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C.P. 133.HOUSING POLICYINTERIM REPORT OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE.(Reference - Cabinet 7/19)  
have

The Committee/considered in detail the Memorandum circulated to the Cabinet by the Minister of Health (C.P. 94) and other relevant papers and reached the following conclusions which they desire to submit to the Cabinet for approval:-

ASSISTANCE TO  
PRIVATE ENTER-  
PRISE.C.P. 94  
Page 4, 5 (b)

1. The Committee decided to recommend to the Cabinet to grant a subsidy to private enterprise on the lines set forth in the memorandum of the Minister of Health, viz., a subsidy not exceeding £150 per house of approved type and let out up to a limit of 100,000 houses to be completed within the next 12 months.

(The Secretary for Scotland dissented from this conclusion.)

CO-OPERATION  
OF BUILDERS.C.P. 94,  
Page 3, 2 (a)  
(b)

2. The Committee concur in the proposal forth by the Minister of Health providing for the co-operation of the agreements reached with the building trade on the understanding that the agreement with the house builders under section 12 (3) of the Housing Act will be operated so as to secure a good type of house and not to conflict with the subsidy arrangement.

CO-OPERATION  
OF THE BOARD  
OF AGRICULTURE  
& FISHER-  
IES.

C.P. 122

3. The Committee concur in the proposal of the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries that, subject to the provisions of the Housing Acts and after opportunity has been afforded to County Councils to help, the Board of Agriculture shall be called upon to assist the Ministry of Health in cases of defaulting rural authorities.

LUXURY BUILD-  
ING & DEMOL-  
ITION OF  
HABITABLE  
HOUSESC.P. 94  
Page 5 (c)

4. The Committee agreed that the Ministry of Health should be equipped with powers -

- (a) to prohibit during a given term the construction of buildings of a non-essential character in cases where the construction of such buildings was restricting the building of houses,



- (b) to prohibit the demolition or the putting out of use of existing habitable houses.

(The Chancellor of the Exchequer dissented from (a))

**POWER TO  
SUPPLEMENT  
AUTHORITIES'  
SCHEMES.**

C.F.94  
Page 5 (D)

5. The Committee decided that in the case of a Local Authority which, although not technically in default, was at the same time not active, the Minister of Health should be granted authority (in pursuance of Section 15 of the 1919 Act) to prescribe that works undertaken by the Ministry to supplement the housing scheme of such a Local Authority should form a part for financial purposes of the local scheme; this authority, however, to be confined to cases of the conversion of existing houses and of emergency accommodation.

**FINANCE**

C.F.94  
Page 4 (5) (a)

6. A Sub-Committee examined the question of housing finance in consultation with the Governor of the Bank of England and Mr R.H.B. Goschen, and reached the following conclusions:-

(1) That the Chancellor of the Exchequer should write to Mr Goschen asking his Committee to examine carefully the suggestion which had been made that money for housing schemes should be raised locally by the issue of small bonds which would at a later date be accepted in payment for houses, should the holder of the bonds so desire, and which the working classes, in particular, should be encouraged to buy by the initiation of vigorous campaigns and by other methods in support of them; the Committee to present an Interim Report on this subject at the earliest possible date.

(2) That the Minister of Health and the Secretary for Scotland should examine carefully the cases of all those Authorities whose schemes were said to be held up on account of their inability to raise the necessary money; that the list of such Authorities should be cut down to an absolute minimum, containing only those of whom Mr Addison and Mr Munro were satisfied that they had done everything in their power to raise the money and still had failed to do so; that in each case an estimate should be made of the immediate and prospective liability of the Treasury if it were decided to grant these Authorities State aid in order to proceed with their schemes; and that this list should then be considered as absolutely final and should be submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for consideration.

On this the Chairman desires to make the

reservation that in the event of authorities being unable to raise the necessary money as suggested in 6 (1) he would be compelled to approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a supplementary list.

A Report on Labour in relation to Housing will follow.

Christopher Addison (Chairman)  
November 19th 1919