When Ambassador Sackett had been in Berlin for some time the conversations were undertaken with regard to the so-called "stand still" agreement with Germany. Our government was disposed to be of such assistance as was reasonably within its power to Brüning, the then-Chancellor in Germany. Brüning was having a very difficult time to maintain his position in view of the many parties in the Reichstag. The financial situation in Germany was precarious. Unemployment was high. The Hitler movement was gathering strength. There was much unhappiness and discontent, as well as a certain amount of misery in the country. Some of the loans which had been made in and to Germany had not turned out well.

The British and the French governments, while they wished to maintain the position of Brüning as Chancellor, were not showing too great a wisdom in aiding him. They seemed to want to help and at the same time not wish to help. President Hoover, interested himself in reaching this agreement, which was known as the Stand Still Agreement, on the German debts and payments, and principally of course the heavy reparations payments. Ambassador Sackett had been a banker in Louisville and was quite understanding of the situation in Germany and realized that we should do what we could to help in order to avoid a government coming in which would be dangerous to stability. I do not go here into the details of the Stand Still Agreement and the long negotiations which led to it. I wish to recount here only an incident which took place on the evening that agreement finally was reached on the Standstill arrangements. Ambassador Sackett gave a small dinner in the Embassy residence. Ambassador and Mrs. Sackett were of course at the dinner and my wife and myself were asked. As I recall there was no one else present at the dinner except the high officer of the Department of State who was there to carry on the final conversations on the Standstill Agreement. I cannot recall who this high officer of our government was. I can determine it from the records of the Department or from my own papers later. It is sufficient here for the moment to note that he was an officer of first rank in our government. I recall that during
the course of the evening and shortly after dinner this officer telephoned to Mr. William Castle, who was then either Under Secretary of State or Chief of the Western European Division. I will have to verify this for correction in a further memorandum. I recall that during dinner this high officer of the Department talked with Castle in Washington. Everything had been cleared in Washington and in Berlin. Von Bulow was handling the matter in the German Foreign Office. When the matter was finally cleared and von Bulow could be informed that the documents could be signed, this high officer of the Department called von Bulow on the telephone. Von Bulow had been waiting at the Foreign Office to get the final word. The matter was naturally of the greatest importance to the German government. The German government was exceedingly eager that this agreement should be signed. Von Bulow had shown impatience that the negotiations towards the end were still being drawn out, but he had remained courteous. When finally this high officer of the Department was able to call von Bulow after his telephone call with Washington and informed him that everything was all fixed and now the negotiations could be closed, I was at his side when he was telephoning, as was Ambassador Sackett. We were all naturally pleased that this arrangement had been arrived at and that this news could be conveyed to von Bulow. As this high officer of the Department was giving his message to von Bulow, I saw a look of surprise come over his face. He hung up the telephone rather abruptly. He was exceedingly angry. He said, "He didn't even say thank you." These people, including the Ambassador who had worked so hard on this Standstill Agreement and realized how much attention President Hoover himself had given to the matter, were disgusted beyond measure by the attitude shown by von Bulow. It was characteristic of von Bulow that he should not say thank you. It was I am afraid characteristic of the Prussian that von Bulow was, not to say thank you. I long remembered the disillusionment which von Bulow's ungracious attitude caused among us all. von Bulow was the essence of everything that is a Prussian and I remember making that remark that evening.