Kansas City, Missouri
HEART OF AMERICA
October 14, 1941
Honorable Harry S. Truman Senate Office Building Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator Truman:

Recently the Chamber of Commerce attempted to find out what effect priority rulings are having on manufacturers in Greater Kansas City. A questionnaire was sent out and the analysis of the replies is shown on the enclosed report.

I am sure you will appreciate that those firms who are not experiencing any difficulty with priorities, and who may be in a somewhat favored position, are not inclined to answer questionnaires or correspondence on this subject.

Wherever an individual firm seems equipped to do some defense work but has not to date undertaken such work, we are contacting these firms to determine what assistance they need, if any. Copies of this report are being furnished to Mayor John B. Gage, Congressman C. Jasper Bell, Congressman Joseph B. Shannon, Lou E. Holland and Roy W. Webb.

You will note this data has been compiled by Mr. E. P. Hamlin of our Industrial Department. If there are any questions regarding it, Mr. Hamlin will be glad to answer them.

Yours very truly,
George W. Catts
Executive Manager
HS Enclosure

October 8, 1941
ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF PRIORITIES ON MANUFACTURERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY
KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The following is an analysis of the replies made by 159 Greater Kansas City firms, principally manufacturers, to the questionnaire mailed them by the Kansas City Chamber

of Commerce concerning the subject of priorities.

Number of firms making reply 159

Number of persons employed 12,729

Questionnaire mailed to — 821 Manufacturers

Questionnaire mailed to — 69 Printers

890

Number of questions asked — 5 (See questionnaire attached hereto)

QUESTION NO. 1

57 firms reported no interference with their business as of now.

73 firms complained of slow deliveries of their purchases.

22 firms expected their supplies to last 3 months or less.

2 firms expected their supplies to last 4 months.

1 firm expected their supplies to last 5 months.

1 firm expected their supplies to last 6 months.

3 firms expected to be cut off entirely.

QUESTIONS NO. 2 AND 3 CONSOLIDATED

Laid off to date of report, 134 persons of a total of 12,729 employed. Equals .0105% of total employed.

See report attached covering questions 2 and 3 for special remarks of certain individual firms. Keep in mind that the new O.P.M. set up under F. B. Odium's administration may alleviate some or all of the anticipated trouble.

QUESTION NO. 4

2 Concerns have applied for priorities

2 Concerns have received priorities

. 41 Concerns have defense work

. 25.7% of total 159 firms

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES - (CONTINUED)

QUESTION NO. 5

A— Is your factory equipped for defense work?

112 firms answer YES — 41 of this number are defense

sub-contractors.

45 firms answer NO

2 firms make no answer.

159 Total

B— What changes or additions to plant are necessary?

130 firms make no answer 20 firms answer "no changes necessary".

3 firms answer "additional equipment necessary".

2 firms answer "additional space necessary".

1 firm answers "some changes necessary".

1 firm answers "additional tooling".

1 firm answers "additional machine tools necessary".

1 firm answers "well equipped".

159 Total

C— What assistance will be necessary?

144 firms make no answer.

8 firms answer "none".

5 firms answer "need capital".

1 firm answers "need equipment",

1 firm answers "willing to handle large defense contracts from 50 to 500 thousand dollars."

159 Total

E. P. Hamlin Industrial Engineer

QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED IN AND RETURNED TO THE INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE DEPARTMENT

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

It is our understanding that the position of manufacturers who are not filling defense contracts, either in a prime or sub-contract way, are subject to curtailment of materials necessary to the carrying on of their consumer business, arising out of their inability to secure certificates of priority for materials entering consumer merchandise.

Question No. 1 What is your position in this situation? Are you now able to se

cure the necessary materials to carry on your business? If so, for how long?

Answer:

Question No. 2 Have priority rulings affected your business to the extent of your being forced to reduce your personnel? If so, to what extent?

Answer:

Question No. 3 If you have not reduced your personnel, what will be your situation in 30 days? 60 days?

