

Wrigley Company Is Making Progress On Construction

Business WXYZ

Further progress toward the eventual construction of the William Wrigley Jr. company plant at Mission street and West Cliff drive was reported here today.

In a letter to the chamber of commerce, Vice President R. R. Holcomb stated that the long-sought critical materials permit has finally been issued by the national production authority. With the permit, the NPA also allocated some reinforcing bars for the third quarter of this year, the balance for the fourth quarter, but no structural steel until the fourth quarter, "which means delivery to the site sometime next year," according to Holcomb. No copper will become available until the first half of next year.

The Wrigley official stressed that the long-delayed granting of the materials permit is not the starting gun for any immediate construction. "Stainless steel and steel alloys needed by our equipment manufacturers are still unavailable to them," he said, and pointed out that a steel strike would cancel all benefits that could be derived from the allocation made.

"As soon as all doubts about steel production are out of the way, we will review the whole project and at the proper time take new bids," Holcomb reported. He also forecast a delay in asking for rebids in view of the exceedingly high prices for materials and supplies.

"Start of construction will depend to a large extent on delivery of the production equipment," wrote Holcomb. "We had earmarked certain machines and equipment for the Santa Cruz project, but released them to needy Wrigley plants where they would go into immediate service."

The Wrigley vice president said that equipment suppliers are not in a position at this time to name even approximately delivery dates on the needed equipment as they are without any word as to when they can get supplies of stainless steel and alloys.

"We must proceed cautiously and have reasonable assurance of being able to complete the project before making further commitments. However, we hope it will not be too long before the start," Holcomb concluded.