

Mr. Pearson  
St. Laurent

C.I.S. Bill had been introduced and received first reading in the House of Commons. Subsequently the Minister of National Health and Welfare had attended the Paris Conference and had had an opportunity to examine C.I.S. operations in Europe at first hand. As a result of his experience, Mr. Claxton felt it was now appropriate to reconsider the status and future of C.I.S."

King

Mr. Claxton was in attendance at this meeting and proceeded to explain:

...that his observations in Europe had strengthened his opinion that an external information service was essential for Canada. It was, however, desirable at this stage to consider whether the existing inter-departmental organization should be continued and placed on a statutory basis; or whether, in view of the fact that the Department of External Affairs now had a separate Minister, it would not be preferable to associate C.I.S. more closely with that department. If the second course commended itself to the Committee and subsequently to the government, it would be necessary to define with some precision the relationship between External Affairs and C.I.S. so as to preserve some measure of autonomy for the latter within the Department. It would also be necessary to consider carefully the means by which the Service could be transferred.

Mr. L. B. Pearson, who had recently become Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, agreed that, if the government should decide to associate the Information Service more closely with an existing department, External Affairs seemed the most appropriate place. He raised the important question of the status of Information personnel under such an arrangement: "Should they be members of a division of