

September 7, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN:

The function has been assigned to me of allocating among the various departments and agencies the numerous special studies now urgently required to provide a basis for dealing with the economic problems raised by the European war. I am most eager that as much of this work as possible be assigned to the Board's Division of Research and Statistics. For this purpose an expansion of personnel, particularly in Mr. Despres' section, seems to be required at once.

With this in mind, I interviewed yesterday Dr. J. Marschak, a record of whose past activities and economic and statistical writings is attached. I am convinced that Dr. Marschak is quite exceptionally qualified for analytical and statistical work of the type which we require, and I recommend that he be given an appointment as senior economist, at a salary of \$5600 a year, to work in Mr. Despres' division. The fact that Dr. Marschak is an alien should not, I think, be permitted to interfere with his appointment because, as you know, the supply of qualified people for this type of work is becoming exceedingly short. Just today, I was informed of the creation of eight new economic posts at the War Industries Board; the Department of Commerce and the National Resources Board have found difficulty in securing a sufficient number of the right sort of people for the new jobs there. The greater flexibility enjoyed by the Board than by most Government departments and agencies with respect to the hiring of aliens makes it possible in this instance for the Board to secure the services of an exceptionally well qualified economic analyst.

Dr. Marschak has a university post for the academic year which begins later this month. It is therefore essential that an appointment be tendered to him at once, if he is to be added to the Board's staff. He is, of course, prepared to apply immediately for citizenship.

Lauchlin Currie

Attachment