

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. WYLIE. It is what we would call a critical metal?

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir; it is.

Mr. WYLIE. From where do we get most of our manganese?

Mr. LAWRENCE. One of the principal sources of U.S. manganese is Brazil. Russia also supplies large quantities of manganese but not to the United States. In fact, it is the largest producer in the world. We get some from Russia. But in the ordinary course of business the majority of it comes in from Brazil, Mexico, and India. It is a jointly owned company by Brazil and Bethlehem Steel.

Mr. WYLIE. Do we mine any manganese in the United States?

Mr. LAWRENCE. No; there are no manganese mines remaining in the United States. Although we have large quantities of very low-grade ore in the area, but it is not profitable to mine it.

Mr. WYLIE. The reason I asked this question, at this time, is because of discussion during the recent consideration of the extension of the authority of the Export-Import Bank. When an amendment was offered to prohibit construction of a plant in Russia, some Members thought this might jeopardize our position with respect to purchasing manganese from Russia. This is another critical item which is in critical supply, as I understand it.

Would you have any comment on that?

Are we able to get enough from Brazilian ore?

Mr. LAWRENCE. We have extremely large quantities of manganese in the stockpile. We have quite a surplus of manganese. I think we could depend on Brazilian supplies and other supplies in the free world without jeopardizing any of our economy in wartime.

Mr. DANIEL. Our excess is considerable as far as the various manganese ores are concerned.

Mr. WYLIE. Russia apparently produces a lot of these metals which you stockpile under your authority; is that correct?

Mr. LAWRENCE. Yes, sir; quite a number of our principal items are mined in Russia.

Mr. WYLIE. Is there any metal ore for which we must depend on Russia for supply?

Mr. LAWRENCE. Not wholly. In fact we can do without Russia and get along with all the critical materials.

Chairman PATMAN. I would like to ask one question about beneficiating manganese. You know on low-grade ores, iron ore, we developed a way of beneficiating that and it has been very successful.

Has any progress been made in using a beneficiation plant on low-grade manganese?

Mr. LAWRENCE. We have spent a considerable sum of money, Mr. Chairman, during the Korean war, on various types of processing. I don't remember the amount offhand. I will have to furnish it for the record. One of these methods was fairly good but it was not one that would enable you to compete economically in peacetime.

Chairman PATMAN. Will you place a full statement in the record at this point?

Mr. LAWRENCE. Yes, sir.

(The statement referred to follows:)