

Senator Kilgore

M E M O R A N D U M

October 23, 1943

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TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE:

On Saturday morning, October 23, Senator Holman demanded that the Committee investigate charges of Army favoritism to the Clark Equipment Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, and discrimination against Ford-Ferguson (Henry Ford) in industrial tractors. The charge is that Captain Hugh Conklin of the Quartermaster Corps (former employee and brother to James Conklin, General Manager of the Clark Company) and Major Max Goodwin in charge of allocation of materials (former District representative of the Clark Company) have funneled \$65,000,000 of orders to Clark which cannot be completed for a year, and have prevented the use by the Army of Ford-Ferguson tractors, highly valued by the Navy, despite the fact that Ford-Ferguson could produce 5,000 units per month, starting January, at a price of \$1,290 instead of \$1,475, the Clark figure.

Recently Ford-Ferguson got an Army contract because of the imperative necessity for immediate delivery for use in the European theatre. Two hundred units were to be delivered in November, yet Captain Conklin insisted upon incorporating into the contract, provisions which would require important redesigning of Ford-Ferguson tractors, making it impossible for it to make scheduled deliveries.

Colonel F. J. Moran of the Quartermaster Corps and Colonel Hamilton were supposed to know of the Clark connections, and were also supposed to have stated that the Clark tractor is an assembly job, incorporating parts of engines of different character made by different companies. They were said to have stated that it is most difficult to maintain a supply of parts because

of these differences in the Clark tractor. A Mr. Andrew Merle, Extension 73844 of the War Department, is supposed to have been a Captain, now reduced to civilian status, and is supposed to have been discriminated against because of his objections to the Clark monopoly. The need for quick deliveries of these tractors is supposed to be something on which Major Bergen of the War Production Board can testify.

Senator Kilgore is of the opinion that a private hearing should be held on Monday afternoon, October 25, at 3:00 o'clock, at which time the above mentioned officers and representatives of the Clark and Ford-Ferguson Companies can be asked to inform the Committee of the facts. Mr. Amberg has assured me that he will have the officers present.


HUGH FULTON