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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

WASHINGTON

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PC TO:	
ON CARD:	
FROM:	
DATE:	
DATE:	BY:

Mr. Roy E. Stryker  
 Chief, Historical Science  
 2304 Auditors Building  
 Washington, D. C.

IFA

Dear Roy:

In response to your request I am glad to submit the following suggestions of subjects at the Briggs Manufacturing Company, Detroit, Michigan, which might prove interesting to your photographers. This company is doing a good job in training women in mechanical occupations and they are particularly proud of their school which handles approximately 200 trainees continuously. Their use of photography and the motion picture as teaching techniques is impressive.

One interesting shot might be a view of women sewing fabrics on airplane wing members. These women formerly were automobile body upholstery workers and their skills have been converted to the manufacture of airplane wings. It was a difficult job for Briggs to find work suitable for the skills and aptitudes possessed by these upholstery workers, for many of them were women in their late forties or early fifties who were too heavy to work on their feet all day long. The sewing job is one which can be done from a sitting position.

Another shot which would arouse interest might be one showing a mixed crew of men and women working on a wing assembly. If this could be done in colors so that the attractive work clothing worn by women workers would show up, it would add interest to the picture. The women workers at Briggs do not wear uniforms, but invariably they are attired in slacks of different colors. This adds considerably to the picturesqueness of the factory.

As you no doubt know the Briggs Manufacturing Company has six different plants in the Detroit area. In one of the plants where they formerly manufactured automobile bodies they are now turning out hulls for the M-4 military combat tanks. The welding operation in which an inch and a half armor plate steel is welded into the hull is enlightening. Also, it might be of interest to show the enormous aggregation of presses, formerly used in the manufacture of automobile bodies, now no longer needed; the presses have been moved to make room for war production and, like the discarded furniture of a former tenant, are stored inside the plant.

EVAN RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Mr. Roy E. Stryker

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Riveting is perhaps the most important single operation in airplane construction. Every rivet and there are literally millions of them, is inspected. The inspection of rivets requires great ingenuity. One shot I should certainly suggest, is of the inspector who works with a long telescopic periscope inspecting hundreds of rivets that have been made in the long dural-aluminum tube that goes the full length of an airplane wing.

At the River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company, you could find a number of shots which would reveal their laudable work in the rehabilitation of handicapped individuals. We observed men working who had lost their eyesight or the use of one or two legs and men who had the use of only one arm. We were told that the Ford Policy was to absorb all individuals who were injured in their own employ. At the present time they reported having about 10,000 handicapped people on their pay rolls.

I hope that this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely yours,

  
D. H. Deavenport, Chief  
Employment and Occupational Outlook Branch