

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

ODS/ET
9 Oct., 1940

281762

Attached is a telegram from Christie, No. 260 of October 8th, stating that the Attorney General proposes to come to Ottawa for discussions on "the problem of simplifying our border-crossing procedures".

I enclose also a note I made on September 27th on a previous discussion with Christie on this subject.

The suggestion is vague, but presumably the Attorney General would not come all the way to Ottawa unless they were prepared to make some substantial suggestions. You will recall Attorney General Jackson shared with Harry Hopkins Mr. Roosevelt's support as his best New Deal successor.

I suppose you would wish to accept Mr. Jackson's proposal. Evidently they do not desire any publicity given until after the November elections. In view of the intended attendance of Mr. Edgar G. Hoover, Mr. Christie's statement that such a visit could not take place without publicity, is a very mild one. It would appear that External Affairs, Immigration and Mounted Police would be the Departments primarily concerned, and if it were thought desirable that a Cabinet Minister should be included, possibly Mr. Crerar would be able to act.

It would be preferable to have some idea of the lines on which they wish to proceed, but as neither Mr. Jackson nor Mr. Welles seems keen to furnish this, and Mr. Christie's feeling is that we should not press for it, perhaps the matter might await developments.