

*Iruman* COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

May 20, 1944

A hearing of the Committee with respect to the distribution and allocation of paper will be held in Room 318 at 10 A.M. on Monday May 22. Mr. Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board will be the witness. He will explain revisions and amendments which WPB is considering making in the regulations governing distribution and allocation. The hearings on paper will extend through Tuesday and possibly Wednesday.

On Thursday, May 25 at 10: A.M. the Committee will begin public hearings in Room 318 on the activities of Corrigan, Osburne & Wells, and of Commander John D. Corrigan.

"Investigation during the past several months and testimony taken at private hearings indicates that:

- (1) Corrigan, Osburne & Wells is a corporation engaged in furnishing engineering and management consultation services, primarily to the Navy and companies holding Navy contracts.
- (2) Commander Corrigan was co-founder and president. He is half-owner of the stock of Corrigan, Osburne & Wells and has received a substantial income from this company. His duties with the Navy Department, according to him, are the investigation and analysis of firms who are behind schedule on ordnance material to determine what must be done to get production. A number of such firms have hired Corrigan, Osburne & Wells almost simultaneously with inspection examinations by Commander Corrigan and criticisms by him of their work.

"The purpose of the public hearings is to establish the nature and extent of the relations between Commander Corrigan and his corporation and its clients, the Navy contracts affected and the responsibility within the Navy Department for permitting the situation to arise and to continue.

"The contracts affected include those for the manufacture of one of the most important instruments of war.

"Commander Corrigan will be the first witness and will be followed by officials of some of the companies investigated by him on behalf of the Navy, which hired or were requested to hire his corporation."