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WAR PRODUCTION BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

APR 11 1945

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is in reply to Miss Thompson's letter of March 24, 1945, with which was enclosed a letter received from Mr. Hugh E. Williams of 914 Shore Drive, East Bremerton, Washington.

The supply of domestic electric ranges remaining in the national stockpile after production was entirely cut off in May, 1942 was nearly exhausted in the early part of 1943 by withdrawals to meet urgent requirements of the military agencies and war housing projects. After May, 1942, no ranges were produced until September, 1943, when it became necessary to resume production on a limited scale to meet additional requirements of the military agencies and for projects of the National Housing Agency.

Two plants only were in production during the latter part of 1943, and the ranges turned out by them were almost entirely taken by the military and housing agencies. Practically no ranges were available for essential civilian replacements until the early part of 1944 when it was found possible to increase production to some extent with the introduction of additional producers in areas where there would be no interference with war work.

Approximately 60,000 domestic electric ranges were produced during 1944, and as the requirements of the military agencies and the National Housing Agency had materially lessened, a substantial percentage of the ranges produced were made available for essential civilian use.

In December, 1944, a new program for production of domestic electric ranges was placed in effect for 1945 with annual production of 140,000 ranges, to be manufactured at the rate of 35,000 per quarter. It was expected that the expanded program would provide sufficient ranges for all anticipated military and housing needs as well as for essential civilian replacements and new installations where other types of fuel were not available, but after sharp revisions upward in military production in the latter part of December, it was necessary to impose severe restrictions in the use of manpower in areas where ranges were being produced. As a result, the quantity of ranges now being produced is substantially under the amount of the program.

Under Limitation Order L-23-b, copy of which is attached, the Consumers Durable Goods Division of the War Production Board is responsible for the production and distribution of domestic electric ranges. The order provides for distribution through normal trade channels and for apportionment to distributors and dealers on the basis of prewar shipments with adjustments for migration of war workers to certain areas.

It has been necessary to restrict delivery of electric ranges to those homes which are completely wired for the use of an electric range and where the consumer states that he has no electric range which can be repaired. Although Mr. Williams' letter does not show eligibility for purchase, it is assumed that he can qualify for purchase of a range. We are, therefore, writing the Malleable Iron Range Company of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, the producer nearest to East Bremerton, Washington, as per copy attached.

If Mr. Williams, whose letter is returned herewith, will write Mr. M. J. Maier, Vice President of the Malleable Iron Range Company, stating that he is eligible for the purchase of an electric range, his requirements will be taken care of without delay through the manufacturer's nearest distributor or dealer.

Respectfully yours,

J. A. Krug
Chairman

Enclosures

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

(Corrected Copy)

PART 3291—CONSUMERS DURABLE GOODS

[Limitation Order L-23-b, as Amended Dec. 11, 1944]

DOMESTIC ELECTRIC RANGES

The fulfillment of requirements for the defense of the United States has created a shortage in the supply of materials and facilities for defense, for private account and for export; and the following order is deemed necessary and appropriate in the public interest and to promote the national defense:

§ 3291.180 *Limitation Order L-23-b*—(a) *What this order does.* This order controls the manufacture and delivery of new domestic electric ranges. It provides for the resumption of production of these items on a limited basis.

(b) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this order:

(1) "New electric range" means any range or cooking stove designed primarily for home use having as functional parts electric heating elements of a total rated wattage of 2½ kilowatts or over, and which has never been used by a consumer.

(2) "Consumer" means any person who gets an electric range for installation or use, including a builder of a housing project.

(3) "Manufacturer" means any person who produces or assembles new electric ranges.

(4) [Deleted Dec. 11, 1944.]

(5) [Deleted Dec. 11, 1944.]

(6) "Special order" means any purchase order or contract calling for delivery to or for the account of the Army or Navy of the United States, the Veterans' Administration, the U. S. Maritime Commission, the War Shipping Administration, the Federal Public Housing Authority, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation acting for the National Housing Agency, or any purchase order or contract covered by an export license, release certificate, or Lend-Lease requisition approved or authorized by the Foreign Economic Administration.

(c) *Production of electric ranges.* (1) No person shall make any new electric ranges except in models and quantities specifically authorized by the War Production Board. Application should be made by filing Forms WPB-3700 and WPB-3820 with the field office of the War Production Board for the district in which the electric ranges will be made.

