

Colm 250

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. J. Weldon Jones *JWJ*

DATE: February 14, 1946

FROM : Gerhard Colm *GC*SUBJECT: To Be Enthusiastic or Not To Be Enthusiastic, That Is The Question *Yeah, yeah.*

I am still somewhat worried about the line which might be suggested in the statement prepared for the President on the Employment Act of 1946.

Before the bill was final, it was well to say that it is weak and ought to be strengthened. After the bill is signed, it is, I believe, best to emphasize that it does contain a very far-reaching, historical commitment by the government that will enable the President to recommend future legislation as an implementation of a policy declared by Congress. If Congress does not go along with his future recommendations, he can point to the inconsistency by the commitment under the Full Employment Act and the unwillingness to implement it. Taft, Manasco, and other opponents of progressive legislation insist that this bill does not contain a significant commitment. If the President should apparently confirm this position, he would deprive himself and advocates of progressive legislation of a powerful argument for future legislation.

*I agree. Point was mentioned to W.A. at 12³⁰ PM today. I believe it fair to say, he agreed more "strongly" than we do — Thanks — I believe we have done all we can. *JWJ**