

C161622

*U/S Price Control*  
NAR/SR  
14.8.43

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Attached is a copy of a memorandum I gave you in Ottawa, suggesting that, in the course of any general review you made with President Roosevelt of outstanding Canadian-American questions, you might speak to him about the difficulties we are having in keeping our price policies and administration in good working liaison.

In the first days of American price control their officers were very interested in learning what they could from Canadian experience in this field, had their men in Ottawa studying our organization and were fully alive to the desirability of our keeping in step whenever possible.

In recent months there has been a pretty complete replacement of senior personnel in the United States prices administration and the personal contacts, that had been very useful, have largely disappeared. Such contacts as do exist are no longer at the top policy making level. The most recent illustration of the difficulty noted in the attached memorandum was the President's announcement two weeks ago, over a nation-wide hookup, that coffee rationing in the United States would cease from the following morning. As far as coffee rationing in either country is concerned, the limiting factor has been scarcity of shipping. Canada and the United States are, or should be, in exactly the same position with regard to imports of coffee from South America. If the shipping situation has eased enough to permit resumption of normal American imports of coffee, the same should be true of Canadian imports.

When the United States stopped their control without warning, our Government was placed in quite an embarrassing position, which probably could have been avoided if we had had two or three weeks prior notice of United States intentions.

These are not questions that our Legation can take up very effectively through the United States Department of State because the O.P.A. is a Presidential executive agency under the general supervision of the Office of War Management, of which Mr. Byrnes is head. If you could perhaps have a general word with the President on the subject, this would, I am sure, do much more good than formal complaints or remonstrances through the diplomatic channel.

*Earl*