

*Senator Kibben*

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

October 15, 1943

FROM: MR. FULTON

Commander Kennedy desires that the Committee be informed that the Navy is about to make the largest cut of the war, as far as it is concerned, by cutting back the production of DE (Destroyer Escort) boats and submarine chasers. These would include 110-foot wood-chasers, 173-foot steel chasers, 180-foot steel-chasers and a large number of the DE's. The reason for the cut is that the combined Chiefs of Staff have determined that by reason of changes in the strategy and progress of the war, it will not be necessary to build more of these ships. At the same time, the Navy is trying to increase production for boats for amphibious operation such as the LST and a new boat of similar design, which will take up some of the slack.

Commander Kennedy stated that he merely wanted the Committee to know these things on the assumption that the Committee would understand any cuts of this kind for these reasons. He stated that it might appear that individual cases might be cut too much, in view of materials, or too little and that the Navy will, from time to time, be faced with difficult problems of adjustment and would be willing to consider any complaints to whatever extent the complaints had real merit. He pointed out that, undoubtedly, some operators would feel that they were cut back too

far as compared with other operators. He was merely in effect, anticipating complaints which obviously will be made. At the present time, the Committee has no complaints from anyone on this score.