CABINET 43 (34).

Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at No. 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1934, at 11.0 a.m.

AGENDA.

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - (If required).

1A. THE SAAR.

(Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 1).

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
C.P. 275 (34) - circulated herewith.

3. NAVAL CONFERENCE 1935 - (If required).

(Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 5).

4. IMPERIAL DEFENCE POLICY.

(Reference Cabinet 40 (34) Conclusion 4).

5. PRIVATE MANUFACTURE OF ARMS - (If required).

(Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 6).

6. PALESTINE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Reference Cabinet 14 (34) Conclusion 5).

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
C.P. 256 (34) - already circulated.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India.
C.P. 270 (34) - circulated herewith.

7. ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICES.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
C.P. 243 (34) - already circulated.
Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at No. 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1934, at 11.0 a.m.

AGENDA.

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - (If required).

2. REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS.
   (Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 3).

3. NAVAL CONFERENCE 1935 - (If required).
   (Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 5).

4. IMPERIAL DEFENCE POLICY.
   (Reference Cabinet 40 (34) Conclusion 4).

5. PRIVATE MANUFACTURE OF ARMS - (If required).
   (Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 6).

6. PALESTINE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
   (Reference Cabinet 14 (34) Conclusion 5).
   Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
   C.P. 256 (34) - already circulated.
   Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India.
   C.P. 270 (34) - circulated herewith.

7. ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICES.
   Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
   C.P. 243 (34) - already circulated.
8. **INDIA: POSITION RESULTING FROM PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**

   (i) Statement to be made by the Secretary of State for India.

   (ii) Note by the Secretary of State for India, covering telegrams from the Viceroy.

   C.P. 274 (34) - to be circulated.

9. **THE SPEAKER'S SEAT.**

   Memorandum by the Prime Minister.

   C.P. 266 (34) - already circulated.

10. **CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL.**

    Memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

    C.P. 260 (34) - already circulated.

11. **BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE: DRAFT MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL.**

    (Reference Cabinet 26 (34) Conclusion 9).

    Memorandum by the President of the Board of Trade, covering draft Bill.

    C.P. 269 (34) - to be circulated.

12. **HERRING INDUSTRY.**

    (Reference Cabinet 23 (34) Conclusion 5).

    Joint Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Home Secretary.

    C.P. 267 (34) - already circulated.

13. **HOUSING BILL.**

    (Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 8).

    Memorandum by the Minister of Health, covering draft Bill.

    H.A. 50 (34) - already circulated.

    Report of Cabinet Committee.

    C.P. 264 (34) - already circulated.

    Recommendations of Home Affairs Committee.

    19th Conclusions (34) of the Home Affairs Committee - to be circulated.

14. **UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE BOARD: DRAFT REGULATIONS.**

    (Reference Cabinet 40 (34) Conclusion 12).

    Report of Cabinet Committee.

    C.P. 271 (34) - to be circulated.
15. **RIBBON DEVELOPMENT.**

(Reference Cabinet 40 (34) Conclusion 7).

Joint Memorandum by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Transport.
C.P. 239 (34) - already circulated.

16. **DISEASES OF ANIMALS BILL.**

Memorandum by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.
C.P. 257 (34) - already circulated.

17. **CONCLUSIONS OF HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.**

19th Conclusions (34) of the Home Affairs Committee - to be circulated.

(i) **Metropolitan Police (Borrowing Powers) Bill.**

(Reference Cabinet 31 (34) Conclusion 3).

Memorandum by the Home Secretary, covering draft Bill.
H.A. 48 (34) - already circulated.

(ii) **Depressed Areas (Development and Improvement) Bill.**

(Reference Cabinet 41 (34) Conclusion 9).

Memorandum by the Minister of Labour, covering draft Bill.
H.A. 49 (34) - already circulated.

(Signed) R.B. HOWORTH,
Acting Secretary to the Cabinet.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.,
26th November, 1934.
CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1934, at 11.0 a.m.

PRESENT:
The Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Prime Minister. (In the Chair).

The Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Right Hon. The Viscount Sankey, C.B.E., Lord Chancellor.


The Right Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

The Right Hon. The Marquess of Londonderry, K.G., M.V.O., Secretary of State for Air.


The Right Hon. Walter Elliot, M.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.


THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:

(For Conclusion 3).

1. With reference to the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs raised as a matter of urgency the question whether, in the Debate that afternoon, the Government Spokesmen should state that we believed that the total number of aircraft of Service types possessed by Germany was about 1,000. In this connection attention was drawn to telegram No. 296 from Sir E. Phipps, dated November 27th, containing an account of his interview that day with Baron von Neurath, in which the German Foreign Minister had declared that the figure of 1,000 military aircraft was greatly exaggerated and that he would be obliged to issue a contradiction if that figure were quoted publicly. The Secretary of State also drew the attention of the Cabinet to telegram No. 301, of November 27th, from the Air Attache at Berlin, in which he urged most strongly that an exaggerated figure for German aircraft should be most carefully avoided by the Government in the House of Commons, as the effect would perhaps be to encourage Germany to build up to an exaggerated figure. In his (the Air Attache’s) opinion the number of Service aircraft in Germany did not exceed 600 today.

The Cabinet were informed that the statement regarding the 1,000 German military aircraft was contained in Appendix I to C.P.-265 (34), and that this statement had been most carefully checked both for the Committee of Imperial Defence and for the Cabinet Committee on German Re-armament. General agreement was expressed with the view that it would be unwise to state any figure in the House of Commons which could be successfully challenged by Germany. On the other hand, the importance of mentioning some figure was emphasised, and it was recognised
that, while an exaggerated figure must be avoided, care must also be taken not to under-estimate.

In the course of discussion the Lord President of the Council indicated that he proposed to deal with the matter in a way which would avoid the mention of any precise figure.

The Cabinet agreed --

(a) To take note that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs proposed to inform Sir Eric Phipps, before the Debate, of the nature of the Lord President's proposed statement, in order that the German Government might know in advance that careful consideration had been given to Baron von Neurath's contention:

(b) To take note that the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would confer on the question of what should be said in the Lord President's speech in the Debate regarding the communication made both in London and Berlin to Germany on the subject of her re-armament.
2. The Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the Cabinet that he had seen the Austrian Finance Minister, who had come to thank His Majesty's Government in the warmest possible terms for the action they had taken in giving their support and facilitating in other ways the recent conversion of the Austrian Loan. The Austrian Minister in London had expressed the opinion that the British Government had taken as much care and trouble in regard to this Austrian conversion operation as if it had been concerned with one of their own Loans, and he had contrasted our activities in this respect with those of the French Government, very much to the disadvantage of the latter.

The Cabinet took note of this communication.
3. With reference to the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, the Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (C.P.-275 (34)), further relative to the question of the maintenance of order in the Saar during the plebiscite and in the succeeding interval. While in Geneva the Lord Privy Seal had interviewed M. Laval and Mr Knox, and accounts of the conversations were set out in Annexes I and II to C.P.-275 (34). The question calling for immediate decision was the reply to be made to M. Laval when, upon the reassembly of the Council of the League next week, he, as he is almost certain to do, asks the British Representative—

(a) Whether, if and when the French send police (or troops) into the Saar at Mr Knox's request, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will send a contingent to co-operate with the French force in the Saar; and

(b) In the event of a negative reply to question (a), what attitude the British Representative at the Council will assume to a proposal (which apparently will now be made by France) that the French Government should be given a special ad hoc mandate by the Council to intervene in the Saar in an emergency, instead of being bound, as at present, by the out-of-date Resolution of 1926.

The Secretary of State there set forth in his Memorandum four possible answers that could be made to the above questions, viz.:

(a) That His Majesty's Government are not prepared to send a contingent to co-operate with the force which the French might send into the Saar, or to agree even to token co-operation by the attachment of, say, a single officer.

(b) That our Representative at Geneva will support a proposal that the Council should give France a special ad hoc mandate for French forces to intervene in an emergency if summoned by Mr Knox.

(c) That M. Laval should be urged not to ask for an immediate decision by the Council to confer a mandate upon France, but to wait until the emergency arose, when he could be assured that such a mandate would, in fact, be given.
(d) That we recognise the disadvantages, and indeed the impropriety, of intervention in the Saar by France, which is directly interested in the plebiscite result; and that therefore, subject to the approval of the Council and similar action by Italy, the other great disinterested European Power, we will supply one-half of the 2,000 soldiers stated to be necessary by Mr Knox: this force will be immediately despatched to the Saar, where it will remain throughout the plebiscite and the period by which it will necessarily be followed before the decision of the League of Nations is declared.

