

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

14 SEP 1948

*Winn Historical*

Dear Mr. Bell:

The National Military Establishment is conducting a series of Joint Orientation Conferences for leaders in the industrial, labor and professional fields. The first conference will be held during the period November 8 to 18, 1948.

The purpose of this conference is to acquaint the group with current activities and problems of the Military Establishment and to obtain the views of the members on matters concerning national defense.

The Conference will open at the Pentagon at 11:30 A.M., November 8 and discussions in Washington will continue until November 12. On the afternoon of November 12 the group will be flown by military aircraft to Pensacola, Florida, for a two-day cruise and demonstration aboard a naval aircraft carrier. The group will then proceed by air to Fort Benning, Georgia, for demonstrations by the Army, and finally to Wright Field, Ohio, for the Air Force demonstrations. The Conference will close at Wright Field at noon, November 18.

Enclosed is a summary of the program and other pertinent information.

I cordially invite you to participate in this Conference and think that you will find it of interest and value. I should appreciate an early reply in order that necessary arrangements for the group may be made.

Sincerely yours,

*James Forrestal*  
James Forrestal

Enclosure: 1  
Arrangements

Mr. James F. Bell  
Chairman of the Board  
General Mills, Inc.  
400 Second Avenue, South  
Minneapolis 1, Minn.

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Summary of Topics and Other Arrangements  
for Joint Orientation Conference

The National Military Establishment has been in existence approximately one year. That year has brought forth many problems. It is fitting at this time that the Nation's citizens be informed of the internal structure of the National Military Establishment, the problems its agencies are encountering and seeking to solve, and the impact of its activities on every walk of life. The topics have been selected accordingly.

Topics of Conferences

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 8 November  | The National Security Council.<br>Organization of the National Military Establishment.<br>The International Situation.      |
| 9 November  | Military Aspects of the World Situation.<br>Joint Chiefs of Staff and Joint Planning.<br>Industrial Mobilization Planning.  |
| 10 November | Economic Mobilization.<br>Economic Implications of Military Preparedness.<br>Military Preparedness and the National Budget. |
| 11 November | Scientific Research and National Security.<br>Civil Defense.<br>Progress in Unification.                                    |
| 12 November | The Military Services.  |

Passage to Washington on military aircraft will be provided on Sunday, 7 November from selected principal cities, such as Chicago, New York, Memphis, etc. Upon acceptance of the invitation each participant will be notified of the airport nearest his address and the time of departure.

Hotel reservations in Washington, if desired, will be made by the Director of the Joint Orientation Course. If practicable, one hotel will be utilized in order that the group may have additional opportunities to become acquainted. It will be appreciated that the Government does not have funds to defray the costs of hotels and meals, which must be assumed by the participants.

Upon conclusion of the demonstrations at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, military aircraft will be provided to return participants to the selected principal cities nearest their homes.

It is requested that acceptance of the invitation indicate whether or not military aircraft transportation to Washington is desired and whether or not hotel reservations in Washington are desired.

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90 NOV 1948

Dear Mr. Bell:

I would be deeply obliged if you would let me have your impression of the recent Joint Orientation Conference conducted by the National Military Establishment. In brief, was it of sufficient substance to command your interest, and did you get enough out of it to warrant the time spent?

This Conference was something of a trial run to determine whether it would be a medium of value for mutual education of both the Armed Services and the public.

It is obvious that the time of the participants is too limited to continue such an activity unless it is genuinely informative and useful.

Whatever reply you care to make to this inquiry, I will of course hold in the strictest confidence. I would also appreciate any suggestions that might enhance the interest of the Conference for those who attend.

For your convenience, a short questionnaire is attached hereto.

Very sincerely yours,

  
James Forrestal

Enclosure - 1

Mr. James F. Bell  
Chairman of the Board  
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QUESTIONNAIRE

I. What subjects would you add to the Conference discussions?

\_\_\_\_\_.

a. What subjects would you eliminate?

\_\_\_\_\_.

b. What subjects would you expand upon?

\_\_\_\_\_.

II. What subjects were of greatest interest to you?  
In order of preference.

a. \_\_\_\_\_.

b. \_\_\_\_\_.

III. What subjects were of least interest to you?

a. \_\_\_\_\_.

b. \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. Was the Washington phase of the Conference,

a. Too long? \_\_\_\_\_ b. Too short? \_\_\_\_\_.

V. If you were planning a similar conference, would you,

a. Extend the time devoted to the field trips? \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Reduce the time? \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Eliminate the trips altogether? \_\_\_\_\_.

VI. Your comments on the following will be appreciated.

a. The talks were too long. \_\_\_\_\_ Too short \_\_\_\_\_.

b. The daily program schedule should be shortened \_\_\_\_\_.

c. More charts, slides, and other visual aids could be  
used more effectively \_\_\_\_\_.

d. Topics were discussed in too great detail \_\_\_\_\_.

e. More time should be devoted to questions from participants  
\_\_\_\_\_.