

C-100 (c)

C183272

file

Ottawa, January 17th, 1944.

Memorandum for the Prime Minister

re: Dominion-Provincial Conference

1. To prepare for a conference there might be a Cabinet Committee and an Interdepartmental Committee reporting to it. A member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee might act as chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee and be charged with direct responsibility for all preparations. Attached to him there might be Alex Skelton, because of his previous experience, knowledge and great ability, and a small group of others. Some of these might be obtained from the armed services. Dean Vincent MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour might be available. Major G.S. Challies, N.D.H.Q., Lt. J.H. McDonald of Naval Headquarters, occur to me.
2. The Interdepartmental Committee should deal with three matters
 - (a) financial arrangements between the Dominion and the provinces;
 - (b) changes required in the B.N.A. Act;
 - (c) reasons in support of the foregoing.
3. The material prepared by the Interdepartmental Committee might be referred to the Economic Advisory Committee for approval and then be submitted to the Cabinet Sub-Committee and the Cabinet. From this there should emerge at the earliest possible date a general indication of what the government wanted to get from an inter-provincial conference.
4. Simultaneously the Bank of Canada or some accountant like J.S. Thomson would be asked to bring Dominion and provincial figures and statistics up to date.