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2.Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, K.C., P.C.
August 23rd, 1940.

Britain, but that there are no commitments whatsoever and the only agreement is that of a joint Study Board which, I see by the paper, is now being set up. These are to report back to their respective Governments before any action is taken and as it may take several weeks I do not think anything will transpire before the first of November. At any event King told me when we saw him that Roosevelt had asked for the interview and asked for the joint board as window dressing which he can take to the Congressional leaders as a quid pro quo for their allowing him to send the fifty obsolete destroyers to Churchill without any Congressional authority.

My other anxiety was that King was ~~not~~ doing this thing behind Churchill's back and I put the question to him point blank and was assured by him that Churchill knew all about it; that he and Roosevelt were holding conversations as well as Roosevelt and King and that Churchill was reporting to King and King was reporting to Roosevelt.

King left the impression with me that Churchill was exceedingly anxious over the whole situation and anxious to get in as much support from the U.S.A. as possible.

As a matter of fact there could be no objection to Staff conversations and it has been going on for quite a long time. I remember that *McNaughton* was down there in our time and subsequently that Ashton was there while Stirling was in the Department and I assume it has happened since. The publicity, in my view, is to help out Roosevelt's position. I think you can take it for granted that this is the whole thing.

I note what you say about King refusing to have Canada sit on a Committee of Imperial Defence. This man is now posing as the greatest imperialist of our time. Isn't it laughable! I am advising everybody who says that to me to read John McCormack's book "Canada, America's Problem" where he sets out King's attitude towards the

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