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Legislation; Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act amendment

4. The Minister of Agriculture, submitted a bill to amend the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act. The main purpose of the measure was to make the legislation more consistent with the provisions of the Financial Administration Act in the procedure for authorizing contracts, purchases and projects.

5. In the course of discussion it was suggested that subsection (2) of section 9 of the Act might be further amended to provide that projects under that section, involving expenditures in excess of \$15,000, should not be undertaken without the consent of the Treasury Board rather than the Governor in Council, as the Act now provided. It was felt that this would be more consistent with the practice followed in other government departments and would be a logical extension of the government's policy of having the Treasury Board, rather than the Governor in Council, assume responsibility for consideration and final approval of such administrative matters as departmental contracts, land purchases, rentals of machinery etc.

6. The Cabinet approved the proposed amendments to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, as submitted by the Minister of Agriculture, and agreed that the Act be further amended to provide that the consent of the Treasury Board rather than of the Governor in Council, be obtained before undertaking any project under that section involving an expenditure in excess of \$15,000.

Legislation; Defence Production Act amendment

7. The Secretary submitted a resolution and bill to amend the Defence Production Act. The main purpose of the measure was to extend indefinitely the life of the legislation rather than to have it cease to have effect on July 31st, 1956, as now provided by section 41 of the Act. It would also increase the salary of the Minister to \$15,000, as had been done for other Ministers in the Salaries Act last session.

8. In the course of discussion it was suggested that this bill might more properly be introduced in the House by the Prime Minister since it dealt, among other things, with an increase in a ministerial salary.

9. The Cabinet approved for introduction a resolution and bill to amend the Defence Production Act as submitted; it being understood that the Cabinet Committee on Legislation would consider whether this measure should be introduced in the House by the Prime Minister rather than by the Minister of Defence Production.

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