

U. S. Gives Up Plans to Build Aircraft Plants

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War Department Says

Private Industry Can Fill All Orders

Procurement became the spotlighted issue in connection with the preparedness drive yesterday.

Feature of the campaign to build up procurement facilities was a War Department announcement that it will not be necessary for the Government to build its own airplane plants because private industry can turn out sufficient planes to meet Army and Navy requirements.

Priorities Arranged

The department some time ago planned to build its own aircraft factories at strategically located inland sites. Its announcement yesterday said it had received applications from several hundred municipalities for the proposed factories, but that they will not be built in view of private industry's ability to furnish the Government with 25,000 planes by July 1, 1942.

At the same time, the department established a special priorities committee, headed by Lieut. Col. A. B. Johnson, to prevent commercial transactions from interfering with acquisition of crucial defense materials.

Col. Charles H. Rutherford, Phoenix, Ariz., attorney and civilian aide to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, said he had received information that "the largest nickel deposit in the United States" has been found in northwestern Arizona.

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The United States has been dependent on imports, chiefly from Canada, for nickel, a strategic defense material.

Simultaneously, Edward R. Stettinius, head of the National Defense Commission's raw materials division, said steps are being taken to stimulate production of toluol from petroleum. Toluol is used in production of TNT.

Stimson revealed that the Army is experimenting with use of parachute troops to determine if it can successfully use this type of attack.