In the course of considerable discussion the objections to each of the four courses named above were stated. At the same time, there was strong support for the view that if the Council of the League of Nations passed a resolution to the effect that an international force should be sent to the Saar, it would be very difficult for Great Britain to refuse to co-operate in furnishing a British contingent to such a force. In this respect, the position would be made much easier for us if Germany were to declare her acquiescence in the terms of the resolution of the Council of the League.
The Secretary of State for War informed the Cabinet that his military advisers were strongly opposed to the French suggestion that we should send a "token" contribution. On the receipt of C.P.-275 (34) he, the Secretary of State, had received further counsel from his military advisers, who considered that the supply of a contingent to co-operate with the French, or an ad hoc mandate to the French, would not meet the situation. In the view of his military advisers there were certain definite conditions which should govern our acceptance of any responsibility in this matter:

(a) Any contingent sent should take over the maintenance of peace in ample time before the plebiscite starts:

(b) The strength of any contingent must be adequate, not less than a brigade of four battalions (of approximately 450 to 500 each), together with certain ancillary troops — say 2,000 men in all:

(c) The Commander of this force must be responsible solely to Mr Knox for such part of the Saar area as he allot to it.

Finally, his military advisers assumed that before any contingent was sent the consent of the Powers concerned, particularly France and Germany, would be obtained. This, in their view, was essential.

The view was expressed that public opinion at home would be opposed to the sending to the Saar of the force mentioned in (d) of C.P.-275 (34), and also of a force of the size contemplated by the War Office. We ought not to participate in any scheme except on a bona fide international basis covering countries such as Italy, Holland, Scandinavia, and, if possible, Switzerland and others.

The suggestion was made that at the meeting of the Council of the League next week the British Representative should outline to the Council the very difficult and dangerous position in the Saar, should state to the Council that, in our opinion, the best course would be to send to the Saar a
bona fide international force, and that if a resolution to this effect were adopted by the Council, we should be prepared to contribute a British contingent.

This suggestion met with considerable support, though certain members of the Cabinet indicated that their acceptance of it was subject to the limiting of the British contingent to a unit of the order of a battalion. On the other hand, doubts were felt as to the division of command which the War Office conditions appeared to contemplate, and it was suggested that it would be necessary to find some solution which would in effect ensure unity of command of the international force.

The Secretary of State for War warned the Cabinet that before taking any decision in the matter, many important questions should be answered, for example, who was to be responsible for paying and provisioning the international force, what arrangements would be made regarding its communications and its command. He thought that we ought to have much more precise information than we possessed at present as to where we were going.

The following conclusions must be understood in the light of Cabinet conclusions, 45(36) 2.

After further discussion, the Cabinet agreed:

(a) Provisionally to adopt the suggestion that at the meeting of the Council of the League next week, the British representative should outline the difficult and dangerous position in the Saar and should indicate our view that the best course would be to send to the Saar a bona fide international force.

(b) That this international force should be on the lines of similar forces employed in the Silesian plebiscite and on other similar occasions, e.g., a number of countries (other than France and Germany) should each contribute to it a military unit of the order of a battalion.
(c) That the Secretary of State for War and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in consultation should prepare a scheme to give effect to the above proposal.

(d) That the Foreign Office should give the War Office a full appreciation of the political aspects of the matter, and that the War Office should advise as to how best effect could be given to the proposal.

(e) That the Secretary of State for War and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should report later in the week to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
4. No discussion took place on the subject of Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, but the Acting Secretary to the Cabinet was instructed to keep it on the Agenda Paper.
5. The Cabinet were informed that the Conversa-
tions with the Japanese and Americans were proceeding,
and the Acting Secretary was instructed to keep the
subject on the Agenda Paper.
6. No discussion took place on the subject of Imperial Defence Policy, but the Acting Secretary to the Cabinet was instructed to keep it on the Agenda Paper.

PREVIOUS REFERENCE: Cabinet 40 (34), Conclusion 4.)

