

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF THE AIR CORPS
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1940

Honorable Morris Sheppard,
United States Senator,
Texarkana, Texas.

Dear Senator Sheppard:

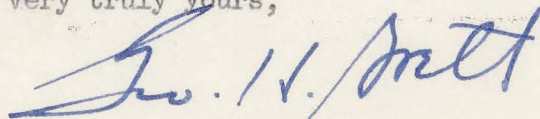
Your telegrams dated December 12, 1940, and December 13, 1940, relative to the location of a plant for the construction of Army bombers by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, San Diego, California, are acknowledged. The facilities of the above named manufacturer were initially allocated to the Navy and all expansion required for the Joint Army and Navy Program is being handled by that Department.

In addition, there is in the formative or planning phase, a project to increase the bomber productive capacity in this country by the construction of three or four government-owned aircraft assembly plants. It is contemplated utilizing the productive capacity of the automotive industry for parts manufacture. It is possible that the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation will be called upon to manage and operate one of the factories.

Extensive surveys of various industrial areas in the middle west, which are giving due consideration to labor, housing, utilities, transportation, airport facilities, climate, etc., have not as yet been completed. An attempt is being made to locate these assembly factories in states that have thus far not benefited from defense orders. It is tentatively planned to place one of these aircraft assembly plants in Nebraska and one in Kansas.

No decision relative to additional sites has been reached at this time. In this selection, due consideration will be given the Fort Worth, Texas, metropolitan area.

Very truly yours,



Geo. H. Brett,
Major General, U.S.A.,
The Assistant.