

PSF: Subject File; Wax Production Board: General

Retired

PSF: WPB follow - 44

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

FROM: HARRY HOPKINS

I saw Nelson this morning. He is willing to get out of the WPB at once. But he wants a graceful exit from the Government. He would be very happy to have you say that you want him to take some responsibility for promoting our foreign trade. I am quite sure this is a good way out if Hull will agree. But I don't think it should be announced until Hull has agreed.

PSF: WPB- 2-45

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~



*file*

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

JAN 9 - 1945

My dear Mr. President:

Your memorandum of January 5 requesting the fullest possible assistance to the U.S.S.R. will be implemented by the War Production Board to the limit of practicability.

We are very glad to see that this Government is disposed to consider requirements for a Fifth Protocol since the production of much of the equipment which is likely to be required needs advance planning, and steps to that end ought to begin soon if there is to be a continued flow of supplies after June 30, 1945.

Sincerely yours,

*J. A. Krug*

J. A. Krug

The President  
The White House

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(K) and 5(D) or (4)  
Commerce Dept. Letter, 11-16-78  
By RHP, Bels MAR 28 1973

~~SECRET~~

...: PSF: War Production. Bf: ...

GRAIN /

FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

✓ HON. MARVIN JONES  
HON. ADOLF A. BERLE, JR.

TO READ AND PLEASE PREPARE

A JOINT REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE.

WAR FOOD  
ADMINISTRATION  
**FILED**  
ADMINISTRATOR'S  
RECORDS

F. D. R.

*Should not be referred to  
State Dept - after*

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD, X

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 8, 1943

1 file  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
OCT 8 2 20 PM '43  
RECEIVED

①

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of a letter which we have just sent to Mr. Berle, Acting Secretary of State, which will show that your directive to release 60,000 bushels of corn from our industrial stockpile to Mexico as an urgent emergency step has been complied with.

May I take this opportunity to point out to you, however, that the importation of feedstuffs in greater quantity from Argentina will not permit replacement in the industrial stockpile of the corn now being released, although this has, no doubt, been represented to you as being a possible compensatory step. In the first place, the arrangements have already been concluded with the War Shipping Administration, independently of the Mexican crisis, for importing to the limit of available shipping, and at the expense of some elements of the war program, all the barley and linseed available in the Argentine. Further importation of wheat for feed purposes has also been arranged. There is no corn available from the Argentine due to the drastic crop failure of last year and the export embargo which has been put on by Argentina.

The replenishment of the feedstuffs will not affect the movement of corn in any case since the importation of feedstuffs will be into the deficit areas for poultry and dairy feeding, notably the Southeast and the East. The plain fact is that corn is not moving from the farms even for feed purposes in the Middle West. There is a serious danger that the war industries depending on corn products from the wet and dry millers may face further shutdowns and loss of labor unless a fundamental solution of the corn problem is reached very soon. The palliatives which have heretofore been attempted have not touched the basic factors of the discrepancy between the supported hog price for overweight hogs and the ceiling price for corn which has heretofore caused most of the difficulty in this area.

I take this occasion to call to your attention the



13

The President - 2

fact that the war program is seriously jeopardized by having to restrict the movement of iron ore on the Lakes to make up the deficiency in feed grains caused by failure to get the last two bumper crops of corn moved into anything but the feeding of hogs. The iron ore that is presently being moved down the Lakes has been cut back in order to remedy a truly desperate situation in the eastern feed area and in the southeastern drought area to a point below which it is impossible to go without endangering the steel program next year. Another late opening on the Lakes and bad weather would reduce our stocks of iron ore to the vanishing point.

At the urgent request of the War Food Administration we have also had to import molasses to the amount of well nigh the total available during the next year in the Caribbean area for the manufacture of ethyl alcohol for the rubber and other programs because the Food Administrator could no longer make the wheat which he had urged upon us available. The wheat shortage, as you will readily understand, has been created by failure to move corn into the accustomed feed channels and by the impossibility of moving adequate wheat from Canada in the present state of transportation shortages. I should like to point out that the tankers which have been put into the movement of molasses for the alcohol program could have been made available to the Petroleum Administrator because of the shortage of petroleum products in District 1 and the very tight tanker position which still obtains.

