

[Spine]

9

A.S. Brown

4.12.50 – 14.12.50

[Cover]

Cabinet Notes

4-12-50 – contd

13.12.50.

14.12.50.

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Submission 223. – (continued.)

P.M. agrees that some power should exist to exclude security risks.

Suggested that the reference to the Cadet Corps might be omitted. – This was agreed to –.

✓

Textile Labelling – Submission 193.

McEwen & O’Sullivan to discuss this further.

✓

National Service Bill Consequential Amendments to Air Force Act¹
Submission 232.

Approved.

✓

Submission 222.

Approved.

¹ ‘Consequential Amendments to Air Force Act’ is inserted above the line.

Last occasion for payment of prize money but this applies to last war payments – not next war payments –. ✓

Submission 225 – Approved. ✓

Mr McEwen raised the question of ministers staffs could get only tea and biscuits at a cost of 1/9. This to go to the House Cte.

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Mr McEwen raised the question of cables on the Korean situation being available to ministers.

Mr Spender said that he wld put before Cabinet the various view points of the governments when the Chiefs of Staff arrive. They will arrive at 10.am.

Mr Spender wld like a little time after questions tomorrow to discuss appointments overseas.

Submission 16L.

The Minister introduced the subject and then read the addendum to this submission.

He then read Submission No. 16 I. dealing with Milk for School Children.

It was pointed out that the present proposal did not place any limit on the C/wealth's financial liability.

Reference was also made to the improvement in health which had taken place in the UK, probably due to the distribution of milk.

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It was suggested that the costs of administration would be borne by the States but it was pointed out that there was no restriction to this effect in the bill –beyond the fact that expenditure was “subject to the conditions agreed on between the C/w and the State” and this matter could be the subject of a condition.

Comment on the situation in the UK must of course recognize that in addition to receiving milk the children received orange juice etc – it was better feeding generally – but milk is an important single item.

The hospitals must be financed – either by the community or the govt. – & we have urged govt aid plus self help. We cannot force the states to bring in a means test. But we can free them to³ reduce the number of public wards and this will help the hospitals. In Darwin there is a completely free medical & hospital service. You cannot be treated at home there. You must

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be taken by ambulance to the hospital and you must take the doctor who is on duty.

In NSW interest on capital does not enter into hospital charges very much – it is as a general rule carried by the Hospitals Commission.

The Labour approach was to deal with the problem by a series of monetary payments. But the real need is more hospitals, more doctors, more nurses etc. And any scheme which does not do that does not get you very far.

The question is asked why the uninsured fellow who goes into the intermediate ward not get a higher subsidy than the fellow who goes into the public ward, because the former is paying something for himself.

The following are suggested as the issues ——

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1. This does not provide more beds.
2. They will not get it except from us unless we force them to apply the means test – and it is doubtful if the govt. is prepared to force them to do that.

It is urged that unless this is done the number of beds will be reduced.

Sir Earle Page's Comment on the departmental officers notes should be made available to the Prime Minister.

This will do two things –

1. it will encourage them to insure
2. it will diminish the number of beds in the public wards.

³ 'free them to' is inserted above the line.

~~---~~ The cost of running a hospital is regarded as about £2.10.0 per day per bed – some hospitals are about £2.

This will be rising because of the increase in the basic wage.

It was urged that the only alternative is to nationalize the medical

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profession.

The view was expressed that this would not begin to meet the national need in view ~~that it~~ of the fact that it does not go far enough.

Before Chifley scheme they were getting 52% from fees or contributions and now they want us to contribute to the costs of running hospitals.

Submission approved.

11.10pm

✓

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Cabinet 5.12.50.

The Chiefs of Staff & Mr Broadribb were present.

The Prime Minister outlined the problems which had been discussed by Cabinet.

~~CAS: In Sept last we recommended~~ From Air Force point of view. We must provide for air defence of Aust. Danger is not great. Hence we include some fighter squadrons. We have mustangs which are comparatively obsolete. We don't contemplate bombers with fighter escort, but bomber raids. The mustang has insufficient rate of climb & speed. It would not have sufficient time to get up & intercept. We can foresee being attacked by jet bombers. It is likely to be a copy of the B.29. We are building mustangs for 2 reasons. When we started to build them the position was different. ~~We can't~~ When we ordered mustangs (6 years ago)

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it was a fighter interceptor role. You must have continuity in production. The order has been spread out over a long period. For 2 ½ yrs I have been trying to introduce a later type of aircraft.

