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**Series 4: Departmental Correspondence**

**Box 62**

**Folder: Navy - Knox, Frank, 1942-1945**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

I wish you and Admiral King would talk with me about this proposed new building program, to be started in 1943 and 1944.

I should like especially to talk over the desirability of building 45,000 ton aircraft carriers; the possibility of cutting the size of 27,000 ton aircraft carriers by four or five thousand tons and putting the saved tonnage into aircraft carriers of approximately twelve to fourteen thousand tons.

Also, I should like to discuss the relative advantages of 13,600 ton heavy cruisers vs. the 11,000 ton heavy cruisers. I am inclined to go along without further ado with the program for the small light cruisers, the destroyers and the escort vessels.

F. D. R.

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PSF Knox

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

5337

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 19, 1942

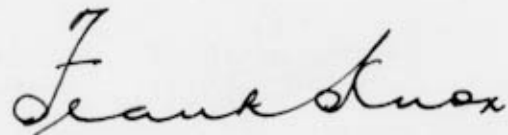
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(SC)A1-3/1943-44  
(023300A)

My dear Mr. President:

Please note the attached memorandum from Admiral King dealing with the Combatant Ship Building Program for 1943 and 1944.

If this suggested outline meets with your approval, may I have your authority to initiate legislation for this program.

Sincerely yours,



The President  
The White House

Enclosure

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Date- 3-5-59

Signature- Carl L. Speier

*Smith*

COMINCH FILE  
(SC) A-3 (1943-44)

UNITED STATES FLEET  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MAY 15 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

You have approved the 1943-1944 Combatant Ship Building Program. Congressional authorization for this program is necessary at an early date in order to occupy shipbuilding ways becoming available in 1943 and 1944. The program consists of the following:

Type	Unit Tonnage	Number	Total Tonnage
CV Aircraft Carriers	45,000	4	180,000
CV Aircraft Carriers	27,100	10	271,000
CA Heavy Cruisers	13,600	17	231,200
CL Light Cruisers	11,000	16	176,000
CL Light Cruisers	6,000	3	18,000
DD Destroyers	2,100	100	210,000
DE Escort Vessels	1,400	420	580,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,674,200</b>

Authorization for 200,000 tons of Naval construction has been obtained by Public Law No. 551, signed by the President on May 13, 1942. This tonnage is intended for submarines and is to occupy all submarine ways becoming available in 1943 and 1944.

The above ship building program contemplates merely a continuation of the present ship building program at the peak rate and not an increase in the peak rate of Naval ship building.

It is considered advisable that Presidential authority be obtained for initiating legislation for this combatant ship building program.

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DDO DR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

*E. J. King*  
E. J. KING

Date- 3-9-59

Signature- *Carl D. Spear*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

May 19, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(SC)A1-3/1943-44  
(023300A)

My dear Mr. President:

Please note the attached memorandum from Admiral King dealing with the Comstant Ship Building Program for 1943 and 1944.

If this suggested outline meets with your approval, may I have your authority to initiate legislation for this program.

Sincerely yours,

**FRANK KNOX**

The President  
The White House

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Date- 3-9-59

Signature- Carl S. Spier

Original of this ltr.  
filed 5/20/42.

This is President's copy  
*[Signature]*