

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XXI; NO. 4

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

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ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

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U. S. Spending Billion A Week For Military Goods Construction

Guns, ships, planes, boots, sleeping bags and other military requirements are now being ordered at the rate of nearly one billion dollars each week.

During the first three months of 1951, military procurement and construction totalled \$12.1 billion, bringing complete expenditures since the outbreak of the Korean conflict to \$24.1 billion. This figure is exclusive of military pay and similar costs of war.

For the first nine months of the 1951 fiscal year which ends June 30, the Defense Department summarizes its obligations for procurement and construction as follows:

Hard goods (aircraft, ships, tanks, weapons, ammunition and other equipment), \$19.2 billion; clothing, petroleum products and subsistence, \$3.1 billion; military construction and facilities expansion, \$1.8 billion.

Breakdown By Services

By Services, the breakdown is Army, \$9.9 billion; Navy, \$5.4 billion; Air Force, \$8.8 billion.

At the end of March approximately \$28.88 billion of the \$32 billion thus far allotted were available to the Armed Services for further procurement during

the remaining three months of the fiscal year.

Deliveries on Defense Department orders are, of course, being made at a rate considerably slower than the rate of placing orders. A long "lead time" is required for many of the principal items of modern war equipment.

In some instances there may be a two- or three-year period between the date of placing an order and the delivery date. However, deliveries as well as orders are expected to rise steadily during the coming months.

More Material Needed

In addition to lengthy production schedules, modern military equipment requires greater quantities of critical materials than that used in World War II, and considerably more money.

The airframe weight of some new planes, for example, is six times that of comparable models used in earlier days. A modern B-36 costs \$3,500,000 or 13 times the \$275,000 spent for a B-17 in World War II.

Jet engines, operating at higher temperatures than the piston engine, require greater precision in alloying and heat treating. They also contain larger amounts of scarce metals such as tungsten, chromium, cobalt, and molybdenum. Present-day military requirements for electronic equipment also demand greater quantities of zinc, cadmium, lead, cobalt and copper.

Ammunition for World War II consumed approximately 50 per cent of the total output of copper. Today both industry and the Department of Defense are seeking ways of conserving scarce materials by developing substitutes.

Policies Revised

Contracting and purchasing policies employed during World War II have also undergone revision to meet the present emergency. The following objectives govern the new procedures that are being adopted: To distribute contracts across industry as broadly as possible; to make maximum use of small business; to employ additional contractors instead of mul-

ti-shift or overtime operations wherever time permits; to encourage subcontracting; to place contracts with reference to the availability of manpower, and to economic transportation; and to provide the highest possible incentive to the producer to reduce his costs.

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