

3.

Mr. Delaute raised the question as to why secret information should be sent to the bureau, to which Mr. Pickersgill replied the Prime Minister required it.

Mr. Walter Thompson told the members they were now working in dual capacity -- departmental and public information bureau members. He said their value as publicity men would increase, and would have a constructive effect on positions of publicity men generally if carried on well. On them depended the way in which the work of the government was presented to the public. A "Library of Information" was absolutely essential. With regard to censorship, it was necessary to publicity men to know the censorship lay-out. His office provided a twenty-four hour service and government men should submit all press releases to him. This would also provide him with a very necessary background. With regard to the press gallery, he said regardless of any breaking of ruling, nothing was to be said if story were doubtful. If material were for press release or radio, he advised submitting to censorship regulations.

Mr. Rowse and Mr. Payne both stated that they had received detailed instructions from their respective ministers to branch heads. Copy of a letter drafted by Dr. Wodehouse of the Department of Pensions and National Health was read by Mr. Rowse. (Copy attached) Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Hambleton thought that each minister might be asked to write a similar letter to all deputies and branch heads.

W.E.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 230, pages C155731-C156122)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

