

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
1194 - Soc. Sec. Bldg.

PH. _____

SY. (00)

Democrat & Chronicle
Rochester, N. Y. (R)

DATE JUN 12 1944

p.

SENATE GROUP PLANS TRIP FOR ELMIRA PROBE

Washington — (GNS) — Homer Ferguson, (R, Mich.), a member of the Truman Investigating Committee, told Gannett National Service last night a subcommittee planned to visit the government-built bombsight plant at Elmira, N. Y., late this week and take testimony in the "Corrigan case," if the Senate calendar of business permits.

Senator Ferguson emphasized that the plan was tentative. The Senate calendar is heavy.

"But we do want to go and will go if we can get away Thursday or Friday," he said.

He said the subcommittee, if it can make the trip, will consist of three Senators, two Democrats and himself.

May Be Postponed

"I understand that Senator Harvey Kilgore, (D., W. Va.), would like to go up there," Ferguson said. "I have no idea who the third Senator may be."

Ferguson said if the trip should have to be postponed it might be made at some later time, after the Republican national convention in Chicago June 26. Ferguson and many other Senators plan to leave Washington June 23 or before, for Chicago.

He made it plain he considered it essential that a subcommittee go to Elmira for first-hand information as part of the Truman Committee's investigation of relationship between Com. John D. Corrigan, suspended ordnance inspector for the Navy, and his New York engineering consultants firm of Corrigan, Osborne and Wells.

The Elmira plant was operated by Remington Rand, Inc., but later turned over to the Norden company after Corrigan had made inspections. During Truman Committee hearings in Washington it was brought out that the Norden company paid Corrigan's New York firm more than \$100,000 in fees for consulting work there and at the Norden plant in New York City, after the changeover.

Approval Claimed

Ferguson said it had not been decided whether hearings at Elmira would be open or closed.

The Truman Committee has suspended its Washington hearing, both closed and open, rather than risk taking Naval officers from their work while the European invasion is getting into full swing.

Corrigan declared on the witness stand that whatever he did was approved by his superior officers. At least one has been heard in closed session, since that statement.

Last week a Truman Committee spokesman denied a New York columnist's report that the committee would send investigators to Elmira. Ferguson said committee members since became convinced that at least a subcommittee ought to go.