

So that there will be no misunderstanding, I want to put it on record that when we say we will accept the Dominion proposals in their amended form, we are referring not only to the cash subsidies proposed but also to the Health Insurance, Old Age Pensions and other proposals contained in the Federal Government's brief of last August. We consider these offers of assistance in establishing certain social services as an integral part of the Dominion offer and to us they are as important as the cash subsidy. Any modification or reduction in the social welfare proposals would force us to reconsider very seriously our acceptance of the Dominion Government's offer. But with the cash subsidy now outlined and the proposals of last August combined into a single entity, we are prepared to surrender to the Dominion Government the sole right to levy Income, Corporation Taxes and Succession Duties for a period of three years.

While we are prepared to accept the Dominion proposals in principle, I should like, before I sit down, to call attention to certain features concerning which I believe there should be further discussion in committee. The first of these concerns the position of the self-employed.

BENEFITS FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

The Federal Government's proposals to the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction involve relieving the provinces of the burden of unemployment relief by providing either unemployment insurance or unemployment assistance to all employable unemployed persons. Under the Dominion's proposals, however, the provincial governments would still be responsible for the relief of all groups of self-employed persons who suffer loss of income. The Saskatchewan Submission of January 1946 pointed out that this division of responsibility discriminates seriously against the predominantly agricultural provinces whose burden of unemployment relief may be