of
20 Captain Krick hasn't prodded his recollection at all. I don't
21 see how any great help is being given to the record to have
22 Captain Krick testify that he was out at Admiral Stark's house
23 and that Admiral Stark went to answer the telephone and came
24 back and said "I talked with the President", or something
25 of that kind.

1 Witness Stark

2 Admiral Stark: Mr. Chairman, I may state that my
3 feeling is that I couldn't add anything to the record, except
4 to show, as counsel has suggested, that I did talk to the
5 President that night. The record as left showed that, too.

6 The Chairman: You mean you assume you talked to him
7 from what Captain Krick said?

8 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

9 The Chairman: If you don't remember anything about it
10 you are no better off than you would be if Captain Krick
11 didn't say that.

12 Admiral Stark: No, sir.

13 The Chairman: But you are assuming that you talked to
14 the President inasmuch as he, Captain Krick, did say that to
15 you?

16 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir. And I thought that that fact
17 should be in the record, along the line of thought which
18 counsel has suggested. I don't know of another thing that
19 I could give the committee.

20 Mr. Keefe: Mr. Chairman, I shall have to insist upon
21 my point, because it seems to me perfectly obvious that it
22 is so unfair to the other members of this committee, in view
23 of the action heretofore taken by the committee, to now
24 reopen this case, without the other members of the committee
25 being present and given an opportunity to ask any questions

1 Witness Stark

2 that they see fit to ask.

(8)

3 The Chairman will recall, as will the other members,
4 that it has been my purpose to close these hearings and to
5 get on with the report and finish our obligation, and I don't
6 think that this little bit of second-hand testimony would be,
7 on the part of Captain Krick, very important.

8 The Chairman: Assuming that, and I don't dispute it,
9 I am sure that you will agree, all members will agree, that
10 having received this letter from Admiral Stark, if I had
11 stuck it in my pocket and suppressed it and not brought it
12 to the attention of the committee, I would have been pilloried
13 not only by certain members of the committee but by others
14 for withholding something that the committee was entitled to.

15 I have presented the letter. The committee may take
16 such action as they see fit. If it wants to have another
17 meeting, maybe this afternoon, when the other members can be
18 here -- I can't assure that.

19 Senator George. Mr. Chairman, I think the suggestion
20 made by counsel is not an unwise one, that we might have
21 Captain Krick now make a statement and subsequently, in executive
22 session, decide whether any of it would go into the record,
23 beyond the bare letter of the Admiral, if he wishes it to go
24 into the record.

25 The Vice Chairman: I agree with that statement, Mr.

1 Witness Stark

Questions by: Senator Lucas
The Chairman

2 Chairman. I think that probably would be the best course,
3 to hear what Captain Krick has to say, and just suspend the
4 question until a full attendance of the committee can be had.

5 The Chairman: Captain Krick is here in the Department
6 in Washington. He can be obtained if the committee wants him
7 at any time.

8 Is that agreeable?

9 Admiral, we thank you for your appearance.

10 Senator Lucas: May I ask the Admiral one question before
11 he leaves?

12 The Chairman: Senator Lucas.

13 Senator Lucas: Admiral, do I understand now from your
14 conversation with Captain Krick that it appears you had
15 dinner together that night?

16 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

17 Senator Lucas: Then following the dinner you went to
18 the show?

19 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir.

20 Senator Lucas: Then from there you went home?

21 Admiral Stark: Yes, sir. Captain Krick drove his car
22 to my quarters, we went to the show in my car, and he came
23 back to my quarters to get his car.

24 The Chairman: Do you remember any of that or are you
25 saying what he told you?

Witness Stark

Questions by: Senator Lucas

Admiral Stark: I am saying what he told me. That would be the normal course.

Senator Lucas: You don't remember anything of that kind?

Admiral Stark: I do not remember that evening and I have stated so. My original impression was that I was home, which I know to be incorrect, but I do not recall it. I stated that I recalled having seen a revival of the Student Prince but I did not connect it with the night of December 6. I still do not.

Senator George: You have no independent recollection except what you have given the committee?

Admiral Stark: That is right.

The Chairman: You mean you have no independent recollection?

Admiral Stark: I have not. I don't have an independent recollection. My sole purpose was the fact that a conversation took place that should be in the record.

The Chairman: Thank you, Admiral.

Well, if it is agreeable we will let Captain Krick make his statement and then the committee can decide what course it wishes to take.

Admiral Stark: May I ask whether or not I shall be free to go on?

Senator Lucas: What time do you leave, Admiral?