45(34)5.
7. With reference to the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, the attention of the Cabinet was drawn by the Lord Chancellor to the following considerations relative to the suggestion that the Commission of Inquiry should, if practicable, be presided over by a distinguished Member of the Judicial Bench:

1. It is not possible, in view of the very congested state of judicial business, to spare a Judge, either from the House of Lords or from the Supreme Court.

2. Important as it is, however, that the judicial machine should be kept in efficient operation, it is still more important that the Judges should be, so far as practicable, detached from political questions. The matter with which the Inquiry will be concerned arouses political feelings in a very high degree. Whatever conclusion the Commission may reach, and whether they determine to report in public or in private, they and their proceedings will be the subject of fierce political controversy.

In view of these considerations the Lord Chancellor invited the Cabinet to reconsider the Conclusion in question and to adopt his considered view that the proposal that the Inquiry should, if practicable, be presided over by a distinguished Member of the Judicial Bench was not one which in the circumstances could be entertained.
In the course of a brief discussion the view was expressed that this particular matter was of outstanding importance and that unless the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry was a trained and experienced lawyer the public interest might be most gravely prejudiced.

The Cabinet agreed --

To defer further consideration of the question until their next regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 5th, and to request the Lord Chancellor to circulate a Memorandum on the subject in the interval.
8. The Cabinet had before them the following documents relating to the proposed Palestine Legislative Council:

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies (C.P.-256 (34)), attaching a copy of a Despatch he proposed to send to the High Commissioner, on which the latter would base his discussions with Arabs and Jews in Palestine, and calling the special attention of his colleagues to paragraph 3 (A), dealing with the suggested constitution of the Council:

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India (C.P.-270 (34)) commenting on the above Memorandum and bringing to the notice of the Cabinet certain considerations from the point of view of possible reactions in India.

After some discussion the Cabinet agreed —

(a) Subject as stated in (b) below, to approve in principle the Memorandum of the Secretary of State for the Colonies (C.P.-256 (34)) and to authorise the Secretary of State to continue his negotiations with a view to a further report being made to the Cabinet in due course:

(b) (i) To take note that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would discuss with the High Commissioner for Palestine the question of increasing the numbers of nominated Arab members of the Legislative Council by one:

(ii) To take note that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would again discuss with the High Commissioner for Palestine the question of defining more precisely the functions of the Legislative Council, and in particular providing for exclusion of the discussion of questions affecting religion; and of giving the High Commissioner in his Instructions a special charge for the protection of Moslems or generally of backward communities:

(c) As regards the provision in paragraph 3 (V) of the draft Despatch in Appendix I to C.P.-256 (34), namely, that women should not be admitted as members of the Council, to record the strong view of the Cabinet that it would be a mistake to publish to the world that women should be excluded from the Council, and to invite the Secretary of State for the Colonies to communicate this expression of the Cabinet's view to the High Commissioner for Palestine.
9. The Cabinet had before them a Note by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (C.P.-243 (34)) covering the Report of a Committee appointed early this year to review the question of the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services. While the Committee had agreed, with two exceptions, that it would be inadvisable to admit women to the Consular Service at the present time, four members of the Committee held that the arguments against the admission of women to the Diplomatic Service definitely outweighed those in favour, and these four members accordingly recommended no change in the existing position. Two members held a contrary view and recommended that women should be eligible for admission to the Diplomatic Service on the same terms as men. The two remaining members of the Committee were in favour of admitting women to the Diplomatic Service for a limited period as an experimental measure.

After some discussion the Cabinet agreed —

(a) That the Report of the Committee on the Admission of Women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services should be published:

(b) That when the Report was published it should be accompanied by a statement that the Government accepted the conclusions of the majority in regard to the Diplomatic Service, namely, that the arguments against the admission of women to that Service definitely outweigh those in favour, and have accordingly decided to make no change in the existing position; and also the conclusions of the majority in regard to the Consular Service, namely, that it would be inadvisable to admit women to this Service; the statement in question to set out the Government's reasons for these conclusions:

(c) To request the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to prepare and circulate to the Cabinet for consideration the draft of the statement to accompany the Report of the Committee when published.
10. The Cabinet had before them a Note by the Secretary of State for India (C.P. 274 (31)) circulating for the information of his colleagues two telegrams he had received from the Viceroy of India relating to the position resulting from the publication of the Report of the Joint Select Committee.

