

MR. PALMER: Put in a PD-1 to the rubber branch or we will send it there for you. Whether we can get it for you is another question, because rubber is very critical.

MR. DUNNAGAN: How may we obtain priorities on non-offset solution?

MR. PALMER: You may have to file a PD-1, which will go to the chemical branch. So far as I know, we have had no complaints of any difficulty in securing those solutions or the general chemicals employed in the printing industry. Occasionally we do get a PD-1 and by tracing it back, we frequently find that the applicant could have secured it if he tried hard enough.

MR. DUNNAGAN: What priority is there for religious publications?

MR. PALMER: At present, none. Nor is there any priority against pulp magazines, playing cards or candy boxes. Everyone is on the same basis at the moment.

MR. DUNNAGAN: I think that explanation probably answers this question: We manufacture prayer booklets. They are used in most camps by the men and chaplains and also are a great necessity in churches. Also we make records for churches to keep their baptisms in, the marriages, census and other things that are absolutely necessary. I would like to know whether we come under a certain priority rating on this account.

MR. PALMER: Unfortunately, no, and particularly in the case of the previous question, there is no necessity for priority number. There is no priority on paper, and none will be needed. None have been needed that enter into any of the products named.

MR. DUNNAGAN: What about the skyrocketing of printing materials in price, and the subsequent refusal of printing buyers to pay these increased costs? What will this mean for printers with non-defense orders?

MR. PALMER: First of all that is a question for Mr. Henderson of O. P. A. to answer and not me. Second, was it ever different? *(Laughter and applause)*

MR. DUNNAGAN: Will price ceilings be applied to printing? If so, by what method, in view of the many factors entering into the finished job? If price ceilings on printing but not on printing wages, would it not tend to stabilize those wages also, regardless of competition from defense industries?

MR. PALMER: I am almost tempted to give the same answer to that one. In the first place, no price ceilings have even entered our remotest consciousness as yet. If price ceilings are established, it is a matter for O. P. A. I question seriously whether in this printing industry there will ever be a need for price ceilings. They will never get up that high. *(Laughter)*

MR. DUNNAGAN: Will small shops get sub-contracts from the United States Government? What can be done to secure these sub-contracts?

MR. PALMER: Small shops are being given greater consideration, I understand. I learned today, and heard again tonight, that you have had a greater distribution of government printing contracts out here, with the attitude of the War Production Board against the building of new plants or the War Department or the Army, with the decision that such plants should not be expanded, with an attitude that there are sufficient surplus pieces of equipment throughout the nation to produce anything in the way of printed matter that is required, above the facilities of government agencies, there should be a greater distribution.

One of the problems, as most of you know, has been the rules of the Joint Printing Committee of the House and Senate, which controls the government printer. Certain changes, certain latitudes have been given him in the last few

weeks that probably will improve that situation. There is a noticeable attitude and desire to expand the giving out, under proper controls, of more of the National printing to commercial plants.

MR. DUNNAGAN: What about the little printer? Can he make deliveries without tires? *(Laughter)*

MR. PALMER: If he is delivering to the ultimate consumer, I am afraid he is in the same category as the newspaper that can deliver to the newsstand, but can't take it out on the rural delivery on Sunday morning where they drop it in the rural mail box. That is a question I suggest you refer to Mr. Leon Henderson or Mr. John Hamm of his branch.

MR. DUNNAGAN: Defense plants doing work for the Government—what procedure does a printer have to pursue to submit some original forms to the individual firm or does the O. P. M. furnish them with same?

MR. PALMER: As far as forms required by O. P. M. for any of its procedures or reports, they are supposed to be furnished free by O. P. M. We heard the other day, that in one city of the country, someone tried to get some forms from the O. P. M. office, couldn't get them there, and was told to go around the corner to a certain printer, where he did obtain them for five cents apiece. I don't know whether the printer was the one responsible or not, but we endeavored to clear that situation up. I must confess I don't understand the first part of that question.

MR. DUNNAGAN: How do newspaper publishers and printers come under the new auto tire allotment?

MR. PALMER: Newspapers are under it as far as their bulk deliveries are concerned, but when they get out into the rural areas and begin to deliver to the individual homes, they are cut off if they only make one delivery on that trip. That is going to be under further consideration, I believe.

MR. DUNNAGAN: If my inventory consists of many sizes, weights, grades, and colors of stock to meet demands of mixed job work, what constitutes a month's inventory?

MR. PALMER: I will have to turn that around and say what he means is what constitutes a practicable working minimum inventory and that would be the gross tonnage of what he had on hand as an average, I would say for him, on a 90 day basis.

MR. DUNNAGAN: Is the Government encouraging the development of substitute materials as in the case of chipboard and strawboard?

MR. PALMER: It is, in so far as it can. The trouble is that we are like a marathon race. On every one of these things we merely get up to the next fellow and hand him the baton and grab another one and go in the opposite direction. There are very numerous attempts being made to employ substitutes. Of course, the more critical a material becomes, the more attempt there is to find a substitute, and then usually you find that somebody else has found that the substitutes you want is a substitute for what he wants.

MR. DUNNAGAN: Have paper prices reached the ceiling?

MR. PALMER: That is a matter again for Mr. Henderson. The present levels as you know, were established for the first quarter of '42 on the basis of the last quarter of '41. We hear a good many reports that that is all right on quantity buying, but when you get into current day-by-day purchases, prices have taken a sudden rise in many instances. Just how prevalent that is, I don't know. Mr. Henderson is the price man. I have troubles of my own.