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MINISTER OF LABOUR

Confidential

Ottawa, January 7, 1947.

Mr. A.D.P. Heeney,  
Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Privy Council Office,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Heeney:

I have your letter of January 2nd relative to the submission of bills covering legislation to be introduced at the next session of Parliament. The position of this Department, with respect to such legislation, is as follows:

1. A draft Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act has been prepared in printed form and has been submitted to the provinces and to the leading employer and employee organizations for their confidential consideration and comment. In circulating the bill, it has been emphasized that the bill represents the views of a drafting committee of the department only and has not been submitted for the endorsement of the Government.

We have asked that all comments be forwarded by January 13th. Several have already been received but it will probably be the 18th of January before all replies come to hand. When these are received, the bill will be revised and submitted in final form for Cabinet consideration as soon as possible thereafter. In the meantime, a number of printed copies of the draft bill have been furnished to your office and if further copies are desired, these will be made available on request.

2. This department has already made representations to the Committee of the Cabinet on Orders in Council pointing out that the legislation referred to in paragraph one above will probably not become law until after March 31st, 1947, and that even if by good fortune the legislation was approved by that date, it would still not be practicable to complete administrative arrangements to put the new legislation into effect until some time after the 31st of March. This legislation embodies the provisions of the present