

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Statement for the Press

For release in morning newspapers of
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April 10, 1942

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System announced today adoption of Regulation V to carry out the President's Executive Order No. 9112 of March 26, 1942, for the purpose of facilitating and expediting the financing of war production. The Regulation was adopted after consultation with the War Department, the Navy Department, and the United States Maritime Commission following conferences in which representatives of the War Production Board participated.

The objective, as set forth in Regulation V, is to facilitate and expedite production for war purposes by arranging for the financing of contractors, subcontractors and others engaged in businesses or operations deemed by the armed services and the Maritime Commission to be necessary for the prosecution of the war.

The War Department has sent initial instructions to the Federal Reserve Banks covering the authority and procedure to be followed by them in acting for the War Department under the Board's Regulation. The program embraces financial aid for contractors and subcontractors, both large and small, and contemplates the maximum participation of small business enterprises in war production.

Regulation V prescribes general rules and policies to govern the operations of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks, which will act as fiscal agents of the armed services and the Maritime Commission in carrying out the President's Executive Order. The utilization of the facilities of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks and their twenty-four branches throughout the United States makes it possible to decentralize the war financing program to a large extent. The program looks to the fullest possible participation by the banks of the United States, whether members or nonmembers of the Federal Reserve System, in the financing contemplated under the authority of the President's Executive Order.

Under the Executive Order the three military procurement agencies are authorized to guarantee commercial banks, Federal Reserve Banks, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, or other financial institutions against loss on loans made to concerns to finance the performance of war orders. The primary aim is to expand and expedite war production. Accordingly, peacetime credit rules or standards, as the President stated at the time of signing the Executive Order, must not be permitted to hold up production of war supplies needed by the armed forces.

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The Board's Regulation authorizes the Federal Reserve Banks, acting in accordance with the provisions of the President's Executive Order and the instructions of the three military procurement agencies, to arrange loans and guarantees thereof wherever it is believed that they will contribute to the obtaining of maximum war production expeditiously.

To assist in carrying out the provisions of the President's Executive Order and to aid in decentralizing operations under it as fully as possible, the War Department plans to have a liaison officer stationed at each Federal Reserve Bank. Generally speaking, the liaison officer will certify to the Reserve Bank that an applicant for financing is qualified from the technical or production standpoint to carry out a contract, sub-contract or order for war supplies or equipment.

It is expected that any applicant will first take up his credit needs with his commercial bank or other financing institution. When the necessary credit cannot be arranged by the financing institution without the assistance of the War Department, the financing institution will apply to the Federal Reserve Bank for a guarantee of a part or all of the proposed financing. After certification by the liaison officer, it will be the Reserve Bank's function to analyze the financial aspects of the application, including the integrity of the management, and determine the type of financing best suited to meet the situation.

Under the initial instructions of the War Department, and upon appointment of liaison officers, guarantees or loans up to a prescribed maximum to be determined by the War Department will be made at the Federal Reserve Bank without reference to Washington.

Attached is a copy of Regulation V.