

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

July 2/75

Meeting with Premier Campbell - 3:45 - 6:30 p.m.
Only Frank Carter & self present.

Presentation - Reminded Mr. Campbell of discussion at P. H.'s dinner on April 9 and letter of April 19. Told him of visits in chronological order and of positions taken.

Discussion - Premier Campbell said he had three points to make:

- ① He had no objection whatever to the ratification proposal on the basis of the equality formula of Victoria. If the "Western provinces" could agree to drop the "majority of the population" principle, that was up to them.
- ② He agreed with Premier Logan that, if some "constitutional guarantees" were to go in for Quebec, there had to be something on the regional disparity problem. However, he felt the Victoria formulation was inadequate as it really created no clear and enforceable obligation on the federal government. He thought there should be a specific commitment to ensure a level of services for citizens in all parts of the country at a reasonable level of cost. In reply to a question from me, he said that the present arrangements (equalization + other income transfers + social cost programs) would probably meet the obligation he had in mind. His point was that there was no requirement imposed on federal government to maintain such programs.
- ③ There should not be any conference or

any commitment to proceed unless and until it was clear that Premier Bourassa would really go ahead.
 He asked when I had seen him (I said about May 28) and commented that some 10 days ago in St. Andrew's Mr Bourassa had stressed the problems of the present timing (strikes, social unrest, Olympics, etc.) and had said he didn't need another problem now. I expressed surprise and referred to Mr Bourassa's comment: "If we can't do it when Pierre is in Ottawa and I am here, I do not know when we can do it".

I asked Mr Campbell about some specific points:

- (a) The Supreme Court - he would prefer to have the provision (Victoria) included.
- (b) Constitutional Guarantees - he had sympathy with Mr Bourassa's point and saw no objection in principle to guarantees. He would want to look at the text.

We had a good deal of discussion on the question of "going ahead". I told Mr Campbell that I thought he could be sure the P.M. would want to be confident of Quebec's intentions before going far. I said it was by no means sure any consensus would be required. The exercise could possibly be handled only by bilateral discussions.

The matter was left that both Mr Campbell and we would look about something more specific than Victoria for regional (or provincial) services.

R. G. R.