90 days? 120 days?

Question No. 4 What moves have you made or contemplate making concerning this subject with relation to securing materials—as an example; by the taking on of defense contracts.

Answer:

Question No. 5 Is your factory as now equipped in position to work on defense con tracts? If not, what changes or additions are necessary and what assistance, if any, will be required?

Answer:

USE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

GROUP NUMBER OF (First letter FIRMS IN firm name) GROUP HAVING NO INTERFERENCE NO TROUBLES EXCEPT SLOW DELIVERIES EXPECT SUPPLIES LAST 3 MONTES OR EXPECT SUPPLIES LAST 4 MONTES EXPECT SUPPLIES LAST 5 MONTHS EXPECT SUPPLIES LAST 6 MONTHS EXPECT TO BE COMPLETELY SHUT OFF.

				LESS				
A	13	3	7	1			1	1
B	17	6	10	1				
C	13	5	5	2	1			
D	3	2	I					
E	11	6	2	2		1		

G	10	5	3	2				
H	4	I	2	1				
I	I	I						
K	10	3	5	2				
L	8	3	3	2				
M	13	6	4	3				
N	6	I		1				
P	6	3	3					
R	9	2	5	1				1
S	15	5	8	2				
T	3		1	1	1			
U	3		3					
V	2		2					
	12	5	5	1				1
	159	57	73	22	2	1	1	3

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION - NO. ONE

QUESTIONS 2 AND 3

ANALYSIS

GROUP (First letter firm name) TOTAL LAID OFF TO ANTICIPATED LAY0FFS-30, EMPLOYEES DATE OF REPORT 90. 120 DAY INTERVAL 60 REMARKS

30 days 60 days 90 days 120 days

A 755 8 - 20

B 1095 8 Brown Bed Co. -Have to shut down. Burger-Baird Engraving Co.-If Business declines further will force reduction in employees.

C 3491 4 - - Cook Paint & Varnish Co. Possibly layoff 80 persons in 60 days, 240 in 120 days. Clay and Bailey Mfg. Co. May make further reduction.

D 51 1

E 359 0 Easyhold Truss Co. May be compelled to close.

G 447 6 1 1 I J.P.Gilman Granite Co.Probably lay off 18 persons in next 120 days.

Geo.C.Gordon Chemical Co. From bad to worse in 30-60 days.

H 79 0 15 23 - - Hammett Elec.Mfg. Co. May be forced to close in 90 days. Honeycutt Mfg.Co., Inc. May Close in 30-60 days.

I 42 0

K 788 2 1 K.C.Glue & Paste Co. May be forced to reduce force later. Kans.City Hay Press Co. May close shop. Knicks Mend-Rite Co. May reduce force further.

QUESTIONS 2 AND 3

ANALYSIS

GROUP TOTAL LAID OFF TO ANTICIPATED LAYOFFS-30, (First letter EMPLOYEES DATE OF REPORT 90. 120 DAY INTERVALS 60 REMARKS

firm name) 30 days 60 days 90 days 120 days

L 1003 0 Lee-Wald Garment Co. May be forced to close. H.C.Liepsner Co; May reduce or close. Lox Mfg. Co.: Expect cut force. Luce Mfg.Co.: Position Precarious,

M 463 16 E.L.Mendenhall, Inc, Probable reduction in 90 days. Mid-West Envelope Co. Reduction in 60 days.

N 675 4 25 160 National Steel Prod. Co. May shut down in 30 days. Nourse Oil Co. Will reduce force in 60-90 days.

P 386 0 Prier Brass Mfg. Co.Probably reduce force if can't get needed tools. Frank Purcell Walnut Lbr.Co.-Partial shutdown possible in 30 days.

R 561 15 (SEE NEXT PAGE FOR TOTALS) Rearwin Aircraft & Engines,Inc.-Layoff more later. Resch Bros,Planing Mill can possibly go four months without layoffs. Rubberized Fabrics, Inc. Can go 60 days without layoffs.

