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STUDY PLANNEL ON SHORTAGE OF ENGINEERS

Area Plants to Be Asked About Need for Tech- nical Assistants

A survey will be undertaken in the area this week to determine what need there is in industry for technical assistants, whose use would release vitally-needed engineers for more professional duty.

Seventy manufacturing firms have been selected for the survey which will be a co-operative effort by industrialists and educators as a step toward solving the increasing shortage of engineers.

Lyons Heads Study

Plans for the study have been formulated by a steering committee whose members are William P. Lyons, director of Boardman Trade School; M. K. Peterson, New Haven College president; Richard J. Falvey, manager of the manufacturers division of the Chamber of Commerce and Robert I. Metcalf, industrial relations manager at Winchester-Western Division, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.

The firms selected have been notified by mail during the past week that their plants will be visited by teams of interviewers. Among the data sought will be the number of engineers now employed and the number actually needed, the number of technicians employed and needed, and the proportion of engineering time devoted to duties requiring lesser skills.

Will Determine State Policy

This type of study has been recently completed in Norwalk, Stamford, Hartford and Meriden. The information obtained will be assembled by the Bureau of Vocational Education of the State Board of Education for use in determining state policy in the field of technical education. The state board is expected to lay down a policy at a meeting in March.

The technician, it is explained in the letter to manufacturers, is a step between the skilled craftsman and the professional engineer which requires some of the knowledge and skills of both levels. He would carry out many of the assignments which do not require the high level of training an engineer has and in which the latter's talents are wasted.

Metcalf, chairman of the steering committee, said that the following have accepted assignments as interviewers:

Raymond Ahern and Roger Coleman of Greist Mfg. Co.; Edward Murphy of High Standard Mfg. Co.; Daniel Hadlock, The A. C. Gilbert Co.; G. Robert Millar, Armstrong Rubber Co.; Andrew Egleston, Detroit Steel Corp.; and all members of the New Haven Personnel Managers Association.

Alan C. Hutchinson, Peter Sudarsky, C. L. Robertson, Lawrence C. Parker and James M. Orr, all staff members at New Haven College.

E. G. Seymour, J. D. Link, E. D. Phelps, R. C. Cozensa, G. R. Griffith, H. L. Baldwin and G. R. Bertold, all of the industrial relations department of the Winchester-Western Division.