– P.M. Will we not be a couple of years behind the country of origin in a field where obsolescence comes quickly.

We plan to send a force to M.E. Mobile task force 9 sq – bomber wing and fighter wing. Best interceptor fighter & best bomber we had (Lincoln). This would persist till we got better. They would be employed on direct land operations. The equipment wld be the same as for the Br. forces operating in that area.

Alternative wld be to send a force in Malaya. We wld be operating there with Lincolns and Vampires.

Sea Communications in Anzam.

We have 2 squadrons of Lincolns.

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It was the best aircraft but it now has disadvantages. We can ~~used to~~ use best radar, rockets, non-directional sonobuoy. The directional one is not in use anywhere. The P2V5 is better, it has all electronic devices for detecting submarines. UK has ordered 52. We don't know all the technical details but ~~UK~~ US say they will make them available.

We are short of Lincolns till Sept '52 when the first of the Canberras become available. We propose to put the Lincolns into training then. We are asking for 12 only which we wld put in Pearce in W.A. We should not continue beyond our 73. We will begin to change over to the Canberra immediately.

It is a considerable change over to convert the Lincolns to equipment but we do not yet know what is required.

The role for the Mustang is in

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fighter squadrons until we can equip them with Vampires or Meteors. – This will be about 2 years. I wld not recommend more mustangs when we get our present 16. The present recommendation is for Sabres.

The vampire is a good interceptor plane. – It has not a good land plane wings need strengthening. Vampires took 3 years to produce. The Def Ctee ~~rec~~ rec that subject to re-equip of 77 by June 51, they ~~be~~ 36 Meteors etc be approved as an addition to air program. The meteor does not make the vampire obsolete. It will not be so good for ground attack as the mustang.

But the main reason for this is that our 77 squadron may be up against jets in Korea.

We propose to send the whole of the meteors ~~to~~ to Japan & to convert a flight at a time. It will take 2 or 3 weeks.

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The Americans say the F.80 is a very good aircraft for ground attack. – But they don't carry the armament of the mustangs.

If the Chinese come in they will use jet fighters, the Russians might come in then there would be a real contest for superiority. Will not the conditions continue that the US jets give cover to the Mustangs. Unless the ground straffer is a good fighter it is at a serious disadvantage.

What squadrons cld Aust put into the air within 12 mths. On mobilisation we plan to put 16 squadrons in the air – at present Lincolns, Mustangs, Mosquito, one Beaufighters. – We plan to have sufficient aircraft to equip them on mobilisation. We have vampires coming forward 80 of them. That wld give us a wing 24 plus reserve of 50%.⁴ – We wld have to use mustangs for the rest. We wld use Lincolns for bombers and general rec. & Mosquitos for photographic reconnaissance.

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But surely if there is first class opposition we would have only Lincolns & perhaps Vampires.

The planning for the expeditionary force for M.E. is just about to begin. ~~We would have~~

What planning has taken place to train men as Empire Air Scheme and to provide them with machines.

Aircraft industry is producing Lincolns & is going on to the Canberra. We got into production of Vampire which was the best. Now we are aiming to get into the Hawker but this is going cold on us.

Casey. All we can do is modernize the aircraft as best we can and hope for best.

⁴ '24 plus reserve of 50%' is inserted above the line.

Russia has a copy of B.29. – also a jet bomber which has a shorter range – but an enormous number of fighters probably on a par with the Hawker – 550 mph.

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Ascher Lee has written a book on Soviet Air Force. – They have 10/1 superiority in Europe.

Page. There was a materials organisation set up between UK & US. –

Not in existence at present –

Remind P.M. about this.

We could sustain ourselves for a year – 24 is limit – we are getting 36.

We don't want to buy Vampires – but we tried the Blenheim? – & it would take 2 years to get them. The Sabre is the fastest fighter aircraft today – up to supersonic speed. It wld take 18 mths or so. Sept 52 – it is a substitute for the Hawker.

Rowell. I wld endorse CAS picture: war with Russia, major effort overseas – M.E. or Malaya or both.

