

U.I.  
113-I

RECEIVED July 8, 1953

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MEMORANDUM TO:  
Chairman H. E. Cook

CENTRAL FILES

Re: Drought conditions parts of Colorado,  
Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas

Congressman William Hill whose home is at Fort Collins, Colorado but who has been in the House of Representatives for many years and is one of the ranking members of its Agriculture Committee, as well as Chairman of the Special Committee on Small Business, told me today that the situation is very serious in certain sections of those States. He said that over the weekend the Chairman of that Committee, Mr. Hope of Kansas, and three other Congressmen flew to West Texas and by automobile drove a hundred miles inspecting at firsthand the drought stricken area of that State. Furthermore, by telephone had been in contact with bankers, farmers, ranchers, feeders and stockmen through the adjoining States. He said the parched condition and the scorched earth in the sections visited is beyond words to describe, while the sand and dust are like snow banks over the land. Furthermore, the temperatures have been of a searing nature rising well over a hundred degrees. All records for drought and continued dry weather have been broken. Furthermore, there just was not any feed for any livestock being raised in that section of the country to be utilized during the fall and coming winter. Thus, Congress acted just in time in making feed available to the livestock producers in those areas. Congressman Hill further stated that this drought has been building up for more than three years and it appears at the moment that this is a very crucial year in the history of agriculture for the entire Southwestern area including Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Apropos of all the foregoing, it is suggested and recommended that our Examination Division resurvey carefully and report to the Board of Directors at an early date the list of problem banks in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. With this information the Board of Directors will be in a much better position to confidentially appraise the situation from the banking standpoint in those areas. XCF115-A

*Maple T. Harl*  
Maple T. Harl  
Director XCF17

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D.: Records as President (White House Central Files)

Official File: Box 474

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