

Exhibit 4.

C190160

Statement by
Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, House of Commons,
re Governor General's Warrants and Unemployment
and Farm Relief, March 3, 1933 (Revised Hansard, p.2679)

"May I point out to the committee what the Prime Minister knows better than anyone else, that, in dealing with questions of great emergency especially where human life is at stake, this House of Commons of Canada has never taken exception to a ministry taking the one course which it can constitutionally take in cases where an appropriation has not been made or is inadequate of asking for a governor general's warrant to meet a particularly emergent situation until parliament can be brought together. I made it very clear at the beginning of the special session in 1930 that, if the ministry found difficulty in estimating what would be required for the purpose of meeting some very critical situation in the matter of relief, and, if it should be necessary, before parliament could be brought together, that a certain expenditure should be made by governor general's warrants on account of the urgency of the human need involved, those of us who sit on this side of the house would take no exception to that particular course, provided that, in the first instance, parliament had been given the control it should have. That is the sound position, and it is the one which ought to be maintained. Are we to hear the same argument again next year, and, if there is a change of government next year, is the incoming government to follow along identical lines in relation to all expenditures concerning unemployment relief? Are we to continue administering the unemployment relief of the country by means of blank cheques given the ministry by vote of its supporters in the house? There will have to be a halt to that procedure, or we might as well get rid of parliament altogether. No one knows better than do hon. gentlemen opposite that in asking for this continued free hand in the matter of public expenditures, they are taking a course which cannot for a moment be defended.