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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM

September 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Kilgore

Subject: Witnesses and their testimony, Executive Hearings,
Boston, Massachusetts, September 6, 1944.

I. 10:00 A.M. - Navy procurement of electric switches.

Witness:

Mr. Malcom F. MacNeil, Pres., Ark-Les
Switch Corporation.

Testimony:

1. Background of Corporation.
2. Irregularities in bids.
3. Irregularities and delays in tests and design changes.
4. Delays in deliveries of equipment and effect on naval shipbuilding program.
5. Recommendations for corrective action.

(Mr. MacNeil will submit a prepared statement. Mr. Ray Warren, Washington Representative and Mr. G. C. Barry, Vice-Pres. and Sales Manager for Ark-Les will also be present to give corroborating testimony if needed.)

II. 1:00 P.M. - War Department waste at the Boston Port of Embarkation.

Witnesses:

Mr. George E. Rice, former Chief of Engineering Section, Post Engineers Branch at the Port.

Mr. Jackson B. Williams, former Chief Inspector of Construction at the Port.

Testimony:

1. Witnesses are prepared to testify concerning seventeen (17) instances of waste in

connection with construction and alterations made at the Port contrary to Army regulations.

2. With respect to each instance, they should be questioned concerning the nature and location in War Department files of documents supporting their allegations.

(The witnesses claim they were unfairly discharged by the War Department and have requested committee assistance in clearing their personnel records.)

III. 3:00 P.M. Military Services' opposition to rubber vulcanizing of soles of military shoes.

Witness:

Mr. Leon Conant.

Testimony:

1. Discussion of rubber vulcanizing process.
2. Efforts to obtain approval of process by military services.
3. Reasons for lack of approval.

(Mr. Conant alleges that the Armed Services have not approved this process because of opposition to it by the United Shoe Machinery Corporation, which has a monopoly on sole stitching and nailing machines. These machines might become obsolete if the process was widely used.)