QUESTIONS 2 AND 3

ANALYSIS

GROUP (First letter total EMPLOYEES LAID OFF TO ANTICIPATED LAYOFFS-30, DATE OF REPORT 90. 120 DAY INTERVAL 60, REMARKS

firm name) 30 days 60 days 90 days 120 days

S 697 19-10 - 15 Sogas Brothers May curtail in 60-90 days, Close in 120.

T 165 0 T & H Mfg.Co.-May reduce force.

U 710 25

V 245 10 Viking Refrigerator Co.,and William Volker Co. Both may reduce more later.

w 710 18 43 25 22 Waxide Paper Co. Situation will get worse. James W. Weldon

12,729 134 93 58 202 15 Combined Totals above - 502 Have shut down. Whitaker Battery Sup. Co, Will curtail after 60 days if not relieved. Witte Engine Works-Will be out of business in 120 days.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 4

What moves have you made or contemplate making concerning:

1. Securing Materials 2. Securing Defense Work

ANSWERS:

2 Concerns have applied for priorities 2 Concerns have received priorities 41 Concerns have Defense work.

45

ANALYSIS OP QUESTION NO. 5

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY

A-13 firms 1. Yes (Acme Brass & Machine Co.) No answer No answer

2. Yes - Advance Baking Co. None None

3. No. - Advertising Pencil Co.

4. No. - Aines Farm Dairy

(SERIAL NUMBERS OPPOSITE FIRM NAMES CORRESPOND WITH ORIGINAL QUESTIONNAIRE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION, INDUSTRIAL AND trade dept.,chamber OF COMMERCE) 5. No. - Allis Press

6. No. - Printing Industry only

7. Yes - American Sash and Door Co. None None

8. Yes - American Steel Works No answer No answer

9. Yes - American Wiper & Waste Mills Space Capital

10. Yes - Anderson Stolz Corp. No answer No answer

11. Yes - Apex Manufacturing Co. None None-unless forced change

equipment

12. Yes - Atlas Paint & Glass Mfg. Co. — But not in large quantity

13. Yes - Atlas Wire Products Co. No Financial assistance on orders over $2500.

B—17 firms 14. Yes - Baker Engineering & Equip. Co. No answer No Answer

15. No answer—Jobbing firm

16. No answer - Publishing House

17. Yes - Battenfeld Grease & Oil Corp. No answer No answer

18. No - Too small, work one man

19. Working on defense contracts - Benson Manufacturing Co.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 2.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED WHAT CHANGES OR FOR DEFENSE WORK ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY

B—firms 20. No - Berkowitz Envelope Co.

21. No - Equipment not suitable

22. No - Bun bakery

23. Yes - Books K. C. Trunk Co.- Could handle small orders.

24. No - Too Small

25. Yes - Brand & Puritz - Could make women's coats for Britain

26. Yes - George A. Breon & Co., Inc. For Army & Navy and Red Cross.

27. No - Brown Bed Company

2S. Yes - Printing Press

29. No - Lithographing

30. Yes - Bright Biscuit Co. Foods

C—13 firms 31. Yes - E. K. Campbell Heating Co. Add'l Equipment

32. Yes - Carnes Artificial Limb Co. No answer No answer

33. Yes - Carter Waters Corp. - Supplying sub-contractors

34. No - Printing Plant

35. Yes - Central Can Co. No answer No answer

36. Yes - Charno Bindery

37. Yes - Clay and Bailey (big plant) None None

38. Yes - Commercial Lithographing Co. (work for defense contractors)

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 3.

GROUP & HUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL ADDITIONS NECESSARY BE NECESSARY

C—13 firms 39. Yes - Corn Products Refining Co.

