

To facilitate these ends, a Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of the premiers of the nine provinces, three Dominion ministers, and the Prime Minister of Canada, was established. As stated in the report of the Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee, read this morning, the Co-ordinating Committee has met from time to time. At the suggestion of some of the premiers, and with the approval of all, its meetings were held in camera.

I should like to make it perfectly clear that the meetings in camera of the Co-ordinating Committee was in no way due to a desire on the part of any of its members to conceal from the public matters which necessarily were of vital concern to the people of Canada as a whole. It was solely for the purpose of making possible a freer discussion of all points on their merits. Positions taken in open discussion are, as is well known, much more difficult to change in the light of circumstances than positions which are taken in the course of deliberations held in camera often merely to clarify discussion. All submissions received from the provinces have been made public. Revisions and modifications of the Dominion proposals have been made at the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee, in the light of its discussions. At the request of certain premiers, the modifications of the Dominion proposals were not made