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February 18, 1943

Memorandum for the Files:

In connection with the letter of February 15 from Major General Allen W. Gullion, the Provost Marshal General, addressed to Mr. Szymczak in regard to the preparation of certain material for the use of the War Department, Mr. Szymczak asked me to get together a record of what had been done on this matter leading up to General Gullion's letter and Mr. Szymczak's reply of February 16.

He said that Mr. Gardner and Mr. Knapp were acquainted with the developments. There is attached to the file a memorandum dated February 17 from Mr. Knapp on the substance of the program of work. In addition, Mr. Knapp advised me over the telephone this morning that the first conversation on this subject was with Colonel Miller (representing the War Department) in Governor Szymczak's office on January 15, when Colonel Miller outlined the subjects listed in Mr. Knapp's memorandum of February 17 and asked that the Board give consideration to undertaking the job. Mr. Knapp said that subsequently there were several telephone conversations, of which he does not have a record, but that the next definite step that occurred was another visit from Colonel Miller on February 5 when he was advised by Governor Szymczak that the Board had agreed to undertake the job.

This visit had been preceded by informal discussions by Governor Szymczak with Chairman Eccles and Messrs. Evans and Ransom in their capacity as the Personnel Committee of the Board for the purpose of ascertaining whether they would give informal approval to the increase in personnel which would necessarily be required in order to carry on the work. In addition, Mr. Szymczak discussed the matter with Mr. Draper. Mr. McKee was out of town at the time when these discussions took place. Mr. Szymczak was advised informally that all the other members of the Board (not including Mr. McKee because of his absence) approved the program.

This was the background of Mr. Szymczak's letter of February 16 to General Gullion containing the statement that the Board had considered and had agreed to undertake to do the job on the subject referred to in General Gullion's letter of February 15.

Secretary.

attachments

COPY

February 16, 1943

Dear General Gullion:

The Board has considered and has agreed to undertake to do the job on the subject referred to in your letter of February 15.

We are more than anxious to do it as quickly and as well as possible.

From time to time we shall keep in touch with your office to advise you of our progress.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Szymczak.

Major General A. W. Gullion
The Provost Marshal General
War Department
Washington, D.C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Services of Supply
Office of the Provost Marshal General
Washington

February 15, 1943

COPY

Honorable M. S. Szymczak, Governor,
Federal Reserve Board,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Governor Szymczak:

I have been advised that your Board has now definitely agreed to undertake the preparation for the War Department of the work which has been the subject of many recent verbal discussions between you and members of my office. May I express my personal and official gratification upon the outcome of these conversations.

The completion of this task at the earliest possible moment is so important that I feel I should reemphasize the vital time factor that is involved. Speed is indeed of the essence and, when the magnitude of the undertaking is considered, I am doubly impressed by your complete willingness to assume it.

I do hope that, in accepting this most important mission, your Board will not have too seriously encumbered its own activities.

Sincerely yours,

/S/Allen W. Gullion,
Major General,
The Provost Marshal General.