

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

24 November 1943.

Honorable Harry S. Truman,
Chairman, Senate Committee Investigating the
National Defense Program,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Truman:

At the Committee's hearings on Canol yesterday, I stated that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had determined that the completion and operation of the Canol Project is necessary to the war effort. On thinking the matter over, I concluded that perhaps the Committee would be interested in the manner in which the project had come before the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In September, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the setting up of a Joint Production Survey Committee, composed of Army and Navy representatives, to review various production and related programs with a view to recommending to the Joint Chiefs of Staff the continuation, abandonment or curtailing of respective projects in the light of changing military needs. The Joint Production Survey Committee is an agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. One of the projects which the Committee reviewed was Canol. The War Department had no part in the inception of the review, the recommendations of the Committee or the conclusions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Committee held hearings at which various witnesses testified. I believe that representatives of Petroleum Administration for War, among others, expressed their views and opinions at these hearings.

After the hearings were concluded, the Joint Production Survey Committee reported that the completion and operation of the Canol project is necessary to the war effort and recommended that the project be completed and operated as soon as practicable and that consideration be given to exploration and development for a full recovery of the predicted reserves in the Norman field. On October 26, 1943, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the report and recommendations of the Committee.

I shall appreciate it if you will make this letter a part of the Canol record. I am sending a copy of this letter to each of the other members of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT P. PATTERSON,
Under Secretary of War.