

## CABINET COMMITTEES CHANGED

Prime Minister Trudeau has announced a re-organization in the Cabinet committee system, effective immediately, which should, he claims, "result in increased efficiency in dealing with particular items of business but at the same time should permit more time and attention to be concentrated on the task of planning and policy development".

Part of Mr. Trudeau's statement follows:

...Until a few years ago, the full Cabinet undertook all essential policy planning and also was used to give particular items of business the full and careful attention they warranted. However, as business before Cabinet gradually increased, and as Ministers became more and more occupied with large and complex departments of government, it became obvious that the full Cabinet could not continue to operate in this manner. Consequently, a comprehensive Cabinet committee system was set up when Mr. Pearson came to office in 1963. Under this system, a number of standing committees were formed and, in addition, certain *ad hoc* or special committees were set up to deal with specific problems. As a general rule, business was referred to the appropriate Cabinet committee for examination in detail and for recommendations to the Cabinet. The result was that each item was normally dealt with eventually by the full Cabinet, no matter what its relative importance happened to be.

The increased scope of government activity also resulted in a fairly large number of standing committees. At one time there were about a dozen, and about as many special or *ad hoc* committees.

This system has worked well for the past five years and greatly improved the efficiency of government. It has, however, become apparent that further changes are now required to permit a greater centralization of functions and the delegation of certain powers of decision to the committees.

To meet these difficulties, I have revised the system of Cabinet committees to reduce the number of committees and to provide for a regularity in their meetings.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

The subject areas of government activity will be divided amongst four major standing committees: a Committee on External Policy and Defence; a Committee on Economic Policy and Programmes; a Committee on Communications, Works and Urban Affairs; and a Committee on Social Policy (including labour and manpower questions). There will, of course, be areas of activity that will continue to require the attention of other special committees - for example science matters or cultural questions.

The new system will consolidate a large number of existing committees; for example, the Committee on Economic Policy and Programmes will cover areas now dealt with by three standing committees of the Cabinet and three special committees. Other committees would involve corresponding combinations of functions.

### CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES

In addition to these four major functional committees there will be four main co-ordinating committees. One is a Committee on Priorities and Planning, the essential purpose of which will be to review priorities and planning of government policy and to give special attention to questions which have important long-term implications. There will also be a Committee on Legislation and Planning for the House, which will be responsible for the planning of the Parliamentary programme, dealing with legislation and for determining governmental priorities in Parliament. It will be chaired by the Government Leader in the House. The third co-ordinating committee is the Treasury Board which will carry out the work it now does under the statute. It will continue to exercise important functions with respect to the co-ordination of expenditure programmes, control of departmental estimates in relation to fiscal resources and matters of government management generally, including collective bargaining. The Treasury Board will work closely with the Committee on Priorities and Planning, and Treasury Board staff will be called upon together with staff from the Department of Finance and the Cabinet Secretariat to serve the Priorities and Planning Committee. The fourth co-ordinating committee will be that on Federal-Provincial Relations, to ensure better co-ordination of programmes and activities relating to federal-provincial policy generally. It will also provide important assistance in briefing Ministers on current developments in federal-provincial relations, including the vital work to be undertaken with the provinces in the constitutional review.

I plan to serve as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Federal-Provincial Relations and also of the Committee on Priorities and Planning. The other Committees will be chaired by other Ministers....

### FOOD AID TO GHANA

Canada has agreed to provide \$2-million worth of food aid to Ghana. About 16,000 tons of wheat flour will be shipped to Ghana to help meet its needs for this year. The food will help Ghana reduce its foreign-exchange deficit, a large part of which is caused by sizable food imports. The forecast deficit in 1968 is between \$70 million and \$80 million. Food imports are estimated at about \$40.5 million.

The International Monetary Fund has said that measures, such as the Canadian food aid, which will assist Ghana in preserving her scarce foreign-exchange reserves, will be of significant assistance in the recovery of the economy at this stage.

Canada has been a major source of supply for the flour needed by Ghana for 50 years, and there is now a preference there for Canadian flour. This is the third year in which flour has been supplied to Ghana, bringing the total of food aid provided to \$6 million.

In addition to food aid in 1967-68, Ghana was allocated \$2 million in grant aid, primarily for technical assistance.