

Form F. R. 511

TO

E. T.

FROM

REMARKS:

I talked to
Mr. Hickley over
the phone re Fred &
read most of this
memo to him. He
would be glad to meet
him. The active partisan
political activity might
make it necessary

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

to defer the same
appointment until
after Nov. 7th.

LC

July 25, 1944.

TO - Mr. Eccles
FROM - Elliott Thurston

With regard to Colonel Fred G. Sherrill, he comes from an old Long Island family, his family home being in Easthampton, Long Island. He is about 51 years old and was graduated from the Military Academy at West Point during the last war and remained in the service until the late 20's, when he resigned from the Army and became the Executive Manager for the J. G. Boswell Company of Los Angeles. I understand that this company conducts one of the biggest cotton operations in the United States, owning or leasing extensive areas for raising long-staple cotton in California and dealing in cottonseed products, etc.

After we got into the war, the War Department asked Sherrill to come back into service, and he was eventually put in charge of all lumber purchases under a coordinated plan covering the Army, Navy, and, I believe, other procurement groups. He is Chief of the Materials and Equipment Section under the Chief of Engineers* and has the rank of a colonel, though I understand his assignment has recently been considerably enlarged and he has the responsibilities and duties formerly shouldered by a major general.

Sherrill is a Republican in politics, but an extremely forward-looking and liberal one, especially in international affairs. I have known him personally for more than twenty years and have always been impressed by his exceptional diligence and industry as well as his very high order of intelligence. One numbers among acquaintances very few who are by nature seemingly tireless workers with a capacity to grasp an infinite amount of detail and to form broad judgments and make decisions. Colonel Sherrill is one of the few men I have known who fit this description.

Although Colonel Sherrill is a teetotaler with none of the ordinary human weaknesses, except an occasional personally tailored so-called cigarette, he is decidedly a man's man. He is evidently a forceful speaker, as evidenced by the attached clipping from a publication of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, which speaks for itself. As to all the essentials of high character and integrity, there is no question but what Colonel Sherrill is absolutely beyond reproach. Whether he could be interested in further Government work, I do not know, but he undoubtedly has a leaning towards public service.



Attachment

*Colonel Sherrill has recently been made Chief of Procurement, Corps of Engineers.

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Timber Topics, "Col. Sherrill's Speech Lauded as Outstanding Highlight of Session," January-February 1944.