

# Knudsen Talks to Deaf in Sign Language

Bill Knudsen did something the other day which amazed even his friends. They had not suspected that he could talk in deaf-mute language.

Lieutenant General Knudsen was inspecting war plants, accompanied by other Army officers. He dropped in at the Reynolds Metal Co., Louisville, Ky., where approximately 25 per cent of the employes are deaf-mutes.

By shifting the lunch period, the management gathered all the workers to hear a talk from Knudsen. The foreman told him about the deaf-mutes, adding as a jest, "You'd better talk to them in sign language.

But it was no jest to Knudsen. To the amazement of the foreman and the Army officers, he broke into the sign language and carried on a discourse with his hands. The officers gasped, then applauded.

Later, individual workers were brought up to meet Knudsen, and he stood around talking with them in the sign language.

NOTE: By finding war work for these handicapped workers, Reynolds Metal Co. has increased their earnings from \$17 a week to \$40-plus.—The Washington Merry-Go-Round in the Washington Post, Jan. 19, 1943.