

26. The Minister of National Defence felt that a new principle was envisaged here that had not been applied in any of the previous disasters where the Federal Government provided assistance. Responsibility was being assumed prior to the actual occurrence of the disaster and the Government would be taking on what was a provincial obligation. It was suggested that it would be extremely difficult to define in advance what was likely to be a national disaster.

27. Mr. Howe suggested that a safeguard was provided in that provincial and local authorities must regard the situation as sufficiently serious and the contemplated measure as adequate enough to warrant their putting up 62½ per cent of the expenditure involved.

It was understood, in the case of the Thames Valley, that the contractor concerned had agreed to let the offer stand until the 1st of September and it was considered that Mr. Frost would like to have the matter settled before the proposed Federal-Provincial Conference.

28. The Minister of Resources and Development said that if the Federal Government were going to participate there might be some advantage to linking the flood control project with forest conservation.

29. The Cabinet, after further discussion, agreed that the question of a federal contribution to the proposed measures for flood control on the Thames River be deferred pending investigation by the Minister of Resources and Development on the desirability of carrying out a forest conservation plan in connection with the project.

Appointments; Acting Ministers

30. The Prime Minister submitted certain recommendations for the appointment of Acting Ministers.

31. The Cabinet, after discussion, approved the following appointments; Orders in Council to be passed accordingly:

(a) the Honourable Paul Martin to be Acting Minister of Labour;

(b) the Honourable J.A. MacKinnon to be Acting Minister of Labour pro tem;

(c) the Honourable Walter Harris to be Acting Secretary of State pro tem.

(Orders in Council P.C.3765, 3766 and 3771, Aug. 2, 1950)

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