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MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

CONFIDENTIAL

January 7, 1947.

A.D.P. Heeney, Esq.,
Clerk of the Privy Council,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Heeney:

With reference to your letter of January 2nd advising that all bills should be submitted to your office by January 11th, I would point out that while the amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act which you already have in your hands are the only ones which require attention in connection with the early expiry of the Emergency Transitional Powers Act, we have been considering departmentally the advisability of further amending the Old Age Pensions Act in certain important respects. It is clear, however, that the further amendments, if it is decided to proceed with them, cannot be in your hands until some time after January 11th.

It is the opinion of my departmental officials that if the decision is reached to proceed with further important amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act, affecting, for instance, the amount of the pension and other important points, it would be best to present two amending bills to the Old Age Pensions Act at the forthcoming session. The first of these would be the bill presently in your hands, which has to be dealt with in the first part of the session before the expiry of the Emergency Transitional Powers Act. The second amending bill, respecting additional changes over and above those which were made operative through Wartime Orders in Council, could be introduced, if necessary, at a somewhat later date in the session. In this way, it will be possible to avoid any extended debate on the first amending Old Age Pensions bill.

I should add, also that we are considering departmentally the draft of a new Physical Fitness Act to replace the present National Physical Fitness Act, and we may wish to