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What chance is there of stabilising the line? Are our objectives such as make it essential to bomb the supply lines in Manchuria

Rowell. My own feeling is that we cannot stabilise the position except in a very small perimeter – smaller even than the Pusan box. It is my judgement that we cannot hold Korea as a whole.

It will require great generalship & morale to stabilise the position at all – let alone an E.W. line. The only point of holding a perimeter is to cover an evacuation. It is exactly parallel to Crete.

I do not think that we should try to hold on.

P.M. The present situation suggests that China came in because she was afraid of her interests being attacked in Manchuria.

Rowell I don't believe bombing of supply lines would serve any military purpose unless they had a very big air force. In Korea Air action took a long time to have some effect.

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I believe that it could make any decisive effect on the Chinese advance. It could do damage but would not be decisive.

~~The~~ We mobilise the expeditionary force – D + 90. We send planning team to London on Jan 15. – to determine the order of battle & arrange for stockpiling in M.E. from UK sources.

State of readiness – We have not got the mobilisable strength – it remains to be seen what the recruiting results are.

Should we reframe our call up. The immediate shortage is in the C.M.F. Some really spectacular effort must be made. – I should make a statement to the point.

We have about 1800 in regular & 900 in C.M.F.

~~So~~ I am getting figures by the end of the year on how many of regular army have volunteered for overseas service.

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The remaining 2 components divisions⁵ within the first year – One armoured brigade, (one regiment with the first group). There are 64 Centurion tanks on the way.

Rowell CinC Far East have made an appreciation. – I have asked for them before I go to London. It is defensible with 4 divisions.

All this will crop up when I go over at the end of this month –. we must make up our minds what places are defensible.

We suggest that we should clear out of Korea. Indo China. Hong Kong but we should hold Malaya.

Spender asks whether from point of view of strategy it is of importance to Aust not to allow Dutch N. Guinea to go to Indonesia

1. because it is a source of weakness 2. because it may be subject to Russian influence 3. infiltration.

⁵ 'divisions' is inserted above the line.

~~Rowell says Indonesians can't~~

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McEwen – What force would be need to keep the Indonesians away from Dutch N. Guinea.

Could we have the appreciation in which it is said that 4 divisions would suffice to hold Malaya. –

All 3 services agree with rec abt Meteors & the Lockheeds.

Cabinet approved both proposals. We are limited to the twelve Lockheeds at the present. – we are not likely to get more.

We must produce a frame of mind which will stimulate recruiting. These two proposals should be given wide publicity.

CAS wld like to have a look at the security angle. – Will the govts agree to this being done.

Spender. P.M. should make a statement on the gravity of the situation.

There is a bigger proposal – to produce mobilisation equipment on a 3 yr period instead of 6 yrs.

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There is a second matter. We will transmit to P.M. of UK & President our feeling that there should be some division of labour – one concentrating on this; the other on that – everyone is stockpiling against everyone else.

UK. has gone out of the field of long range strategical bombing. – CAS doubts whether this is so.

Strategical bombing from UK. to be done by US.⁶ – Therefore air defence of U.K. is the job for UK. but production problems may well have led to this decision.

Beale asks whether US. will let the Lockheeds go. –

⁶ 'to be done by US' is inserted above the line.

Health Scheme. –

½ day on Shipping. –

Sit on Saturday, 10.am

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Cabinet 13.12.50 10.30 am.

Report on Proposal by Qantas E.A. for purchase of constellation aircraft ex-Lockheed Corporation.

The Minister read the report and reported that neither Lockheed nor Douglas would be able to supply aircraft for a couple of years.

Mr McBride asked for an examination of the D.C4. in comparison with Constellation.

Senator O'Sullivan read a report from the dollar committee. – obtain copy.

ANA. have asked for two Skymasters – 1 for Hong Kong dollars – the other involving 225,000 dollars ex Zinc Corporation.

Mr McBride points out that more transport capacity could be obtained from D.C.4s for the same quantity of dollars.

It was not thought that the proposal could genuinely be regarded as a defence project.

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It was suggested that a report should be obtained from Treasury on the Qantas proposal and the A.N.A. request.