The Secretary of State for India thought that the Cabinet would be glad to know that the reception of the Report, both at home and in India, had been substantially better than had been expected.

The Cabinet took note of this communication.
11. The Cabinet had under consideration a Memorandum by the Prime Minister (C.P.-266 (34)) on the subject of the Speaker's Seat. Hitherto the Speaker had been left in possession of his seat without a contest at elections, but the Labour Party had now decided to oppose the present Speaker when an election comes. In his Memorandum the Prime Minister recommended that, in order to maintain the independence of the Speaker so soon as he is elected to his office and so long as it is the wish of the House of Commons to retain him in that office, and to give the Speakership a place and a dignity specially marked out in the Constitution of Parliament, to which it was fully entitled, legislation should be prepared to provide that —

(a) The Speaker of the House of Commons shall occupy a position all by himself and be simply the Speaker of the House whilst retaining the status and privileges now enjoyed by him as Speaker:

(b) He will vacate his seat on election to the Speakership and a by-election will in consequence follow to fill the vacancy:

(c) On dissolution of a Parliament he will continue to fulfil the duties which the Speaker now performs on that event.

After some discussion, in which certain objections to the proposals outlined in C.P.-266 (34) were indicated and alternative suggestions for meeting the difficulty were made, the Cabinet agreed —

To invite the Prime Minister to confer further with the Speaker of the House of Commons in regard to the matter.
12. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (C.P.-250 (34)) asking approval in principle to the preparation of a Bill relating to Civil Service Superannuation, with a view to its consideration by the Home Affairs Committee and the Cabinet. In his Memorandum the Chancellor of the Exchequer briefly outlined the scope of the Bill, and stated that its proposals would not involve any material increase in the existing expenditure on Civil Service Superannuation.

The Cabinet agreed —

To approve the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as set forth in C.P.-250 (34) and summarised above, regarding the preparation of a draft Bill relating to Civil Service Superannuation.
13. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the President of the Board of Trade (C.P.-269 (34)) on the subject of the British Mercantile Marine, covering a draft British Shipping (Assistance) Bill. In pursuance of the decisions reached at the Meeting mentioned in the margin, the Shipping industry had prepared a scheme for applying a defensive subsidy of £2 millions on the conditions laid down in the President’s previous Memorandum (C.P.-161 (34)).

The scheme was contained in Section 2 of the proposed White Paper attached to C.P.-269 (34). Having secured the concurrence of the Lord President of the Council and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the acceptance of the scheme, the President of the Board of Trade summarised as follows the points on which a decision was required:

(i) The introduction of the draft Bill to grant a subsidy of not more than £2 millions for one year to ships carrying tramp cargoes in accordance with the scheme submitted by the shipowners and to give legislative sanction to the concession as to Fees paid by the Shipping industry:

(ii) Whether a scrapping and building scheme on the principles indicated in the draft Bill (with the modifications shown in paragraph 9 of C.P.-269 (34) with a view to making the scheme more attractive) and in the White Paper of July last (Cmd. 4647), should be included in the Bill.

The Cabinet were informed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that certain alterations had been made in regard to the subsidy provisions of Part II of the Bill, to which, on the information before him, he saw no reason to raise objection. In view, however, of the fact that under Clause 9 of the Bill the maximum amount of the loans was fixed at £10,000,000, he saw no necessity for including in the Bill provisions for the guarantee of loans as well as provisions for direct advances. He therefore
suggested that both the Bill and the White Paper should be shortened by omitting the references to guarantees.

The President of the Board of Trade accepted this suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Cabinet agreed—

That the President of the Board of Trade should be authorised to introduce the British Shipping (Assistance) Bill in the House of Commons, subject to the deletion of references to guarantees in Part II of the Bill, and subject also to the examination of the Bill in detail by the Committee of Home Affairs, but without further reference to the Cabinet.
14. In pursuance of the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, the Cabinet had before them a Joint Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Home Secretary (C.P.-267 (34)) on the subject of the Herring Industry. The Memorandum stated that the main recommendation contained in the Report of the Sea-fish Commission, which had been specially asked to enquire into the conditions of the industry and to report upon it as a matter of urgency, was the establishment of a Herring Board, nominated by the Government, with wide powers of control and regulation of the industry. The Report also recommended that the Herring Board should be provided with certain Exchequer assistance and facilities for borrowing, and, subject to his being satisfied at the appropriate time on certain points relating to the Board's powers, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had agreed to the following:

(1) A grant of £125,000, spread over three years, partly as an annual grant towards the Board's expenses (say, £25,000 per annum), and partly as a lump sum to be drawn on for publicity, marketing, research, etc.

