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Urgent

*W.W. National Selective Service re
Manpower
Dept. of Agriculture*

*file W-302
1942
National Selective
Service
Official Information*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

re Manpower and Selective Service

C250641

The manpower question will undoubtedly be one of the main, if not the main, subjects of controversy in the forthcoming session. It is very probable that your speeches of March 24th and August 19th will be taken, point by point, by Opposition speakers.

In order to secure the information necessary for replying to criticism, I have drafted a letter to Mr. Mitchell for your signature, asking him to have his officers prepare reports on all the important aspects of the policy as contained in your two statements.

The most widespread dissatisfaction will almost certainly arise over the question of farm labour. In certain parts of the country, particularly Saskatchewan and Western Ontario, the problem is really acute, and has been aggravated because the War Services Boards have ignored the spirit if not the letter of your announcement of government policy permitting indefinite postponements of military service to those normally employed in agriculture.

It might be well to try to anticipate this discontent (which many Liberal M.P.'s for rural districts will share) by announcing any additional measures to meet the farm labour shortage as soon as possible.

Some little time ago, in a radio forum, Mr. MacNamara stated categorically that the necessary farm labour would be found. It is obvious that if the increased farm production goals announced by the Department of Agriculture are to be met, more will have to be done than is being done now to provide the necessary labour. You might wish to have a supplementary letter to Mr. Mitchell drafted, urging him to have measures formulated to meet the farm labour problem, so that they might receive early consideration by the War Committee.

*Shawton / by miss before re
January 4, 1942. for further consideration
2 annual program
revised*

JWP
J. W. P.