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*NWS W.B.*  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

C260746

NAR/ET  
1 Nov., 1943

*for Mr. Grierson*  
*W.W.I. - W.I.B.*  
*Canadian - Foreign - Born*  
I am enclosing copy of a letter which Mr. John Grierson has sent to General LaFleche about the work of the so-called "Nationalities Branch" in the Department of National War Services.

As you know, I have been worried for some time about possible mischief which might arise from the activities of the Nationalities Branch under the direction of Mr. Tracy Phillips. I suggested privately to Phillips about a year ago that the limit of the useful work he could do in Canada had been reached and that he should of his own motion go back to England, where I was sure some suitable appointment could be found for his varied experience. At that time he was under fire of some pretty unfair Communist criticism, and he argued, not unreasonably, that he should have an opportunity to clear up these false charges before leaving. He had been a most persistent caller and correspondent up to the time of this interview, but since then I have had no conversation with him. Now I am told he has had an offer of employment in the United Kingdom Government Service, but feels he cannot accept it until he has cleared up an unfortunate domestic situation, in which he is probably more a victim than a villain.

The Nationalities Branch of National War Services has been dormant or at least out of public notice until recently, and I had not given much further thought to the Phillips's problem. Within the last few weeks, however, the question of the functions and usefulness of the Nationalities Branch and of its advisory "Committee on Cooperation in Canadian Citizenship" has been raised in the press by the Winnipeg Free Press and the Gazette. The Minister has been criticised for inactivity and lack of interest in this field, and has responded by calling a meeting of the moribund advisory committee, which is due to assemble in Ottawa in the next week or two.

I think Grierson's suggestion that the foreign language activities under National War Services should cooperate closely with the work of the Wartime Information Board, is a sensible one, and I also sympathize with his opinion that such cooperation could not be achieved so long as Phillips remains as Director of the "Nationalities Branch".

*Mr. Grierson  
1 letter Mr. LaFleche  
in 7 days*

*2-7-43*

*noted*

*W.L.M.*