Chairman of the Dollar Ctee –

Rep of Treasury. Nette –

✓

P.M mentioned that EV Nixon were investigating ANA. Should we not get the same firm to investigate TAA on same basis & compare like with like. – Agreed.

✓

Apropos of the mail business. – you sd TAA had taken that up with A.N.A. mails, govt. business, and rationalisation. Mr White says TAA have backed out of mails & govt. business arrangement. This is to be discussed after Nixons report is received.

✓

Mr Beale asks for discussion on shipping & shipbuilding. – The original submission can be revived. ~~Tomorrow morning~~. This afternoon. ✓

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If UK. refuses to lift to share of capital should we withdraw – or do we finally put it to the growers in the final form.

Agreed to recommendations.

Submission 241 Proposed. C/w. Italian Govt. Migration Agreement.

The Minister read the submission.

It was urged that no assisted passages should be given to anyone other than British and that no support should be given to assisting Italians.

Before the war Italians represented about 12% of intake. Since the war 5% only from Italy.

The Australian govt had not done anything to assimilate the Italians. The North Italian was a good type but the S. Italian was not.

<u>British</u>	50.000	Dutch	25.000
	30.000	German	25.000
Maltese	4.000	Italian	15.000
Ireland	1.000	Other W. Europ etc	4.000
Emp & Allied Ex S	1.000	Landing permit	30.000
D.P.s	15.000		

101.000

99.000

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The advantage of assisted schemes is that you can tell them where they are to go.

The proposal to call these people up at 18 is not in the agreement.

~~There~~ The terms of the agreement might perhaps be discussed with Ex Affairs. Agreed to.

I.R.O have extended operations to include political refugees.

Mr Spender sd he cld give Mr Francis a brief on the question of call up.

Mr Holt says there is no difficulty about stateless persons.

We agreed that having regard to the international rules we should not exercise compulsion w/o agreement with the country of origin of the migrants.

Mr Anthony queried whether the migrants were in fact carrying out their employment contract. The minister said he would investigate every individual case which was brought to his notice.

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Mr Anthony says nevertheless not many are remaining in the country. Mr Holt replies that D.Ps are not country dwellers but he has therefore ~~tried to~~ tried to change the emphasis. Senator Spooner drew attention to the affect that the hostel program is having on the economy.

Mr Holt. There were 3 decades during which the rate of increase was greater than now (1860–70, 1880–90).⁷ Senator Spooner would like to know what we can handle with existing hostel accommodation. Mr Holt says soon there will⁸ be restrictions on the ~~e~~ emigration of people –.

Let the Resources Board examine the whole problem.

Casey & White urge that wool store position be considered more fully.

⁷ '(1860–70, 1880–90)' was originally between 'the' and 'rate', but an arrow indicates it should be placed at the end of the sentence.

⁸ 'will' is inserted above the line.

P.M. says that he will open up these problems to the NSRB. He thinks that migrants are at the moment a net debit but we must have migrants.

Submission agreed to.

✓

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Submission 220

NSW has a Town and Country Planning body & suggests that we ~~would~~ should consult them about conforming with their plans. Agreed.

War Service Land Settlement Agreement –

Agreed.

Cancellation of P. 1081 1.G.

Approved – with the addition after “corporation” – “after review of the proposed alternative project by the J.W.P.C. & the Defence Ctee”.

Submission No 235 – Grants to Ex-Servicemen’s organisations

Prior to bringing it back to Cabinet consultation to take place with L.& N.S.

Air Force Assn bigger than the Legion and doing better work.

Agreed to. – Ministers recommendation agreed to.

✓

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A.N.A. Purchase of Aircraft

If a US. National is willing to accept sterling or Hong Kong dollars we enquire whether this is likely to reduce the flow of dollars from U.S.

Constellation – You can’t justify a decision now except on the basis that you would have to buy one a little later on.

~~It was suggested that~~

The reply from the Bank was a reply on principle – ~~if the vendor~~

if in fact it could be established that it was a sterling transaction it may be as well to approve it.

Suggestion (1) Constellation out.

(2) Zinc Corp out. –

(3) Meere to enquire into H.K. dollars

(4) Enquire into the S. African proposition – no new ones coming out. – T.

White to let us have draft on this.

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Submission 231. Approved.

