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NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE O.P.M. LABOUR SUPPLY COMMITTEE ATTENDED

BY MR. MURRAY MITCHELL AND MR. CRIBBETT.

The meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing the adoption of a policy by the O.P.M. Labour Supply Committee which would assist in securing recruits for the C.T.C.

Mr. Murray Mitchell analysed the results up to the present and emphasised that the Employment Exchange machinery was making a comparatively trifling contribution.

Mr. Cribbett stated the general policy lying behind the desire of the British Government to recruit skilled technicians in the United States, emphasising in particular the importance of the time factor of this problem. Detailed particulars were given of the numbers required and the various trades, and it was suggested, for the consideration of the Committee, that they should concentrate on securing the technicians required from the field of the less essential industries, and encroach as little as possible on the armament industries which were being asked to produce skilled labour in connection with other forms of American assistance.

The wage position was also discussed at some length and Mr. A.F. Henricks, Assistant Commissioner of Labour Statistics, undertook to make enquiries in connection with the question raised by Mr. Mc Cloy at the meeting with him concerning the appropriate wage to offer in order to induce volunteers to come forward. A number of questions were asked by members of the Committee about labour supply and training problems in the United Kingdom and it was quite clear that the meeting were most anxious to render all possible assistance to us in furthering our object.

The Chairman finally suggested to the meeting that they should first quickly determine what was to be their general policy of assistance, including methods of publicity, sources of supply, etc. Concurrently with this Mr. Henricks would pursue his enquiries into the wage position.

19th November, 1941.