40. Yes - Cook Paint and Varnish Co.

41. Yes - Coronet Mfg. Corp. Mens Wear.

42. Yes - Crampton Farley Mfg. Co. - Brass goods in limited quantities

43. Yes - Cudahy Packing Co.

D—3 firms 44. Yes - Decker Mfg. Co. Auto accessories - small quantities which do not require much space

45. Yes - Printing and lithographing - Sam'l Dodsworth Stationery Co.

46. Yes - Durant, Inc. (cosmetics) None Financial if large contract

E—11 firms 47. Yes - Eads Distilled Water Co. None (for distilled water)

48. No - Easyhold Truss Co.

49. Yes - Ebony Paint Mfg. Co. None-for paints, roof coatings, etc.

50. Yes - Electra Mfg. Co. None-for metal stampings

51. Yes - Electrical Advertising Co. None - Lighting equipment

52. No - R. S. Elliotts Arms

53. Yes - Empire Storage Co. None - for storage food products

54. Yes - E. L. Evans Printing Co. None None

F—3 firms 55. No - Federal Electric Company

56. Yes - Forrest Sign Co. None-for making signs, plates, etc.

57. Yes - Frotz Brothers None-for Awnings and Tents

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 4.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL ADDITIONS

NECESSARY BE NECESSARY

G—10 films 58. Yes - Gateway Chemical Co. 59. Yes - General Mill Equipment Co.

Add'l equipment-possibly Capital for large contract None

60. No - Gilman Granite Company None-for cutting granite

6l. Yes - Gleaner Harvester Co.

62. Yes - Glendale Beverage Co. None-for bottled beverages

63. No - Chemical Jobber

64. No - Publisher

65. No - Guilfoil Serum Co.

66. Yes - Great Western Paint Co. None-for large quantities of paints

67. Yes - Oswald Griner - Thinking of starting to manufacture engineering instruments in Kansas City - follow up.

E—4 firms 68. Yes - Hammett Electric Co.

69. Yes - Honeycutt Mfg. Co. - Equipped for light work

70. No - P. W. Hanicke Mfg. Co.

71. Yes - Ralph Hurst Co. - Selling Government eggs.

I—1 firm 72. Yes - W. E. Isle Co., artificial limbs

K--10 firms 73. Yes - Kansas City Barrell & Package Co.

74. Yes - Kansas City Broom Co. Some items

75. Yes - Kansas City Glue and Paste Co.

76. Yes - Kansas City Hay Press Co.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 5.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WIL BE NECESSARY

K—10 firms 77. Yes - Kansas City Plastic Fabricators

78. Yes - Kansas City Smelting Co.

79. No - Kansas City Soldering Works - Serve dairy industry

80. Yes - Kansas City Structural Steel Co. - Busy now on defense

81. Yes - Percy Kent Bag Co.

82. Yes - Knicks Mend - Rite Co., Auto accessories

L—8 firms 83. Yes - Lee Wald Garment Co. More equipment

64. No — R. S. Leonard Co. (bottle caps)

85. Yes - H. C. Liepsner Co. Metal stampings

86. Yes - Lock Joint Pipe Co. - some defense work now.

87. Yes - Lowe & Campbell Athletic Goods Co. None None

88. No - Lox Manufacturing Co.

89. Yes - Luce Mfg. Co.

90. No - Lucky Tiger Mfg. Co.

M—13 firms 91. Yes - Marshall Mfg. Co. None None

92. Yes - Massey Concrete Products Co.

93. Yes - Mathews Machine Works, Inc. None None

64. Yes - Mecca Coffee Co. (No interest in defense business)

95. Yes - E. L. Mendenhall, Inc. - A Printing plant.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 6.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY

M—13 firms 96. Yes - Mercury Corporation. Add'l tooling

97. No - Metzner Stove Repair Co. A Jobbing Business

98. No - Moyer Jowolry Co., Unable get add'1 machinery to enable produce quantities required on defense work.

99. No - Meyer Sanitary Milk Co.

100. Yes - Midland Casket Co. Depend on material manufactured.

101. No - Midwest Envelope Co. Lack proper equipment

102. Yes - Montgomery Elevator & Service Co. Some changes

103. Yes - Myra Deane Co., Inc. Cosmetics

N—6 firms 104. Yes - National Paper Box Co.