Submission 227. Fuel and Power Resources.
delete Treasury, add Mines Dept NSW, but not in the first announcement.

Mr McBride asks that a survey be made of the rail transport system. To be mentioned to Senator McLeay.

Glen Davis – Leave to Cabinet Ctee 13.12.50

Snowy Mountains 240

In discussion it was pointed out that

1. That there was political danger in excluding anybody from tendering.
2. That probably all will be contractors from outside Australia
3. That such a method increases the likelihood of ganging up on the part of the contractors.

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Further investigation to be made into the method employed in drawing up the Eildon tenders.

Approve in principle of contract system.

Consider whether conditions and specifications⁹ can be so framed as to include only ~~the~~ contractors who are wanted while going through the form of tender.

If not matter to come back to Cabinet.

P.M. Treasurer. Spender. and Casey. to consider next Tuesday.

Bulolo Pinestand – 72

It was also urged that some Australian company or companies should be given an opportunity to participate in the development of this stand.

We referred this to a ctee on which timber interests were represented but no satisfactory report came out of it.

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Attention was drawn to the fact that there are 3 other areas of 100 m. super ft as well as 300 m. super ft left in this stand.

It is to be brought back to Cabinet. What is to be done with the plywood when it is produced.

5.30 pm

Colombo Plan 37^A

Announcement will be submitted to the P.M. before he leaves. ✓

P.M. agrees with recommendations but advises caution as to how we expand the expectations of the receiving countries.

~~The~~ Agreed to recommendations.

Casey. Steel –

We need 2 m. tons and we are making 1 m. tons. Japan has shortage of iron ore and has some capacity.

⁹ 'and specifications' is inserted above the line.

Why do we not export ore to Japan & have it sent back as steel.

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Overseas steel is getting harder and harder to get.

The prohibition arose in 1937-38 & arose out of Brasserts contract with Yampi. We claimed that we were acting on a report that our supplies were limited.

Proposal not accepted.

Shipping

Current agendum is 42D.

Order was placed with BHP for one 10.000 ton with 20% subsidy. – also one variation – cancel one Evans Deakin & substitute a collier.

~~12 or 14 vessels of — tons~~

In 5 years time the tonnage might be

12	River Class vessels @ 9.000	=	108.000
8	Vessels of 10.000 tons	=	80.000
<u>2</u>	“ “ 6.000 “	=	<u>12.000</u>
<u>22</u>			<u>200.000</u>

~~13 River class @ 9000. 108 000~~

As against this the present figure is abt 168.000 tons¹⁰, but at present there are 12 on charter as well.

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The high price of ships will of course be reflected in the freight rates.

¹⁰ 'tons' squeezed in below the line.

Prices fluctuate very considerably as the shipbuilding trade.

We could not go out of the shipbuilding industry entirely.

1. Subsidy: proper level.
2. All prohibition on imports gone.
3. Out of ship-owning.
4. Moth ball fleet.

First move is to say.

Our policy is to leave this to private enterprise. What would have to be done to enable this to be done. If they can't put up a definite proposal well then that clears the air.

Aust Steamship Owners Fedn.¹¹

1. – Huddart Parker, Adelaide.
2. – Overseas –
3. – Independent group –

There is Edwards, Weeks, Packard, Parker, Reddicks,

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If some of these fellows can come to Cba on Monday – abt mid afternoon I could have this discussion with them.

^x Edwards, ^x Packard, Holyman, ^x Parker – (Beale)

^x Macdonald – ^x D. York Syme ——— 10.50

¹¹ 'Aust Steamship Owners Fedn.' looks like it was added between the lines.

Adjourned till 10.30am, 14.12.50

N. Jones. Holyman. 3.30pm – 5.20 plane

Cabinet 14.12.50

The Minister read relevant parts of the submission.

Mr White pointed out that the F.86. was a very fine aircraft but that the Canadian CF100 was also a very fine aircraft. The Hawker are making the F.3. & compared ~~the~~ its performance with the F.86.

If you are going to decide on quick delivery you would build the American one but the Hawker is slightly faster and equal in other respects.

Air Board thinks that if the F.86 is chosen the type is to be the latest – CAC should confirm its ability to deliver by June '52

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and statement of cost be submitted to Cabinet – the whole thing to be referred to JWPC & Def Ctee.