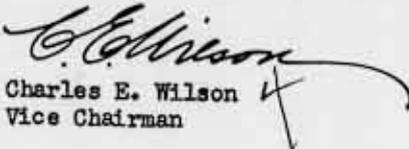
It would be possible to point out many other impacts on the war program, as well as on the dairy, poultry and livestock programs of the country which have been produced by the failure to work out a method of moving corn from the farms on which it is more profitable to feed the corn to the hogs.

May I respectfully urge, therefore, that any relief for the Mexican situation, which has been represented to you as being critical by the Acting Secretary of State, should not be made at the expense of the war program, but should be made from such stocks as the Food Administrator may be able to mobilize from other sources. I would also like, respectfully, to draw to your attention that the recurring crisis in the war program which depends upon starches, dextrans and core binders for foundry products that has been produced by the corn shortage is quite likely to appear during the next year unless suitable steps are taken to reduce the hog population at its levels of

The President - 3

inflated weights to proportions more in balance with the rest of the food and war programs. I trust that you will accept this as a frank statement of a matter of the greatest seriousness to war production. I feel certain of the support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in this matter as you will see from the enclosed letter to the War Food Administrator from the Undersecretaries of War and Navy.

Sincerely,

  
Charles E. Wilson  
Vice Chairman

(2321)

*Amo*

*PSF: WPB folder 2-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

CHARLIE WILSON:

I wanted you to see this copy  
of a letter before you and Don come  
in to see me. There are many others.

I will certainly see you both  
as soon as I get out of bed.

F.D.R.

Transmitting copy of  
letter from Lawrence D. Bell, President,  
National Aircraft War Production Council, Inc.,  
American Building, Washington 4, D. C.,  
12/14/43, to the President, urging the President  
to persuade Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice  
Chairman of the WPB, to remain in the service  
of the Govt.

STANDARD  
LIFE ASSURANCE

**NATIONAL AIRCRAFT WAR PRODUCTION COUNCIL, INC.**  
AMERICAN BUILDING • WASHINGTON 4. D. C.

TELEPHONE  
DISTRICT 1322

December 14, 1943

My Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board, expects to return to private industry at an early date.

In my opinion it would be a tragic loss to the Nation if Mr. Wilson were to leave the War Production Board at this time. He has done an outstanding job, and the current status of the airplane program is itself a tribute to his genius for organization and production.

Speaking as President of the National Aircraft War Production Council, Inc., which represents the major aircraft companies from coast to coast, I urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to persuade Mr. Wilson to remain in the service of the Government.

Sincerely,

*Lawrence D. Berg*  
President

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

**Aircraft War Production Council, Inc.**

BOEING • CONSOLIDATED VULTEE • DOUGLAS • LOCKHEED • NORTHROP • NORTH AMERICAN • RYAN • VEGA

**Aircraft War Production Council, East Coast, Inc.**

AVIATION CORP. • BELL • BREWSTER • CURTISS-WRIGHT • EASTERN AIRCRAFT GMC • FAIRCHILD • MARTIN • REPUBLIC

(2302)

PSF: W.P.B. Jeldu 2-44

*Thms*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

PRIVATE            January 4, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

CHARLIE WILSON:

Before you and Don come in a few days from now, I thought you would like to see the enclosed copy of a note to me from Bob Patterson and Jim Forrestal!

Please return for my files.

F.D.R.

Memorandum for the President, signed jointly by Hon. Robert P. Patterson and Hon. James Forrestal, 12/31/43, a copy of which has been retained for our files. In accordance with Dorothy Brady's instructions, the original was sent to Mr. Wilson, and the copy retained for our files.

CONFIDENTIAL  
DO NOT WRITE HERE

P  
Y

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

31 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

We understand that Charlie Wilson may request a meeting with you next week with a view to asking that he be permitted to resign.

It is our feeling that under no circumstances should he be permitted to do so. Both from the standpoint of its effect upon the country - with the connotation that the bulk of the war production job is finished - and of the need of his services on important segments of the program which are not yet over the hump, such as octane gasoline and landing craft, his leaving would have serious consequences.

Respectfully,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON  
ROBERT P. PATTERSON  
UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR

JAMES FORRESTAL (Signed)  
JAMES FORRESTAL  
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY