

October 21, 1943

RELEASE IMMEDIATELY:

Senator Harry S. Truman announced today:

"At the request of Senator Tom Connally and a number of the leading citizens of Dallas, Texas, Senator Mon C. Wallgren (Democrat, Washington), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aircraft and Senator Homer Ferguson, (Republican, Michigan) a Member of the Subcommittee on Aircraft, investigated charges that the North American Plant at Dallas was not operating efficiently and was not utilizing those already employed by it. This was a most serious charge.

"The Subcommittee of the Truman Committee heard approximately 250 witnesses in private hearings and turned over the record to Mr. Charles E. Wilson of the War Production Board, who was selected by the President to supervise the aircraft industry because of his outstanding achievements as a production expert and as head of General Electric Company.

"Mr. Wilson has informed the Truman Committee that in his opinion the Dallas plant can and must be operated more efficiently and that he will go to Dallas and study the production situation thoroughly --

introducing promptly such remedial action as is necessary to better utilize labor and achieve greater production efficiency.

"It is most important that every one now employed at the North American Dallas plant remain at work and cooperate with the management to the utmost in carrying out Mr. Wilson's suggestions. For the time being, there may not be sufficient work for all of them, but Mr. Wilson is going to try to institute changes which will provide work. His efforts will be hampered if large numbers of employees quit.

"The Truman Committee expects the War Department to cooperate fully with Mr. Wilson and to take any official action necessary to carry out the suggestions which he will make. The Truman Committee will check to make certain that progress along these lines is made.

"The North American Aviation Company has made a great contribution to the war effort in developing and producing the Mustang fighter and the Mitchell bomber, two of our finest planes. The North American plant at Dallas is only one of a number of plants in the aircraft industry that is not producing what we are entitled to expect. We cannot permit manpower to be wasted. Hoarding of manpower must stop.

"The Truman Committee a year ago reported the imperative



necessity of utilizing manpower efficiently and pointed out that the manpower requirements of the war effort could not be met unless wasteful methods were eliminated. Today we are at the bottom of the manpower barrel. The situation in Dallas, Texas, illustrates the extent to which manpower is still being wasted.

"The War Manpower Commission has sought to deal with this condition by declaring that Dallas is a critical labor area. This was done because of the supposed additional future labor needs of the North American plant. That action does not increase the labor supply. It only prevents labor from being used for other purposes, however necessary, until the requests of the North American plant have been met. The records of the War Manpower Commission show that 87 per cent of the total demand for labor during the four months after August was for the North American plant, and that the supply of labor would be adequate except for the demands in the North American plant.

"Mr. Wilson has informed the Committee that in his opinion the North American plant at Dallas cannot usefully employ more men, except for replacements, until it has increased the efficiency of its operations. The Truman Committee has attempted to inform

Mr. Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, of the results of its investigation at Dallas and has told him of Mr. Wilson's position.

"The Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 28 at 10:30 a. m. in Room 318 of the Senate Office Building, at which Mr. McNutt will be asked to explain his methods of dealing with the manpower problem and the basis for his decisions with respect to Dallas and the North American Aviation plant."