(2) The manufacture of new electric ranges will be authorized under this paragraph (c) (2) to meet approved War Production Board programs. In general, production will be authorized where it will not require materials, components, facilities or labor needed for war purposes and will not otherwise adversely affect or interfere with production for war purposes. Authorization will not be dependent upon the applicant's having been engaged in the production of electric ranges at some previous time. Upon request, the War Production Board will give notice to any manufacturer of the production authorized.

(3) When approved War Production Board programs have been met, additional production may be authorized in accordance with Priorities Regulation 25. Such additional production will be authorized on applications filed under paragraph (c) (1), and applications should not be filed on Form WPB-4000.

(d) *Relief on outstanding appeals remains in effect.* The provisions of paragraph (c) do not apply to the production or assembly of electric ranges under an appeal from Order L-23-b granted by the War Production Board before May 25, 1944.

(e) *Restriction on production of parts.* No person shall make any parts for an electric range (including repair and replacement parts) if by making those parts he would have more parts of that type in his inventory than a three months' supply. A person, however, is not required to make less than a minimum practical run of any parts (including repair and replacement parts) in order to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

(f) *WPB may direct distribution of ranges for specified purposes.* The War Production Board may direct a manufacturer as to the number of new electric ranges he may distribute for specified purposes such as housing projects, and may state the conditions under which he may sell and ship the electric ranges.

(g) *How new electric ranges may be sold to consumers.* No person may sell or deliver any new electric range to a consumer except in accordance with the rules stated below.

(1) Sales may be made to fill special orders.

(2) Sales may be made to a person who furnishes a certificate in substantially the following form:

I certify to the War Production Board and to the seller:

I own or occupy the premises at .....

They have the inside and outside wiring needed for an electric range, and my electric company has told me that electric service for range operation will be supplied. I do not have any electric range for these premises which can be used or repaired.

.....
Signature of purchaser

(3) Sales may be made to fill orders for electric ranges to be installed in housing projects approved by the National Housing Agency or War Production Board under Preference Rating Order P-55-c if the purchaser endorses on his purchase order a statement substantially as follows:

This order is placed pursuant to authority granted under Order P-55-c. I have been authorized by the War Production Board or National Housing Agency to install these electric ranges in Project No. ..... located at .....

.....

NOTE: Undesignated paragraph deleted Dec. 11, 1944.

(4) [Deleted Dec. 11, 1944.]

(5) The standard certification provided for in paragraph (d) of Priorities Regulation 7 cannot be used in place of the certificates mentioned above. A seller may not sell to a person furnishing any of these certificates if he knows or has reason to believe that the facts stated are false.

(h) *Policy for distribution of ranges.* It is the policy of the War Production Board that each manufacturer shall distribute electric ranges through his normal distribution channels taking into consideration shipments to areas during 1941, migration of workers to certain areas, and such other factors as will provide equitable distribution to meet essential needs. This does not apply to electric ranges sold on special orders or for housing projects. The War Production Board may direct the distribution of specified quantities to any area from any manufacturer's production.

(i) *Preference ratings not valid for purchase of new electric ranges.* No preference rating lower than AAA shall be valid for the purchase of new electric ranges and orders bearing such preference ratings are to be treated as unrated orders.

(j) *Reports.* Every manufacturer producing or shipping electric ranges shall file Form WPB-1600, executed in accordance with the instructions for filing that form, with the War Production Board, Washington 25, D. C., Ref: L-23-b, on or before the 15th day of July, October, January and April. This form is a report of the number of new electric ranges made and shipped during the preceding quarter.

(k) *Applicability of other orders and regulations.* This order and all transactions affected by it are subject to all applicable regulations of the War Production Board. If any other order of the War Production Board limits the use of any material in making electric ranges to a greater extent than this order does, the other order shall govern.

(l) *Violations.* Any person who wilfully violates any provision of this order or who, in connection with this order, wilfully conceals a material fact or furnishes false information to any department or agency of the United States, is guilty of a crime, and upon conviction may be punished by fine or imprison-

ment. In addition, any such person may be prohibited from making or obtaining further deliveries of, or from processing or using, material under priority control and may be deprived of priorities assistance.