(2) Advances up to £600,000 on loan for the purpose of scrapping of old boats, renewal of nets, building of new boats and re-conditioning, financing of contracts (so far as necessary), working capital and contingencies.

The Cabinet agreed —

(a) In accordance with paragraph 7 of C.P.-267 (34), to authorise the preparation of a Bill for the Herring Industry on the lines set out in paragraph 2 of that Memorandum, subject to adjustments with the Treasury, and with a view to the early passage of the Bill into law.

(b) To take note that the time table of the proposed legislation is very important, both in order that the Herring Board may be in operation at the earliest possible date and for financial reasons. The Treasury have pointed out that the £600,000 will require to be voted, and, as it is essential that the Vote should be taken
in the current financial year, a Supplementary Estimate will require to be introduced in February, and it will be necessary that the Bill should be passed by the 31st March, 1935, in order to secure the inclusion of the money in the Appropriation Act.
15. The Cabinet had before them the following documents on the subject of the Housing Bill:

A Memorandum by the Minister of Health (H.A.-50 (34)) covering a draft Bill — amended in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Report of the Housing Policy Committee (C.P.-264 (34)) — and attaching a summary of its main provisions:

The Final Report of the Housing Policy Committee (C.P.-264 (34)):

The following recommendation of the Committee of Home Affairs (H.A.C. 19th Conclusions (34), Minute 3):

"To authorise the introduction forthwith in the House of Commons of the Housing Bill in the form of the draft annexed to H.A.-50 (34), subject to the reconsideration of the two points indicated by the Minister of Health, and to any drafting or other minor alterations that might be found necessary or desirable."

The two points mentioned above were as follows:

(a) The question, still under discussion, as to the scope of the Bill, i.e., whether it should be confined to working-class houses or extended to houses in general:

and

(b) The question of determining finally the figures in the Bill relating to the amount of subsidy.

The Minister of Health informed the Cabinet that in regard to (a) above it was proposed to insert a definition in the Bill to the following effect:

"Dwelling House" means any premises occupied by members of the working classes as a separate dwelling, or of a type suitable for such occupation.

As regards (b) above, the negotiations with the Local Authorities were continuing and some approximation
of the points of view had been attained. While an agreement on finance had not yet been reached, the atmosphere was favourable to a satisfactory financial settlement being arrived at.

Some discussion took place in regard to the certain question of making retrospective provisions in the Bill relating to compensation. The suggestion was made that the Bill should stand as drafted and that the question whether some further concessions should be made should be deferred until the Committee stage was reached.

In view of the strong expressions of opinion in the Cabinet in favour of making concessions in this matter, the Minister of Health undertook to examine the possibility of enlarging the present retrospective provisions of the Bill in this respect.

The Cabinet agreed:

To authorise the introduction forthwith in the House of Commons of the Housing Bill in the form of the draft annex to H.A. 50 (34), subject to the amendments indicated above and subject also to any drafting or minor alterations which may be found desirable or necessary.
16. With reference to the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, the Cabinet had before them a Joint Memorandum by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Transport (C.P.-259 (54)) on the question of the introduction of legislation for controlling building development along main thoroughfares. The Memorandum stated that within the last three years certain County Councils had obtained from Parliament Private Acts giving power, inter alia, to check the abuse of "ribbon" development. Strong demands were being made by the County Councils Association and other bodies that other County Councils should be granted like powers, without each one of them being put to the expense attendant upon Private Bill legislation. A Bill for this purpose would be a relatively short and simple matter and should not meet with strong opposition in Parliament. On the other hand, such a Bill would fall short of a complete remedy. The Ministries of Health and Transport, therefore, had elaborated proposals for more comprehensive and drastic measures, to enable County Councils, without liability to pay compensation, to impose on frontagers on the principal roads a degree of control which, though less severe than that secured by the Private Acts, would mitigate the worst evils of "ribbon" development. The two Ministers asked the Cabinet to authorise the preparation of a Bill on the wider lines, on the understanding that the question whether the wider or narrower Bill should be introduced would be referred to them again.

