

The Commission has recruited a large and able staff headed by Mr. D.V. LePan, on loan from the Department of External Affairs, who has been appointed Secretary to the Commission and its Director of Research. It is interesting to remember that another member of the Department of External Affairs acted in a similar capacity to the Royal Commission on Price Spreads and Mass Buying back in 1934. His name was Mike Pearson - now known throughout the world as the Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Canada's Minister of External Affairs.

Other senior members of the Commissions staff include Dr. John Davis of Kamloops, B.C. on loan from the Department of Trade and Commerce, Professor Yves Dube of Laval University, Quebec, Dr. W.M. Drummond of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Douglas Fullerton recently with a financial organization in Toronto, Professor W.C. Hood, a Maritimer who is now on the staff of the University of Toronto, Dr. Robert Howland on loan from the Government of Nova Scotia, Professor William MacKenzie of Edmonton and Simon Reisman, formerly of Montreal, on loan from the Department of Finance.

Mr. J.C. Lessard of Montreal, a former Deputy Minister of Transport, has been retained as Transportation Consultant to the Commission and will be available to advise us upon probable developments in this vitally important field.

In all, the staff of the Commission will number some 25 or 30 people. They will undertake a number of studies of particular questions. But, quite obviously, it would not be possible for them -- that is the Commission's own staff -- to begin to cover all the subjects which come within our terms of reference. Accordingly, we have asked many other qualified people and the institutions with which they are connected to undertake specific studies on the Commission's behalf. We have appealed for help to the Provincial Governments, to several of the Banks, to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, to one of the largest insurance companies, to the Trades and Labour Congress, the Canadian Congress of Labour, the Canadian and Catholic Federation of Labour, to a number of people in the professions and to people in the Federal Government Service. In every case the response has been gratifying in the extreme. The people we have appealed to have agreed to make objective studies of particular questions for the Commission. And in most cases this work will be done free of charge as an important contribution in the general public interest.

I have referred to some of the Institutions and Organizations which are preparing information for the Commission in order to indicate the broad extent of the support which we are receiving. I have not recited a complete list and, in fact, additional offers of assistance are being received almost every day.

While these various studies are being prepared, the Commission itself will be holding public hearings across Canada. The hearings will begin in St. John's, Newfoundland on Monday, October 17 to be followed by sittings in Halifax, Charlottetown and Fredericton.