

To: Mr. Routh

Copy to Mr. McLoughlin

From: Mr. Lovell

Supply of Hellschreibers

1. I mentioned to you that at the meeting which I called on June 25th of representatives of Post Office, Foreign Office, Colonial Office, and C.O.I. to discuss this subject, it was agreed that Mr. Williamson would enquire in the Post Office whether there would be any objection from the side of that Department to a new approach being made to Messrs. Klaxon who are at present holding up our switchover to Hell working.
2. Messrs. Klaxon have the contract to supply the necessary motors to Coventry Gauge and Tool Company. They have offered to put their designs at the disposal of any other company which could perform the work more quickly, but there is reason to suppose that they are in fact giving priority to other work on hand in their own organisation. At the meeting it was emphasized both by F.O. and ourselves that this question of supply of Hellschreibers was rapidly becoming no longer a technical but a political matter. It seemed foolish that an important change of this nature affecting the Government's principal daily news service, and one which is due to save the Exchequer some £15,000 in transmission costs, should be indefinitely delayed over a matter of 50 small motors at a time when no doubt Klaxons were supplying large numbers of motors and horns to the car trade.
3. Mr. Williamson has since rung to say that he has discussed the situation with Mr. T.A. Davies, Principal in the Administrative Department, Post Office. It is their view that legitimate pressure could be brought to bear on Messrs. Klaxon by the local representative of the Ministry of Supply. They therefore agreed that it would be useful if C.O.I. or F.O. on a high level would call a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Supply and the Post Office to discuss how to bring this pressure.
4. Mr. Williamson added that if the meeting were called Mr. Davies and the Director of Contracts Departments, Post

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Office and Mr. Williamson himself would probably attend from the Post Office side.

5. You may wish to consider whether D.G. will take the initiative in calling this meeting.

W. B. L. 30th June 1947

Mr Lenth. with 2/7.

We spoke. I said I was not anxious of his steps to Group in D.G.; but that if you would ascertain who is an appropriate official in Supply, & draft me a letter to him which would come first & clear with F.O. & G.Ds., I would follow up such a letter with a visit or meeting to secure early action -

W. B. L. 3/7.