

2. Mr. Mackenzie reviewed, briefly, the recommendations of the Committee on Reconstruction, and the conclusions with respect thereto of the Economic Advisory Committee with which he was in general agreement. It was pointed out, however, that, if arrangements were to be made along the lines suggested by the Economic Advisory Committee, care should be taken in the readjustment of the functions of the Committee on Reconstruction.

3. The Prime Minister read the summary contained in the Economic Advisory Committee's report.

The importance and urgency of an immediate beginning upon the preparation of specific government plans was emphasized. The machinery suggested by the Committee on Reconstruction, however, viz., the creation of a Ministry of Economic Planning, or, alternatively, the appointment of a Minister without portfolio responsible for economic warfare, and the establishment of a special Cabinet Committee, was not regarded as effective or practicable and, accordingly, was not approved. Nevertheless, it was necessary to prepare plans for the immediate postwar problem of domestic unemployment on a large scale, and for Canadian participation in international economic and political discussions already underway. This planning must be the responsibility of the government itself, and the bulk of the preparation and advisory work must be done within government departments and agencies.

It was, therefore, recommended by the Economic Advisory Committee that a new interdepartmental committee, or the Economic Advisory Committee itself, functioning through a sub-committee, be made responsible for planning and directing the work of investigation and report upon postwar problems; that, in order to provide co-ordination, the Committee on Reconstruction report henceforth directly to the Prime Minister and that its functions be redefined.

4. The Minister of Mines and Resources emphasized the need of early government consideration of practical plans for reconstruction, such as slum clearance, reforestation and the like.

5. The Minister of Munitions and Supply emphasized the importance of the immediate study of means of converting wartime industries to peacetime use. The Directors General of the Department of Munitions and Supply had already been directed to give attention to the initiation of surveys in this respect.

6. Mr. King expressed approval of the recommendations of the Economic Advisory Committee. If they were accepted, reports might be submitted to the President of the Privy Council, and it might be