

Vincent

McCormack

Starkes

Cranford

Jackman

(7) *Education*

Hollett (Convenor)

Fowler

Jones

Fogwill

Spencer

Miller

Harrington

Smallwood

Ryan

Newell

(8) *Public Health and Welfare*

Ashbourne (Convenor)

Newell

Roberts

Higgins

Harrington

Kennedy

Banfield

Burry

Crummey

Starkes

(9) *Transportation*

Bradley (Convenor)

Smallwood

Hannon

Figary

Northcott

Ryan

Bailey

Watton

Butt

MacDonald

Mr. Chairman The Committee on Information will consist of Mr. Bradley, K.C. and Mr. Higgins, K.C., in association with myself; and in view of the alteration of the procedure there will be no necessity in the future for notice of questions. All requests for information will now be passed to the Committee on Information and they will transmit them forthwith to the appropriate departments for information. Will the convenors of the various committees notify the committees to meet in accordance with the schedule. We will

now proceed with the orders of the day.

Mr. Smallwood Since I tabled notice of this motion¹ we have heard Mr. Wild. At the session yesterday there was some difficulty in getting the exact figure showing the gross national production of the country and it was suggested that by a process of sampling there could be arrived at something fairly accurate, approximate, at least, of the figure asked for in this resolution. You gentlemen are quite familiar what arguments there are in favour of the general idea of knowing the value of the gross national production of the country. It is an entirely different motion, of course, from that defeated here the other day — the one which asked for the appointment to the Convention of a statistician-economist. This solely asks that the government should provide us with the information. How they get it is not our business. We do not put a time limit there, but within the next couple or three months we want some approximate idea, something more complete than is given in Dr. McKay's book where there is an attempt at guessing the national production. I make that motion.

Mr. Vardy I second that motion.

Mr. Bradley I do stress the difference between this and the motion which was defeated the other day. I think we must all agree that every bit of information possible for us to have ought to be laid before us. Just how accurate an estimate of the gross national production of this country can be obtained by the government, I do not know. I am neither a statistician nor am I an economist; but I think Mr. Wild indicated that something more could be done than has as yet been done, and for that reason I think we would be making a very grave mistake if we refuse to adopt this resolution. It is an effort to get all the information and in order for us to get a basic figure.

Mr. Chairman I take it the Finance Committee will take that under consideration as one of their first duties.

Mr. Hollett I am in favour of the proposal; it is essential that we know the gross national production, but why not have it for, say, 1939 and for 1933, otherwise it will be impossible for us to make the comparison.

Mr. Smallwood I would like to have it for every year for the last 50 years, but it is a sheer impos-

¹On September 19, 1946, Mr. Smallwood gave notice of motion to ask the government for a statement of the gross national product, see p. 39.