(m) *Exceptions and appeals*—

(1) [Deleted Dec. 11, 1944.]

(2) *Appeals.* Any appeals from the provisions of this order, other than paragraph (c), should be filed on Form WPB-1477 (in triplicate) with the field office of the War Production Board for the district in which is located the plant or branch of the appellant to which the appeal relates. No appeal should be filed from the provisions of paragraph (c).

(n) *Communications.* All reports required to be filed hereunder, and all communications concerning this order shall, unless otherwise directed, be addressed to the War Production Board, Consumers Durable Goods Division, Washington 25, D. C., Ref: L-23-b.

NOTE: The reporting and application requirements of this order have been approved by the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with the Federal Reports Act of 1942.

Issued this 11th day of December 1944.

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD,
By J. JOSEPH WHELAN,
Recording Secretary.

NOTE: Table A deleted Dec. 11, 1944.

PART 3291—CONSUMERS DURABLE GOODS

[Limitation Order L-23-b, Interpretation 1, as Amended Dec. 11, 1944]

DOMESTIC ELECTRIC RANGES

Under Order L-23-b as amended December 11, 1944, new electric ranges may be sold to consumers who qualify under paragraphs (g) (2) or (g) (3) without obtaining authorization from the War Production Board. Persons who obtained electric ranges pursuant to an authorization of the War Production Board on Form WPB-1319 issued before May 25, 1944, may sell them under the above provisions if they are unable to use them for the purpose for which they were released. For example, if electric ranges were delivered to a dealer or builder pursuant to a WPB-1319 authorization for use in a specific housing project but cannot be used in that project, the dealer or builder may sell them to any "consumer" in accordance with paragraphs (g) (2) or (g) (3).

Issued this 11th day of December 1944.

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD,
By J. JOSEPH WHELAN,
Recording Secretary.

who qualify under paragraphs (d)
(2) without obtaining authorization
the War Production Board.
obtained electric ranges Board. Per-
tion of the ranges pursuant
WPB-1319 issued War Production
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are unable under the above May
which they were them for the
under ranges were released. For
for use in a pursuant to a WPB-1319
not be used specific housing
holder may in that project,
sell them to any
accordance with purchase

April 4, 1945

Mr. M. J. Maier, Vice President
Malleable Iron Range Company
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Maier:

Herewith copy of letter received by Mrs. Roosevelt from Mr. Hugh E. Williams of East Bremerton, Washington, also copy of Mr. Krug's reply to Mrs. Roosevelt after the matter had been referred to him.

In the event that Mr. Williams can show evidence of eligibility for the purchase of an electric range, will you please arrange to supply one to him through your nearest distributor or dealer.

Yours very truly,

Vernon K. Perkins
Electric Goods Branch
Consumers Durable Goods Division
WPB Dept. 7720

Enclosure

MAR 19 1945

SEATTLE
WASHINGTON

March 14 1945

Dear Mrs Roosevelt;

I am writing you in the hope you can do something about a situation that exists for exservice men.

I have recently been brought back to the States and Hon discharged. Believing I could help the war effort I returned to Bremerton to work in the Navy Yard. We were able to buy a house but when we tried to furnish it our trouble began. The worst has been our effort to get an electric stove. The stores all are willing to take our name and put us on the waiting list but dont hold out any hopes for 4 or 5 months. We were sent to the W.P.B. in Seattle to get a priority and they told us the was no such a thing. They quoted the law - on stoves to us, which said they were to give veterans any assistance they could. That consisted of telling us to go buy one as we didnt need a priority.

SEATTLE
WASHINGTON

I believe some effort should be made by the Goverment to make it possible for men returning to civilian life to get some of the things that are considered a necessity to reestablish a home. These commodities are being made but it isnt possible for a returning veteran to get them without a long wait

Thanking you for anything you can do

Respectfully yours

Hugh E Williams
914 Shore Drive
East Bremerton
Wash.

3745

Ward

Chicago, Illinois
May 21, 1945

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a magazine published by the South Shore Country Club of Chicago, in which I would like you to read the article on "Fala".

Mr. Frederick Herendeen, who is the president of the Club, wrote this article which I think is a very touching tribute to our dear, departed President.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Ward

Herbert Ward

HW/rh
Enc.

filed
VF "Fala"