1 Witness Stark

2 Admiral Stark: I am sailing tomorrow morning. Have
3 to aboard ship between 8:30 and 10:30.

4 Senator Lucas: You will leave here tonight for New York?

5 Admiral Stark: I was leaving this afternoon. I could
6 leave on a midnight train and make it.

7 The Chairman: Well, Admiral, it is rather difficult for
8 me to say. If the other members wish to be called into session
9 I would be glad to call a session this afternoon and let them
10 decide.

11 Mr. Keefe: Mr. Chairman, I can't see any conceivable
12 possible statement that Admiral Stark can give the committee
13 that he hasn't already given them and he could go to London
14 to perform his service and perhaps be performing a greater
15 service than sitting around here and telling us that he
16 doesn't remember anything.

17 Admiral Stark: I quite agree.

18 Mr. Keefe: That is in substance the picture as I see it.

19 Admiral Stark: I thought of that when I wrote the
20 letter, that I couldn't add anything, but I couldn't leave
21 without giving you this letter.

22 The Chairman: Is it the feeling of the committee, in
23 view of the situation and suggestion, that Admiral Stark need
24 not delay his trip?

25 Mr. Keefe: That is my opinion.

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Witness Stark

The Vice Chairman: I agree.

Senator George: That is my opinion.

Senator Lucas: I will agree but you will hear plenty about it afterwards.

The Chairman: Well, we can't help that.

Thank you, Admiral.

Admiral Stark: I am grateful to you, sir, for permitting me to say what I have.

Senator Lucas: Don't find any more friends, please. When friends come in say nothing about Pearl Harbor.

(Witness excused)

The Chairman: Come up, Captain Krick.

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

(9)

Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN HAROLD D. KRICK, U.S. NAVY

(Having been first duly sworn by The Chairman)

Mr. Richardson: State your full name, Captain.

Captain Krick: Harold D. Krick, U. S. Navy.

Mr. Richardson: How long have you been in the Navy,
Captain?

Captain Krick: I will be in the Navy 28 years on the
7th of June 1946.

Mr. Richardson: How long have you known Admiral Stark?

Captain Krick: I have known Admiral Stark since 1933
when he commanded the U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA, to which ship I
was attached.

Mr. Richardson: What was your last assignment with him?

Captain Krick: My last assignment with Admiral Stark
was as his Flag Lieutenant when he was Commander of the
cruisers of the Battle Force.

Mr. Richardson: When did you come to Washington to live?

Captain Krick: I came to Washington to live in July 1939.

Mr. Richardson: Since your coming to Washington has
there been a continuation of social relations between your
family and Admiral Stark's family?

Captain Krick: Yes, sir, there has been a very close
relation.

Mr. Richardson: Socially?

1 Witness Krick Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Captain Krick: Socially.

3 Mr. Richardson: Frequently at his house?

4 Captain Krick: Yes, sir, frequently at his house.

5 Mr. Richardson: Were you familiar, from your acquaintance
6 with his house, whether Admiral Stark had a White House phone
7 in his house?

8 Captain Krick: Yes, sir, Admiral Stark did have a White
9 House phone in his house.

10 Mr. Richardson: What floor was it on?

11 Captain Krick: It was on the second floor, in his study.

12 Mr. Richardson: Do you recall your whereabouts on
13 Saturday night, December 6?

14 Captain Krick: On Saturday night, December 6, 1941?

15 Mr. Richardson: That is right.

16 Captain Krick: I was with Admiral Stark and Mrs. Stark.

17 Mr. Richardson: Who was with you?

18 Captain Krick: My wife.

19 Mr. Richardson: Just the four of you?

20 Captain Krick: Yes, sir.

21 Mr. Richardson: When did you meet that evening first?

22 Captain Krick: We assembled at Admiral Stark's house
23 about 6:30 or 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

24 Mr. Richardson: Did you have dinner?

25 Captain Krick: We had dinner at the Stark residence.

Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson^{14,756}

1 Mr. Richardson: Were there any other guests?

2 Captain Krick: No other guests.

3 Mr. Richardson: Where did you go after dinner?

4 Captain Krick: After dinner we attended a performance,
5 I believe it to be the Student Prince, at the National Theater
6 in Washington, sir.

7 Mr. Richardson: Did you stay for the entire performance?

8 Captain Krick: Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Richardson: Where did you go after the performance?

10 Captain Krick: Subsequent to the performance we returned
11 to the Stark residence in order to pick up my transportation.

12 Mr. Richardson: Whose car did you go to the theater in,
13 and from?

14 Captain Krick: In the Admiral's car.

15 Mr. Richardson: And you left your car at the Stark house?

16 Captain Krick: That is correct, yes, sir.

17 Mr. Richardson: And you returned for it after the
18 theater?

19 Captain Krick: Yes, sir.

20 Mr. Richardson: Did you go in the Stark residence upon
21 your return?

22 Captain Krick: Yes, sir, we did go into the Stark
23 residence, as was the custom, for a few moments, before return-
24 ing to our home.

