

Civil Service; deduction at source of association dues

26. The Minister of Finance, referring to discussion at the meeting of February 12th, recommended that favourable consideration be now given to the proposal that dues payable to various Civil Service Associations be deducted from pay cheques on a voluntary revocable basis.

If the proposal were approved, it was further suggested that the check-off be put into effect on July 1st, 1953.

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Minister's memorandum, March 9, 1953 - Cab. Doc. 68-53).

27. In the course of discussion, the following points emerged:

(a) the government had consistently taken the view that check-off privileges should not be dealt with by way of legislation but by way of collective bargaining between employers and employees and, as the Civil Service did not enjoy collective bargaining privileges, it seemed inadvisable to withhold any longer the voluntary check-off, particularly as this had been unanimously recommended by the National Joint Council of the Public Service;

(b) the check-off was intended to be voluntary and revocable by the employees and would be confined to associations represented on the National Joint Council and their local affiliations;

(c) staff associations would assume half the cost of implementation;

(d) the granting of check-off privileges at this time would strengthen good employer-employee relations in the Public Service; and,

(e) consideration should again be given to granting check-off privileges to Federal civil servants who were members of Maritime Medical Care, as similar privileges had previously been extended to the Blue Cross and the Civil Service Health Insurance Plan.

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RG 2, A5a,  
Vol. 2652

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