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Re Bourne
Referring
the fact that under*

Office referring

Coll - Federal District Commission

Federal District Commission

C 55956

Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett

April 24, 1928.

*Re - Budget
Committee*

(House of Commons - Second Reading - On Section 2: Period for Payment of Annual Grants Extended - Revised Hansard page 2352).

*Bennett
6-3313*

"I suggest to the government the desirability of substituting the word "five" for the word "thirty". Five years is the life of a parliament, and I cannot think it quite consonant with the ideas of the right hon. gentleman as heretofore expressed that this parliament should bind the hands of future parliaments. I am quite aware of the fact that it would be quite competent for succeeding parliaments to change that figure to forty or to ten; they would have that power, but a vested interest is acquired when a statute of this kind is passed by parliament; the commission naturally expects that that is the end of it. I suggest that instead of making provision for thirty years we endeavour to deal with this matter during the lifetime of a parliament. It is true that one or two sessions of this parliament will have passed, but I think the right hon. gentleman would be quite within the general constitutional practice if he said, "I desire that a given sum shall be available for this commission during the lifetime of the parliament over which I am the directing head". But when you ask parliament to bind its hands for thirty years I cannot help but think that is going too far, and that it is not quite consistent with the general principles under which we conduct our government."

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had and some time when referring to matter forward on between about may be desirable
Bennett*

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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