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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES

The purposes for which the government proposes to establish the Department of National War Services were given to the House in general terms by myself on June the 18th, and again on the 8th inst.

The department amongst other matters will have to do with the due execution of some of the purposes of the National Resources Mobilization Act. Certain of the purposes of the Mobilization Act involve functions which will be performed by departments of the government already in existence. Others do not so readily fit into any existing department. There is need, moreover, for seeing that all functions of the Act are properly co-ordinated.

The most immediate and pressing of the duties to be discharged under the Act is the conducting of a national registration. The Minister of the new department will be charged with this responsibility. As I have already informed the House, the preliminary work of organization has been completed by a special departmental committee. No time therefore is being lost in proceeding with the registration itself. It will no doubt be necessary, from time to time, to make under the Act further specialized surveys. Such surveys may, as required, be undertaken by the new department.