25 Mr. Richardson: To get something to eat and drink?

1 Witness Krick Questions by Mr. Richardson

2 Captain Krick: There were usually refreshments; that
3 was the usual custom.

4 Mr. Richardson: Do you recall the occasion of going into
5 the house on that evening?

6 Captain Krick: Yes, sir, I do recall that evening.

7 Mr. Richardson: What occurred when you went in the house?

8 Captain Krick: One of the Admiral's servants advised
9 the Admiral that --

10 Mr. Richardson: What did he say?

11 Captain Krick: That there had been a White House call
12 during the evening, sir.

13 Mr. Richardson: What happened then?

14 Captain Krick: The Admiral excused himself and retired
15 to his study on the second floor and returned.

16 Mr. Richardson: How long was he there?

17 Captain Krick: I would say approximately between 5 and
18 10 minutes.

19 Mr. Richardson: Did he come downstairs again?

20 Captain Krick: Yes, sir, he did come downstairs.

21 Mr. Richardson: Did he say anything to you?

22 Captain Krick: Only to the extent that the conditions
23 in the Pacific were serious; that was the substance of it,
24 that conditions with Japan were in a critical state, something
25 of that sort, sir.

1 Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Mr. Richardson: Did he say anything to you, as near
3 as you can recall, that he had had a telephone message, on the
4 second floor?

5 Captain Krick: That is my inference. There is absolutely
6 no doubt in my mind about it, sir. But I do not recall the
7 exact statement. I do not recall that he stated "I have talked
8 with the President of the United States". But I heard, of
9 course, the statement of the servant that there had been a
10 White House call, and the Admiral retired immediately, and
11 he may have stated that he was going to call the White House;
12 but I have the distinct impression that the conversation was
13 with the White House.

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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1 Witness Krick Questions by: Mr. Richardson

2 Mr. Richardson: Do you have any impression that upon
3 his return from upstairs Admiral Stark made any statement
4 then that his talk had been with the White House?

5 Captain Krick: My impression very definitely was that,
6 yes, sir.

7 Mr. Richardson: That was the end of the conversation?

8 Captain Krick: That was the end of the conversation.

9 The Admiral never talked over any of his affairs in connection
10 with me, sir.

11 Mr. Richardson: How long did you stay after that state-
12 ment?

13 Captain Krick: Approximately not more than 15 minutes.

14 Mr. Richardson: Then, you and your wife went home?

15 Captain Krick: Yes, sir; I would say that it would be not
16 later than 11:30 on the night of the 6th.

17 Mr. Richardson: When did you first relate to anyone the
18 details of what you have just told us?

19 Captain Krick: That was the night, I believe, of the 25th
20 of May, 1946, at the Admiral's home; this conversation came up
21 very casually.

22 Mr. Richardson: Who was there?

23 Captain Krick: The Admiral and Mrs. Stark and my wife.

24 Mr. Richardson: And yourself?

25 Captain Krick: That is correct.

Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

Mr. Richardson: What was the conversation then?

Captain Krick: The substance of the conversation was referring back to the night before Pearl Harbor on the 6th of December, 1941, that I had noticed a headline to the effect that the Admiral hadn't known where he was, I had not followed this case closely, and I then informed the Admiral that we were his guests that night, and I informed him what I have just said, to the effect that as usual he had left with his boy the number of the National Theater, so that he could be called in the event any calls came in.

Mr. Richardson: Wait just a moment. Was there any such conversation in your presence that evening before you went to the theater between Admiral Stark and any of his servants?

Captain Krick: I am quite sure that there was, sir.

Mr. Richardson: And what was the admonition which he gave to his servants?

Captain Krick: The custom was, sir, to give to the boy a slip of paper with the number of the telephone where the Admiral could be contacted.

Mr. Richardson: Are you of the opinion that occurred that evening?

Captain Krick: Yes, sir, I am quite sure of it.

Mr. Richardson: When you reached the theater what was done with respect to advising the theater officials?

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Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson

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Captain Krick: As I recall it, either the Admiral or I notified the head usher in that respect, where the Admiral was sitting, where we would be during the entire evening, and no call came for the Admiral during that time.

Mr. Richardson: What statement did the Admiral make when you told him what had happened on the night of December 6th?

Captain Krick: The Admiral was very disturbed. He said, in effect, "You realize that I have testified to the contrary," and I told him that I hadn't followed his testimony in the newspapers, and that I, therefore, didn't realize what he had done, and he implied that it should be laid before the committee, which has now been done, sir.

Mr. Richardson: Did you tell this incident to anyone else before you recalled it to Admiral Stark?

