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May 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM:

TO: SENATOR KILGORE

FROM: MR. FULTON

I am attaching hereto confidential information from the Chief of the Bureau of Ships of the Navy concerning Naval activities in the Gulf Area.

Frank Howard of the Standard Oil Company had heard indirectly that the Committee planned to be in the New Orleans area and stated that he would very much like to have an opportunity to show us the Standard Oil Plant at Baton Rouge. He stated that the plant is about two hours drive from New Orleans, and that his Company would be glad to furnish automobiles. The plant facilities there include a ten-ton per day perbunum plant. Perbunum is Buna-N made from butadienne and acrylic-nitrile. The Baton Rouge plant also contains a Vapor-Phase plant which produces eight tons a day of butadienne, and 40 tons a day of ethylene. In addition, there is a butadienne plant that produces 18 tons a day which is well along towards completion, and a Government butadienne plant to produce 41 tons of butadienne a day which has just about started. The perbunum plant, although producing Buna-N, could be used to produce Buna-S, the polymerization process being the same, and the difference being that styrene would be used instead of acrylic-nitrile. The butyl plants operate at low temperature and are completely different from Buna-S or Buna-N plants.

I told Mr. Howard that I thought that you would desire to see the plants and that you probably would prefer to do so on Monday, leaving the hotel at around 9:00 in the morning. He asked if there was any objection to extending an invitation to you and through his local officials to extend an invitation to Senator Ellender, and I told him I



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thought there would be none, that you were Chairman of the subcommittee.

Senator Ellender has received an invitation to provide the Committee with a yacht for the purpose of touring the New Orleans harbor and to inspect the shipyards there. I told his secretary that it would have to be cleared with you, but that it was possible that you might be willing to do that on Tuesday if you did not go to Camp Shelby. I suggest that the answer be made that it was possible, and that further check should be made with you and Senator Ellender after you arrive in New Orleans.

Enc.

HAF:avh