105. Yes - National Steel Products Co.

106. Yes - Neevel Mfg. Co.

107. Yes - S. W. Noggle Co. Possibly add'l Machinery

108. Yes - Nourse Oil Company

109. No - Nutrena Mills, Inc. Their products not wanted.

P—6 firms 110. No - Frank E. Park Printing Co.

111. Yes - Penrod, Jurden & Clark Co. Work with wood only

112. Yes - Prairie Brass & Metal Co. Work for railroads

113. Yes - Prier Brass Mfg. Co. Need machine tools

114. Yes - Pugh Enterprise Foundry

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 7.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY SQUIFFED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED

P—6 firms 115. Yes - Frank Purcell Walnut Lbr. Co.

R—9 firms 116. Yes - Rearwin Aircraft & Engines, Inc. Well equipped

117. Yes - Resch Bros. Planing Mill Need space for large contract

118. No - Rubberized Fabrics, Inc. Keeping close watch for work they could do

119. Yes - Refinoil Mfg. Corp.

120. Yes - Rubon Woodfinishing & Prod. Co.

121. Yes - Rudy Patrick Seed Co. Rolled oats, seed, feed, etc.

122. Yes - Rupert Diecasting & Stamping Corp.

123. No - I. D. Russell Co.

124. Yes - Rust Sash & Door Co. - Construction material

S—15 firms 125. No - W. M. Salmon & Son

126. Yes - Schooley Printing and Stationery Co. Printing

127. Yes - Schroer Mfg. Co.

128. Yes - S. R. Seaver Co. Small contracts

129. Yes - Security Mfg. Co. Operating 50% on defense contracts.

130. No - Seidens, Inc. 131. No - Sendol Company

132. Yes - Sewell Paint & Varnish Co. Paints and varnishes

133. No - Siegrist Engraving Co.

GROUP & NUMBERS OF FIRMS ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY Page 8. WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED

S—15 firms 134. Yes - W. J. Small Co., Inc. on certain items only.

135. No - Sogas Brothers (spices and syrups)

136. Yes - Southwest Ice Co., Ice only

137. Yes - Standard Brass Mfg. Co. Large volume

138. Yes - C. H. Stemmons Mfg. Co. Leather specialties in limited amounts

139. Yes - Sterling Machinery Corp. Much of products now for defense

T—3 firms 140. No - Tarkio Molasses Feed Co.

141. No - Thompson Hayward Chemical Co., a jobber

142. Yes - T & H Mfg. Co. Make auto motor testers.

U—3 firms 143. Yes - Union Wire Rope Co. None None

144. Yes - U. S. Cold Storage Co. (foods)

145. No - United Chemical Co.

V—2 firms l46. Yes - Viking Refrigerators, Inc.

147. No - William Volker & Co. No facilities in K.C.

W—12 firms l48. No - Waggoner Gates Milling Co. (flour Kill)

149. No - Waxide Paper Company

150. Yes - Webb Belting Company

151. Yes - James W. Weldon Make electric furnaces for schools

152. No - Western Chandelier Co.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 9.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED

W—12 firms 153. Yes - Western Chemical Co. Have served Army and Navy

154. Yes - West Side Machine Works Financial if large order

155. No - Wheeling Corrugating Co., Jobbers

156. Yes - J. P. Whitaker Battery Sup. Co. Willing handle large contracts 50-500 thousand dollars.

157. Yes - Wilde Drop Forge Co.

158. Yes - Williams Roofing Products Co.

159. Yes - Witte Engine Works.—Well equipped shop and finance.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTION NO. 5 Page 9.

GROUP & NUMBER OF FIRMS IS YOUR FACTORY EQUIPPED FOR DEFENSE WORK WHAT CHANGES OR ADDITIONS NECESSARY WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED

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