The suggestion was made that if the proposed Bill contained provisions for the payment of compensation, the advisability of including provisions for payment of "betterment" by landowners of frontages on main thoroughfares should be considered.
The Cabinet were reminded that the wider Bill contemplated novel proposals, e.g., for taking land without payment of compensation, which would be very strongly opposed in both Houses of Parliament.

As regards the last paragraph of C.P.-259 (34)) the Cabinet were informed that very little progress had been made with the discussion of the proposal for the nationalisation of certain important roads; the proposal was open to grave difficulties, and it would be unfortunate if a decision on "ribbon" development had to wait on proposals for nationalising roads.

The Cabinet agreed —

To approve the proposal of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Transport that they should be authorised to prepare a Bill on the wider lines, on the distinct understanding that the Cabinet were in no way committed in regard to the principle of the Bill and that the question whether the wider or narrower Bill should ultimately be introduced would be referred to the Cabinet again at a later stage.
17. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by
the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (C.P.-257
(34)) seeking Cabinet authority for the introduction
into Parliament at an early date, subject to time
permitting, of a Bill to amend the Diseases of Animals
Acts, for the following two main purposes:—

(i) To make provision for the application
of the Acts to poultry; and

(ii) To provide for the regulation of the
manufacture, sale and importation of
vaccines, sera and other therapeutic
substances intended to be used for
veterinary purposes.

In addition, it was proposed to take the opportunity
of the Bill to regularise the position of the Ministry
in certain minor matters, namely, the maintenance of
quarantine stations for the examination of animals
before export, and the treatment of animals with
serum or vaccine.

On the understanding that the proposals to be
included in the Bill were stated to be entirely non-
contentious, the Cabinet agreed —

To authorise the Minister of Agriculture
and Fisheries to arrange for the
preparation of a draft Bill to amend
the Diseases of Animals Acts for the
purposes explained in C.P.-257 (34))
and summarised above, and for the
circulation in due course of the draft
Bill to the Committee of Home Affairs
for examination and report to the Cabinet.
1. The Cabinet had under consideration a Memorandum by the Home Secretary (H.A.-48 (34)) covering the draft Metropolitan Police (Borrowing Powers) Bill, which was designed to confer fresh borrowing powers on the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District for the purpose of carrying out a comprehensive programme for the general re-housing of the Metropolitan Police; together with the following recommendation of the Committee of Home Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 19th Conclusions (34), Minute 1):—

"To authorise the introduction forthwith in the House of Commons of the Metropolitan Police (Borrowing Powers) Bill in the form of the draft annexed to H.A.-48 (34), subject to any drafting or other minor alterations that might be found necessary or desirable."

The Cabinet approved the recommendation of the Committee of Home Affairs set forth above.
With reference to the Conclusion mentioned in the margin, in which the Cabinet authorised the introduction of the Bill subject to its examination in detail by the Home Affairs Committee and without further reference to the Cabinet, the Cabinet had under consideration a Joint Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Labour (H.A.-49 (34)), covering the draft Depressed Areas (Development and Improvement) Bill, which gave power to set up two Commissioners, one for the three Depressed Areas in England and Wales, and one for the Depressed Area in Scotland: together with the following Conclusion of the Committee of Home Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 19th Conclusions (34), Minute 2):

"To authorise the immediate introduction in the House of Commons of the Depressed Areas (Development and Improvement) Bill in the form of the draft annexed to H.A.-49 (34), subject to any drafting or other minor alterations that might be found necessary or desirable."

The Cabinet took note of this Conclusion of the Committee of Home Affairs.
20. The Cabinet were warned that a Special Meeting of the Cabinet to consider the Draft Regulations of the Unemployment Assistance Board would probably have to be held on Friday next, November 30th, and that, if so, the Meeting would be held in the Prime Minister's Room at the House of Commons at 10.30 a.m.