P.M. But what sort of war are we going to fight. Won't ~~he~~ we be using fighters as part of a larger force – eg. M.E. That is a Br. C/w. responsibility & they will be using Br fighters – or a Canadian fighter.

Holt. We wld not be sending a large air force to UK. Is this the kind of plane we really want. Is it not something more like a Mustang we want.

White. The fast aircraft is wanted. ||

Casey. Has Br. Govt. been consulted on this.

Beale – June 52 American machine.
June 53 UK “

Fadden. P.M. should raise this matter in UK with Air Minister & Chief of Air Staff (Slessor).

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McEwen. This sort of recommendation should come from the Air Force. The Air Force should take the whole responsibility.

Anthony – But some co-ordination is necessary with Supply because it is most important to have the aircraft at the right time. The PM will have to keep this in mind also.

Casey – India & Pakistan must be thinking of jet fighters too. There must be some high level body. The old C.I.D. is no longer in existence.

Beale. If you come to the conclusion that the deal be closed with the Sabre people then on cable from the P.M. the deal can be closed.

P.M. Before I leave, Air people & Def Ctee had better get together and set down – best Type of plane – what are considerations of time. If UK can't [fault? – unable to transcribe] observations on time – ~~---~~ eg if they agree that it might take 18 mnths longer.

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White. Will you look into the Canadian aircraft also.

P.M. I'm going to make a great effort to pull the Br. C/wealth planning together somewhat.

White

Submission 243. H.C. Sleigh Ltd.

Acquisition of Property.

Matter to be dealt with by the two departments.

Actual acquisition by interior.

Agreed that it is hazard to air.

Agendum. 80^B.

The point was raised that a bad precedent would be created if assistance was given for advertising to a specific industry, particularly if the £1 for £1 basis is abandoned. Suggest

further £10,000 on £1 for £1 basis if Treasury & Commerce are satisfied that what has been expended is of some value.

Agreed.

_____ .
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Newsprint

Country newspapers should be protected.

~~It was~~ P.M's proposal agreed to:

20.000 tons –

5.000 tons for country.

Disposal of shares in AWA.

We had an investigation by a Treasury officer – this memo shows that the Cos. results are very good and its activities are expanding & it is becoming more profitable. The price of shares has now gone to 51/- in comparison with 42/6 when we started. The Sub Ctee did not agree. McBride & Anthony believe that we should not sell because shares are increasing in value & results are good & price of shares is likely to go up after we sell. Spooner disagrees. The Co is no longer dependent on the govt for its business nor is the govt dependent on the Co. This is merely a govt investment. The Co would sooner have us out than in.

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In addition the govt. should cash up unnecessary investments. Further this will give a lead to ourselves. I believe we can design a transaction which can be defended in a proper way. If we stay in we must increase our investment.

Treasurer. I think that we should participate in the new issue & then consider the position when the position is consolidated.

McBride – We should however have a look at our directors.

Dunlop Proposal

Tell them that the particular Terms & conditions are not acceptable, but that we are willing to negotiate/consider¹² other terms & conditions because we need the goods.

We don't know whether the equipment will be appropriate for our future aircraft production.

Treasury, Air Force, and Supply to discuss this with you. – .

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AWA contd.

1. Should we concur on the increase in capital? – Yes.
2. Should we quit our holding before or after the increase of capital?

– After –

Let us then proceed to get down to business to liquidate our holding.

Spooner. – Knowing that there is a share issue in contemplation you would seek professional advice as to whether we should unload in conjunction with the new share issue.

Agreed that benefit of rights wld be taken.

Tea. Agreed that price of tea should be increased by 6d per lb.

New States: Noted.

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T.A.A –

Taxation on CMF.

Let drive for recruits run for two or three months.

View expressed that it would not produce any more recruits

¹² 'consider' is written above 'negotiate'.

Paper to be circulated to Ministers and ask for prompt statement of views.

Exemption of Gifts to Schools

This is said to be with Taxation Ctee. Check on this.

Treasurer to have figures made available to Ministers. – tax involved – Red Cross officers who were part of the field force.

Members to go to Korea – Malaya – Tokio. Korea obviously unsuitable.

Fadden & P.M. to consider.