Captain Krick: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Richardson: When this hearing was going on and the newspapers were referring to Admiral Stark's knowledge, had you made any statement to anybody that you had any knowledge with reference to where Admiral Stark was on the 6th?

Captain Krick: Possibly only conversation in the family, sir. Certainly, to no one about the 6th.

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The Chairman

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Witness Krick

Questions by: Mr. Richardson
Senator Lucas

2 I just didn't give this thing very much importance in
3 my own mind, sir.

4 Mr. Richardson: There was no attempt on your part to
5 conceal it?

6 Captain Krick: Definitely not.

7 Mr. Richardson: Or not to advance the testimony?

8 Captain Krick: Definitely not. I just had not followed
9 the testimony.

10 Mr. Richardson: I have no further questions.

11 The Chairman: You never, between that night, the 6th of
12 December, 1941, and last Saturday night, the 25th of May this
13 year, you never attempted to remind Admiral Stark of the
14 events of that night which you have detailed here and which
15 you detailed to him last Saturday?

16 Captain Krick: Never, sir.

17 The Chairman: Any further questions?

18 Mr. Keefe: No questions.

19 Senator Lucas: One question.

20 The Chairman: Senator Lucas.

21 Senator Lucas: What was the exact time, Captain, that
22 you saw Admiral Stark first on the evening of the 6th?

23 Captain Krick: That I saw him first on the evening of
24 the 6th?

25 Senator Lucas: Yes.

1 Witness Krick

Questions by: Senator Lucas

2 Captain Krick: I would say in the neighborhood of 7:00
3 or 7:15, sir, at dinner. He came in from the office, as I
4 recall, about that time, sir.

5 Senator Lucas: Did you have any conversation with him
6 as to where he might have been previous to the time you saw
7 him?

8 Captain Krick: No sir, I did not, sir.

9 Senator Lucas: Did he say anything to you at that time
10 about having any conference of any kind or character with the
11 President and Cabinet officers before that dinner took place?

12 Captain Krick: No sir. As I previously testified the
13 Admiral never made any mention of his business at the office
14 in my presence, sir.

15 Senator Lucas: So you were with him from about 7:00
16 o'clock, then, until about 11:00 that night?

17 Captain Krick: 11:00 or 11:30, yes sir.

18 Senator Lucas: That night?

19 Captain Krick: Yes sir.

20 Senator Lucas: Now, when he came away from the telephone
21 after having this purported conversation with the President,
22 was there anything unusual about his appearance or demeanor,
23 as a result of that conference?

24 Captain Krick: Absolutely not, sir, he was very much as
25 he always is, apparently not disturbed, there was nothing

1 Witness Krick Questions by: Senator Lucas

2 unusual.

3 Senator Lucas: Did he make any further telephone calls
4 while you were there, to anyone?

5 Captain Krick: No sir, but I would not be in a position
6 to know, I was not in a position to know that, because his
7 telephones were in his study.

8 Senator Lucas: I mean after he came down?

9 Captain Krick: After he came down, no sir.

10 Senator Lucas: And he stayed with you until you left?

11 Captain Krick: Yes. Not to my remembrance did he make
12 any additional calls.

13 Senator Lucas: How do you remember this so well, Captain?

14 Captain Krick: Because I was a very small fish, and great
15 things were transpiring, and you don't forget that sort of
16 thing. It is not like looking down, when you look up at
17 something.

18 Senator Lucas: You were looking up, and the Pearl Harbor
19 disaster struck the following day, and the entire evening was
20 definitely impressed upon you?

21 Captain Krick: Yes sir, and it will be there for a long
22 time to come.

23 Senator Lucas: Always will be.

24 Captain Krick: Yes sir.

25 Senator Lucas: I am glad we found out where Admiral Stark

1 Witness Krick

Questions by: The Chairman

2 was.

3 The Chairman: I thought until now I was the only man
4 in the United States who knew where he was on Saturday night,
5 the 6th of December, but I find that I am not. I know where I
6 was and why I was there.

7 Senator Lucas: Even though Admiral Stark doesn't know.

8 The Chairman: Anything further?

9 Senator George: No.

10 The Chairman: Mr. Cooper.

11 The Vice Chairman: No.

12 The Chairman: I believe you stated, Captain, that having
13 served with Admiral Stark as his Flag Officer, that you were
14 friends, and you and your wife were frequent visitors at their
15 house?

16 Captain Krick: That is correct, sir, particularly was
17 that true from 1939 until the Admiral left for London in 1942,
18 the spring of 1942, sir.

19 The Chairman: I don't think there is anything further.
20 Thank you very much.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 The Chairman: The committee will adjourn, subject to
23 call.

24 (Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.)
25

