

Sen Kilgore

October 14, 1943

*Truman  
Comm.*

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH  
MR. JAMES BYRNES ON NORTH-AMERICAN-DALLAS:

As directed by Senator Truman, I informed Mr. Byrnes of the facts with respect to the Dallas situation, including the conferences with Mr. McNutt and Mr. Patterson and Mr. Wilson.

He stated that he sympathized with the Committee's position in the matter and asked what could be done about it. I stated that Mr. Charles Wilson of the War Production Board had expressed dissatisfaction with the efficiency of the North American Dallas plant, had requested a copy of the record and was going to study it during the next few days, and had stated that he would inform the Committee as to the steps which he thought might properly be taken. I also stated that if Mr. Wilson found that the plant could be operated more efficiently and that under present conditions it could not usefully use many more men than it now has, Mr. McNutt should be willing and anxious to take these facts into consideration and to determine upon the basis of them whether it was necessary or proper to place Dallas in the Group One Critical Labor Area and thereby deprive other war producers of labor for other contracts.

Mr. Byrnes stated that that seemed a very sensible position to him, that he would talk with Mr. Wilson, that he would take care of the situation with respect to Mr. McNutt, and suggested that the Committee take no further action until the middle of next week, which will give an opportunity for him and Mr. Wilson to develop the facts.

I will check on Tuesday with Mr. Wilson to ascertain the progress which has been made and to arrange for Mr. Wilson's appearance in a private session with the Subcommittee on Aviation, if that is desirable.

*Hugh Fulton*  
HUGH FULTON  
Chief Counsel