

Honourable C. D. Howe.

November 1, 1943.

The results of these interviews more or less clearly indicate that there will be considerable men available for this type of work in the Spring of next year. The present Naval programme as to harbour work and inland works will be well under way to completion by the Spring of 1944 and I know of no other additional major works contemplated by the Army, Navy or Air Force, therefore, it seems only reasonable that thought might be given to proceeding with the two hundred and fifty houses Wartime Housing now have funds for and previously referred to in this memorandum, at least as a partial solution of the present problem. At the moment I am not prepared to recommend it but certainly think it is worthy of careful thought and analysis in its relation to the problem as a whole.

DATA AS TO EXISTING CONDITIONS. I have found it almost impossible to procure any reliable data as to the present population of Halifax. The City Assessor's Department keep no record whatever of population other than houses that are being used for three or more roomers, this for the purpose of taxation only. Might's Directory gives the population for 1942-43 as 106,000 exclusive of the Services. Nowhere in the City services is data available in respect to present population although it is assumed that the normal population of Halifax prior to 1939 was approximately 65,000, today with the Services, it is estimated to be in excess of 130,000. In other words, practically all the public services designed to accommodate 65,000 people are now required to accommodate between 120,000 and 130,000.

RESTAURANT FACILITIES. The restaurant facilities in Halifax are exceedingly unsatisfactory, the main causes being shortage of food and shortage of help also lack of restaurant facilities. The hotels are crowded daily, in fact it is almost impossible to get accommodation without prior reservation of many days and even then it is often impossible on account of previous bookings. There is no question that many of the citizens of Halifax crowd the hotels to conserve their ration allowances which in turn only accentuates the difficulties.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. Of course, I have not completed my reconnaissance survey and could not possibly do so in the time I have had to devote to this work in conjunction with my other activities, but I am quite certain that before the problem can be properly analysed, the first thing to do is to get the facts and these will only be procurable through a direct and quick survey. To that end I have contacted Major Crowell, Director of Civilian Defence and he in turn took the matter up with his operating committee and advised me today that he felt that his A.R.P. assistants could undertake this survey and possibly complete it in two weeks. There would probably be some eighteen thousand listings to make of houses, apartment houses, rooming houses, business properties, etc., and I think in connection therewith that it would be necessary to pay for this work as my experience has been that when a work of this magnitude is undertaken on a voluntary basis, which I may say is what Mayor Lloyd suggested, the results are never satisfactory, whereas if it is paid for there is no obligation to anyone and satisfactory returns can to a degree, be demanded. I have not attempted to work out in detail the exact cost, but I have approached it in a very general way and my thought is that between thirty and forty thousand dollars would be required to take the census, properly tabulate this data for use in any policy that might be adopted. My thought is that as a result of a survey of this nature, that on its completion we would know of practically everyone in Halifax, married or single or with families, families of men in the Services, the work all people are engaged in,

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