

The Commission is planning to begin its tour of Western Canada in Winnipeg on November 14 and will sit in Regina, Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary in that order. Hearings will be held in Quebec City, Montreal and Toronto in January with a final sitting in Ottawa some time in February.

We expect to receive briefs from provincial and municipal authorities, farmers organizations, the fishing interests, business and labour organizations and so on. It is expected that a great deal of valuable information will be elicited in this way.

The Commission is requesting that briefs be submitted two or three weeks in advance of the hearings so that the Commissioners may have an opportunity of studying them. We are also asking those who intend to submit briefs to notify us of their intentions as soon as possible so that we may determine how long we should plan to sit in each city. Except in the case of representations by provincial and municipal authorities we shall not expect people to read their briefs in detail at the hearings - the Commissioners plan to read them beforehand - but only to summarize the high spots and to answer questions.

As already intimated, it is expected that the public hearings will be concluded some time in February. Most of the studies which are being undertaken by the Commission's staff and by others should also be finished about the same time. This means that by late winter or early spring the Commission should be able to get down to the hard work of pulling the mass of available information together and of reaching its conclusions.

I should make it clear that the Commission will not be expected to make precise or detailed forecasts about the future or to submit a long list of detailed recommendations. It will, however, be expected to arrive at broad conclusions about the direction in which the Canadian economy seems to be pointed; about some of the problems which seem to lie ahead; and about some of the policies which might be modified or changed to advantage. This is a tall order indeed. It is also a fascinating one.

Now I come to the question of the information which the Commission would like to obtain from the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities or from individual municipal authorities. If you will bear with me, I should like to spell this out in some detail. Before doing so, I should perhaps mention that all of the Provincial Governments have already been good enough to inquire about the kind of information which the Commission would like to receive from them. This will include their views upon the future expansion and development of the resource industries of their provinces, the probabilities of further industrial development in the secondary - or manufacturing - industry field, and their views upon a number of other subjects which are also of special interest to the municipalities. These latter questions - upon which the Commission would welcome the views of the municipalities as well as those of the Provincial Governments - include: