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SECRET.COPY NO. 41C.P.106 (36).CABINET.EXTENSION OF PART I OF THE COAL MINES ACT, 1930.Memorandum by the President of the Board of Trade.

Part I of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, authorised the making of schemes for regulating the production, supply and sale of coal by owners of coal mines. The schemes for organised selling now being prepared by the coal industry in accordance with the undertakings given as part of the settlement in the recent dispute will also be put into force under Part I.

In 1932, Part I of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, (which was to expire at the end of 1932) was continued until the end of 1937.

Under present legislation, therefore, the schemes for organised selling cannot be given a longer statutory life than 18 months. The colliery owners have pointed out that it is very difficult to make proper plans to set up and work organisations which may come to an end in so short a time. Moreover, in a number of coal mining districts the owners intend to appoint full time independent officers of some standing to administer the selling schemes. If it is not possible to offer them a certainty of employment for more than 18 months there will be considerable difficulty in securing the right type of man.

The Secretary for Mines accordingly suggests that Part I of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, should now be extended for a further period of five years from the end of 1937. I agree with this suggestion.

A convenient opportunity for this extension will be afforded by the Bill to make effective the reorganisation

provisions of the 1930 Act (Part II). The Cabinet agreed to the principle of this Bill on the 19th February (Cabinet 8 (36), Conclusion 7). We accordingly ask for authority to include the necessary clause in the draft of this Bill, which is shortly to be submitted to the Home Affairs Committee.

W.R.

Board of Trade,

6th April, 1936.