

## APPENDIX "A"

## MARITIME UNION TRUSTEES—EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION UNIONS  
Montreal 2, P.Q.

July 31, 1964.

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen,  
Minister of Labour,  
Confederation Building,  
Ottawa Ontario.

Dear Mr. MacEachen:

I have now had an opportunity to discuss with the other trustees the matters raised in our conversation on Tuesday about our appearance before a parliamentary committee. As I pointed out at that time we were disturbed at the suggestion that we were defying parliament as that was not the situation. We have never denied that parliament had the right to summon us to appear before it and that if it did so we would be obliged to appear.

We do, however, feel that there are sound reasons why parliament should not require us to appear. We are trustees for the unions named in the schedule to the act, and those unions, unlike government departments or crown corporations, belong to the members and not to the government or the nation. This fact makes the situation facing the trustees very delicate since much of the information which we obtain as trustees belongs to those unions and those members and not to ourselves or to anyone else.

In addition to considerations arising from the fiduciary nature of our position, much of our work and that of our staff must be carried on in some degree of privacy. The very fact that we represent, and inquire into the activities of, unions with conflicting interests, would make it wrong for us to make all our actions public. Some indication of the nature of the inquiry contemplated may be obtained from the questions put to you in the house. It is perhaps understandable that most of those questions relate to the S.I.U. of Canada, but it must be remembered that if we are to be called upon to reveal the activities of, and information relating to, the

S.I.U. of Canada, we can also be required to reveal the activities of, and information relating to, the other unions under trusteeship.

It would be prejudicial to the interests of any union to have any and all of its activities subject to examination and exposure to the public, including particularly employers and rival unions. We do not read the statute under which we were appointed as intending such a result and we feel it is our duty to endeavour to avoid it.

This objection is as valid as it would have been if we had been appointed trustees of one or more of the shipping companies. It would not then have been proper to expose to parliament and therefore to the public, including competing employers, the activities of such companies in financial, commercial, and other fields, or their relationships with their shareholders and employees. A closed session of the industrial relations committee would be just as objectionable so far as the breach of our fiduciary responsibility is concerned.

As a result of our position as trustees, we have available to us information as to the day to day activities of the unions, much as if we were in the position of the union leaders themselves. We believe parliament would not wish to inquire into the private activities of unions and we, as trustees, should not be required to answer questions relative to our activities in this sphere any more than if we were indeed leaders of unions.

We understand the interest of parliament in the progress we are making with the task assigned to us, but it is our opinion that to reveal plans, experimental projects and studies of the situation, will only be injurious to its successful completion.

However, as recognized above, it is for parliament to say, and as you have now joined your request to those of other groups in the house, I will, if it is still the wish of parliament, appear before a parliamentary committee. I suggest that this appearance take place sometime later in the session. At the hearing, however, I, on behalf of the trustees, will raise the issues mentioned above and suggest to the committee that we should