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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM

September 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

FROM: Mr. George Meader

SUBJECT: Engineers' Section Columbus Army Service
Forces Depot

Around the first of May a complaint was made to the Committee that the Engineers' Section of the Columbus Army Service Forces Depot was doing a very poor job of supplying spare parts for engineers' vehicles, both in the United States and for combat theatres. This depot is the only source for such parts and 90% of its business was for overseas shipment. The depot was so far behind in filling its requisitions for shipments that approximately four months time would be required to catch up, not counting the requisitions that were coming in daily.

On May 5, 1944 a letter was addressed to Mr. Amberg, requesting certain information as to the operation of this depot. The War Department thereupon stated to the Committee that the poor condition of this depot was recognized by the War Department and that it was forthwith taking steps to correct the situation, and would prefer that any investigation by the Committee be postponed until their reorganization was completed, on the theory that the

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investigation might make their reorganization more difficult. It was estimated that this work would be completed by July 1, 1944, but it was not actually completed until August 20, 1944, when a reply to the letter of May 5, 1944 was made.

The hearing to be held at the Army Service Forces Depot on Friday, September 15, 1944, will be a public hearing, and will be for the purpose of presenting to the Committee the facts with regard to the unsatisfactory condition of the depot this spring, the reasons therefor and the steps the Army has taken to correct it. It will also serve as a specific example of the Army's stock control and inventory system, which will form a good basis for subsequent depot investigations.



George Header
Executive Assistant
to Chief Counsel