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CONFIDENTIAL

September 28th, 1939

Dear Dr. Skelton:

C155817

I am enclosing copy of a letter received yesterday from J.M. Macdonnell of Toronto with enclosure. I also enclose four copies of Hugh Johnson's column to which he refers.

It happened that last evening I saw Felix Frankfurter for the first time and he gave me a clipping from another paper of Johnson's production. He thinks there may be more of this sort of stuff. It has obvious uses for people who are on Johnson's side of the debate and controversy now going on.

It might be well to take some account of this line of argument in some way. I do not think anyone here should take Johnson up directly. Perhaps the Public Information people in Ottawa might consider it. One way of going at it (without any reference to Johnson or anybody else) would be to prepare a narrative of the procedure by which Canada became engaged in war and of the action taken, the point being to show how the democratic process works in such an emergency. The material could be used in the press in Canada and I suppose by the C.B.C. I should think either Public Information people or the C.B.C. staff would have someone who could get the idea and develop it effectively. If any such material were prepared I should like very much to have a copy of it, not with any idea whatever of putting it out here but simply as reliable material on which I could base conversations with friends.

Yours sincerely,

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Under-Secretary of State for  
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L.C. CHRISTIE

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 230, pages C155731-C156122)

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