

Federal Security Agency
U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Washington 25

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Departments in
Colleges and Universities

FROM: Fred J. Kelly, Chief
Division of Higher Education

SUBJECT: Reports on Adjustment of the College Curriculum to Wartime Conditions and Needs

The U. S. Office of Education is issuing a series of reports on the adjustment of the college curriculum to wartime conditions and needs, and copies are being sent to the heads of the particular departments concerned. These reports are intended to assist institutions of higher learning in their efforts to render an effective and vital service in wartime. They have been prepared under the direction of the following Committee appointed by the Office of Education Wartime Commission:

Lloyd E. Blanch, Senior Specialist in Higher Education, Office of Education, *Chairman*
Levin B. Broughton, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Maryland
Walter C. Eells, Executive Secretary, American Association of Junior Colleges
Kathryn McHale, General Director, American Association of University Women
Levering Tyson, President, Muhlenberg College

This Committee requested the national association of college teachers in each of the principal fields of study in the arts and sciences to appoint a committee to prepare the report for that field, and suggested that it might be well to center somewhat geographically the membership of each committee in order to facilitate the work. The associations responded generously and selected committees.

Brief instructions were given to each committee, which included the following statement:

"It is not the purpose of this project to suggest to the colleges of arts and sciences that they offer a multitude of so-called 'defense' courses. Rather, it is assumed that understanding of basic principles should be the principal goal of instruction in the colleges. It is also assumed, however, that much of the instruction can be directly aimed at meeting the needs of the Nation for intelligent and capable persons who understand the forces operating the world and can devote themselves intelligently and capably to the tasks that confront the Nation in wartime. There appear to be three aspects of the present situation that should be considered in the project: (a) the military aspect, including service in the land, sea, and air forces; (b) the civilian aspect, including the industrial, the agricultural, the financial, the governmental, and other phases; and (c) the cultural aspect—understanding the issues and events."

It is hoped that the suggestions contained in the reports of the Committee will aid college and university teachers to serve better their students and the Nation at a time when every effort must be made to win the war.