

Honourable C. D. Howe.

November 1, 1943.

as an illustration the case of a man in Winnipeg desiring to come to Halifax on business, he would first of all have to write Halifax giving his credentials and reasons and if satisfactory, receive his pass or entrance card permitting him to buy a ticket. This would probably take two weeks even if the matter were handled with despatch at this end and letters sent by air mail. It certainly could not be accomplished in less than one week under the best of circumstances.

Then there also arises the question of control of entrance by automobile, this would mean examination of all those attempting entry by automobile or other vehicle, guards on all roads, impediment to traffic movement and lastly the Royal Canadian Mounted Police certainly have not got the men. They are now very short of manpower in this area. Public co-operation can be requested but to enforce and rigidly control it, I do not think is practicable and certainly would be cumbersome and strongly resented.

DECISION AS TO DEPOPULATION. I am very doubtful whether any man or body of men should be charged with the responsibility of deciding who should and should not reside in Halifax. It could only be done under some Order in Council passed under The War Measures Act and there would have to be machinery set up for its enforcement. I doubt very much if any such measure is the proper solution of this problem, but at the moment I have no definite suggestion to make for your consideration. I certainly would not desire to be charged with this responsibility or be a member of any Board to make these decisions. Further, the machinery to make it operative would be both cumbersome and costly.

RESTAURANT FACILITIES. Further thought might well be given to arranging with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for more adequate supplies in the way of food to the existing restaurants and through Selective Service as to the manning of same, further that these restaurants be required to keep open from seven o'clock in the morning until one a.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. For all practical purposes there are three hotels serving meals on Sunday and one restaurant. If adequate food was provided during reasonable hours throughout the day and night, I am of the opinion that much of the present criticism and unrest would be eliminated.

FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO HALIFAX. As previously stated the city administrative forces are in no way responsible for the present unsatisfactory conditions at Halifax.

The total value of real estate in the City is \$104,341,215, the value of exempted property is \$51,844,413, the value of real estate in the City owned by the Federal Government, including Canadian National Railways and National Harbours Board, amounts to \$30,692,040. These figures are based on the 1943-44 exempted list made up at the beginning of December 1942 and since that time the Federal Government have acquired private property to the value of \$110,000, or expressed in another way, if the Federally owned property were paying taxes to the City of Halifax