

May 4, 1955

Internal Memorandum

Regional Influences

It is worth noting that the first Board, both in membership and in staff, had a degree of California influence which must have been rather unusual in the political scene in that day. It can be charged, at least in theory, to the solid political fact that it was the California vote which put Woodrow Wilson into the Presidency. The story, which is easily confirmed, is that Charles Evans Hughes, who ran against Mr. Wilson, thought he was elected and on election night went to bed confident that he was the new President of the United States. The California vote, a good part of which was counted in sections far from easy communication and therefore came in more slowly, was what swung the election to Wilson.

The circumstances which led Franklin Lane to Washington can be looked up. It is said that Adolph Miller was a friend of Lane and that he went to Washington under Lane's influence. George Harrison was a Californian, born there in 1887. He went east to school, and it remains to be seen whether the family moved east before he went to college or not. Ray Gidney also went from California to the Board in its early days. Horace Albright was another Californian. So was Herman Phleger, now Counsel in the State Department, and Henry Breck. All these men went very early into the Board (with the possible exception of Albright), and there may have been others.

How important this is in the formation of attitudes is something that would have to be discovered, but at least in any account of the regional circulation of people within the System, it is worth noting.

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