

Secretary of
War

Secretary
of the
Navy

Director General

Assistant
Director General

OFFICE OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT
Office of the Director General
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 2, 1941

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VII-C-IV-E

Dr. Jerome C. Hunsaker, Chairman
The National Advisory Committee for
Aeronautics
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Hunsaker:

The interests of national defense demand that this country be equipped with aircraft superior, if possible, to those of Germany. The most important single factor is the aeronautical engine. The development of airplane engines of greater performance at high altitudes is absolutely essential. For this purpose your Committee has been authorized by the Congress to construct an Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory at Cleveland, Ohio.

There is a critical need to get this laboratory in operation at the earliest possible date. The high-altitude wind tunnel is especially needed to solve problems in connection with the cooling and power output of engines in combat planes required to fight at altitudes of 40,000 to 50,000 feet.

To reduce delays now being encountered in our efforts to design and produce the best possible aircraft, solutions to many technical problems are needed. I cannot overemphasize the necessity for speed in completing your Cleveland laboratory project.

Yours very truly,

William S. Knudsen