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1944*10-3-44*
Norm MacKenzie
in 9/44
Confidential

Ottawa, March 9th, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:Re: Wartime Information Board; chairmanship

Norman MacKenzie, Chairman of Wartime Information Board has, as you know, recently been appointed President of the University of British Columbia. He expects to take up his duties in Vancouver about August 1st.

In view of the distance between Ottawa and Vancouver, MacKenzie feels that he should resign as Chairman of the Board, since he considers it essential that the Chairman should be present at all monthly meetings and should, in addition, be available for frequent discussions with the General Manager and members of the Board. This will not now be possible for him.

20 MacKenzie has written me to say that in his own opinion his formal resignation might well stand over until some time in the autumn, if that is satisfactory to the government. I have replied saying that it seemed to me quite appropriate.

In the circumstances I am inclined to suggest that Philippe Brais, presently Vice-Chairman, be asked to succeed MacKenzie, as from, say, September 1st. Brais will not pay much attention to the Board's affairs but with the appointment of Dunton as General Manager and with the experience which has now been gained, I think Wartime Information Board can carry on satisfactorily, with attention from Claxton and myself.

The Vice-Chairmanship is not a matter of any importance, if Brais becomes Chairman.

It might be well to have MacKenzie express his views to the government in contemplation of his own retirement.

May I take it that you would be agreeable to proceeding as suggested above?

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ADPH
A. D. P. H.