

Miss LAMARSH: If I may interrupt, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to figure out how this fits in under our discussion of the War Measures Act.

As I understand the emergency measures organization setup under the Privy Council—and I do not know what has set it up; it is an act, is it not? Anyway, there is something functioning. This organization is making most detailed preparations for a state of emergency. Then, I assume that all these preparations would come in force as orders passed under the War Measures Act.

Mr. BRYCE: Yes.

Miss LAMARSH: And at that time the emergency measures organization would be more or less regularized as the authority.

Mr. BRYCE: In peacetime we do not exercise legal authority, and we have not had to ask parliament to give us any act.

Miss LAMARSH: You are the planning branch of the Privy Council.

Mr. BRYCE: Yes, a planning and the coordinating branch. Some of the departments have certain legal authority now. For example, the National Defence Act provides authority to the Minister of National Defence to carry on civil defence activities, as well as other defence activities.

Miss LAMARSH: That is the point I am trying to reach. If it is contemplated at such time as the War Measures Act comes into force that the emergency measures organization as an entity is to come into force, the government of Canada really would be an octopus at that time, in essence; and because of the nature of the type of conflict that we have to contemplate, what we need to bury in Carp, or whatever it is, is the E.M.O. branch and not necessarily the cabinet, because what will be functioning will be E.M.O. and not the cabinet. If I am incorrect on this, I wish you would please tell me.

Mr. BRYCE: I should say first, we would visualize when a war does break out, utilizing—

Miss LAMARSH: I would caution you to please not keep saying “when it happens”.

Mr. BRYCE: I should say, should it happen.

Miss LAMARSH: I prefer “if”.

Mr. BRYCE: Should a war break out we would want to use the basic organization of the government. The main interest of the cabinet, the Prime Minister, and the key government people in the several departments whose operations would be essential would, of course, be the war problems, and we would hope that E.M.O. then would become simply absorbed into the regular structure of government.

Now, we would not keep all the departments functioning. They would be concentrated in the really essential ones. However, we do not think of this planning organization as being the people who are going to run the war. They would be assigned to the various operating agencies or departments that would do the real running of the war. Consequently, they are not the ones we want to bury at any particular place. On the burying you talk about, I did mention earlier that for safety sake we think it is essential to disperse and not concentrate the key people.

Miss LAMARSH: There is one other matter and this arises from a question I was asked at a Voice of Women meeting here in Ottawa. A very emotional woman posed the question to those of us on the panel, how much advance notice would be given to the executive arm of government over and above that given to the public generally? I had assumed the difference in time would only be the length of time it took to communicate notice directly to the people, but the questioner seemed to have some information, or to be of the opinion that