McBride suggest a number of ctees – defence, external affairs, social services etc.

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McBride says – form the committees – don't leave it to them to take the initiative.

Should be a two days meeting before the next session.

ASB, 4.40pm

No value in Senate meeting before Reps.

Probably meet early March.

Persons mentioned

Surname	Given names	Position
Beale	Oliver Howard	Minister for Supply
Brasserts		
Broadribb	Noel Kenric Stevens	Controller-General of Munitions
Brown	Allen Stanley	Secretary, Prime Minister's Department
Casey	Richard Gardiner	Minister for Works and Housing <i>and</i> Minister for National Development
Chifley	Joseph Benedict	Leader of the Opposition
Collins	John Augustine	Chief of Naval Staff
Edwards	Stanley Thompson	Chairman (Acting), Maritime Industry Commission
Fadden	Arthur William	Treasurer
Francis	Josiah	Minister for the Army <i>and</i> Minister for the Navy
Holt	Harold Edward	Minister for Labour and National Service <i>and</i> Minister for Immigration
Holyman	Ivan Nello	Managing Director, Australian National Airways Pty Ltd
Jones	George	Chief of Air Staff
Jones	Norman Edward	Chief General Manager, Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd
Lee	Asher	
Macdonald	Rodney Wickham	Shipowner
McBride	Philip Arthur Martin	Minister for the Interior
McEwen	John	Minister for Commerce and Agriculture
McLeay	George	Minister for Shipping and Fuel <i>and</i> Minister for Transport
Meere	Francis Anthony	First Assistant Comptroller-General, Department of Trade and Customs
Menzies	Robert Gordon	Prime Minister
Nette	Percy William	First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury
Nixon	Edwin Van-der-Vord	Accountant
O'Sullivan	Neil	Minister for Trade and Customs
Packard	Guy Spencer	General Manager, Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd
Page	Earle Christmas Grafton	Minister for Health

Parker	Thomas James	Managing Director, Huddart Parker Ltd
Reddicks		
Rowell	Sydney Fairbairn	Chief of General Staff
Slessor	John Cotesworth	UK Chief of Air Staff
Spender	Percy Claude	Minister for External Affairs <i>and</i> Minister for External Territories
Syme	David York	Shipowner
Weeks	Rupert Glendon	Chairman, Australasian Steamships Owners' Federation
White	Thomas Walter	Minister for Air <i>and</i> Minister for Civil Aviation

Abbreviations and symbols

—	crossed out text is unintelligible
[and – ?]	transcriber's best guess
abt	about
Air Force Assn	Air Force Association
ANA	Australian National Airways
Anzam	Australia and New Zealand and Malaya – strategic planning arrangement between Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom
Aust Steamship Owners Fedn	Australian Steamship Owners Federation
AWA	Amalgamated Wireless of Australasia
Br	British
Br C/w or Br C/wealth	British Commonwealth
Br Govt.	British Government
C/w	Commonwealth
C/wealth	Commonwealth
CAC	?
CAS	Chief of Air Staff
Cba	Canberra
CID	Committee of Imperial Defence
CinC Far East	Commander-in-Chief Far East
cld	could
CMF	Citizen Military Forces
Co	Company
contd	continued
Cos	Companies
cte/ctee/ctees	committee/committee
Def Ctee	Defence Committee
DPs	Displaced Persons
Emp & Allied Ex S	Empire & Allied Ex-Servicemen
EW	East–West
Ex Affairs	External Affairs
govt/govts	government/governments
HK	Hong Kong
IRO	International Refugee Organization
JWPC	Joint War Production Committee
L&NS	Labour and National Service (Department of)
m	million
ME	Middle East
mph	miles per hour

mths or mnths	months
N Guinea	New Guinea
NSRB	National Security Resources Board
PM	Prime Minister
PM	Prime Minister
Qantas EA	Qantas Empire Airways
rec	recommend or reconnaissance
Rep	representative
Reps	House of Representatives
S Africa	South Africa
S Italian	Southern Italian
sd	said
Sept	September
sq	squadron
Sub Ctee	Sub Committee
T White	Thomas White
TAA	Trans Australia Airlines
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
W Europ	Western Europe
w/o	without
wld	would
yr/yrs	year/years