

Dept. of National War Services ✓
Dept. of National Defence ✓

C181890

Important and
Confidential

Ottawa, July 6th, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Re: New departmental legislation

The Prime Minister wished to have, for consideration over the weekend, the draft Bill for the establishment of the Department of National War Services, and draft legislation required to provide for the Associate Minister of National Defence, and the Minister of National Defence for Naval Affairs.

1. Department of National War Services -

(a) A Special Committee composed of a number of Members of the House, under the chairmanship of Brooke Claxton, M.P., was convened by Mr. Mackenzie. This Committee prepared a draft Bill which was subsequently revised on several occasions, for the consideration of Council.

(b) Earlier this week Mr. Gardiner set out his ideas for the new department, in a typewritten draft which he submitted to the Prime Minister. A copy of Mr. Gardiner's typewritten draft is attached.

(c) With the Prime Minister's approval, Mr. Gardiner's typewritten draft was referred, confidentially, to Mr. Claxton to whom were communicated Mr. King's views as to the scope of the new department. Mr. Claxton thereupon prepared and had printed a further draft Bill (printed draft IV attached). This is based upon the earlier drafts prepared by the Special Committee, and upon Mr. Gardiner's draft as modified by the Prime Minister's views. A brief analysis showing changes in the printed Bill (IV) as compared with the typewritten draft (Mr. Gardiner's) is attached.

Mr. Claxton's revision of the Bill will not be referred to Mr. Gardiner until the Prime Minister has had an opportunity of considering it and unless Mr. King so directs.

(d) A copy of a draft Resolution prepared by the Law Clerks, based upon the printed Bill (IV) to precede the introduction of the Bill into the House, is attached.