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PRESS INTELLIGENCE
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PH. _____

SY. **CD**

Post (I) Ky. Ed.
Cincinnati, Ohio

DATE APR 10 1944

Engine Production at Wright 'Way Up, Two Truman Committee Senators Say

Output Here Started Rising After Hearing Held Last August

"Aircraft engine production at Wright is 'way up," two members of the Truman Committee said Monday.

Senators Harley M. Kilgore (D., W. Va) and Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.) gave this appraisal of production at the Wright Aeronautical Corp. plant here shortly before they left to appear as witnesses at the courtmartial of three Army officers formerly stationed at the engine plant.

"We can't give out the exact figures," said Sen. Kilgore, "but our committee's aircraft consultant said production at Wright was high, 'way up, when he last looked into it."

Sen. Ferguson recalled that the Truman Committee held an open hearing at Cincinnati in August, 1943, to investigate a sudden slump in production.

"Right after that hearing, production figures started climbing," the Michigan senator said.

The Truman Committee mem-



Sen. Homer Ferguson

Kilgore, Ferguson Now Making Plans For Reconversion

"It will be possible," Sen. Kilgore said, "to go through the transition from war to peace-time production without slumps or depressions, but it can't be done unless there is national planning."

Both were agreed that the over-all planning and reconversion should be placed in the hands of a central agency, an Office of Demobilization.

"There is no need," Sen. Ferguson cautioned, "for slackening war production."

"It can be done," the West Virginia senator cut in, "the same way that aircraft plants shift over from one model to another. First one department, where work has slowed down, then another, starts making the parts for the new model and slowly the entire plant is converted to producing the new model. The same thing can be done by careful planning for reconversion to peacetime production."

bers admitted that they are not spending much time on aircraft production studies at present. The committee is concentrating now on reconversion and demobilization plans.