

Ireland, unions lodged details of contributions with the Ministry of Commerce, and from this information it appeared that relatively few trade unionists had "opted in".

3. LOCKWOOD REPORT

The Cabinet resumed its consideration of the Minister of Education's Memorandum dated 11th December, 1964, in conjunction with his further Memorandum dated 8th January, 1965.

The Minister of Education outlined the factors which, in his view, made it desirable to reach early decisions:- the need to answer a Parliamentary Question as soon as the House resumed; the fact that the Report, which itself stressed the need for urgency, had been received as long ago as 27th November, 1964, while the last meeting had been as long ago as October; the pressure which would be built-up if the idea became current that publication was being delayed; the risk of further "leaks" in Londonderry or elsewhere; the fact that the printed Report was now available; and the embarrassing circumstance that the Governor had already been asked to be present at Magee Centenary celebrations next October.

The Minister then referred to the suggestion made by the Minister of Finance at the previous Cabinet meeting, and adopted as the basis for the revised paragraph 5 incorporated in the Memorandum of 8th January. Since circulation, this wording had been simplified, so that the second paragraph should now read:- "The Government is reluctant to accept this view and proposes to ask the Academic Planning Board of the new university to consider incorporating the College as part of the new university". It was evident that it would not be possible to direct an Academic Planning Board to incorporate Magee. It would also have to be realised that presenting the Academic Planning Board with a difficult, and essentially political decision would not make it easy to recruit for that Board, even with Sir John Lockwood's help, persons of the necessary influence and standing. Incorporation of Magee would involve difficult practical questions, such as the position of the President, who was regarded in university circles as being on a par with a Senior Lecturer, and who could therefore not expect an automatic appointment to a chair or the headship of a Department in the new university.

The Minister informed his colleagues of a letter which he had received from the Attorney-General suggesting that Magee should be retained and encouraged - until it was moved and incorporated in the new university and used as a nucleus for the new faculties in its subjects; that the staff should be incorporated in the new university without prejudice to their interests; that arrangements should be made in the present Magee buildings or elsewhere, for the establishment of a higher educational centre - technical or otherwise - in Londonderry; and that proposals on these lines, but no less favourable at all events, should be announced as the Government's comments on the relevant

parts of the Lockwood Report. There was no doubt that extensive rumours about the Lockwood recommendations - some of them of an extremely fanciful character - were circulating in Londonderry, and he appreciated the Attorney-General's view that some sort of constructive and protective statement must be made.

The Prime Minister commented that the Attorney-General's letter appeared to reinforce the view held by himself and several of his colleagues that a straightforward acceptance of the Lockwood recommendations on Magee - without any prior consultation with the Party, with Magee or with Londonderry interests - would produce a storm which could capsize the entire Report. The revised wording suggested for paragraph 5 might make it possible to surmount the immediate obstacle. It could well be, however, that the Academic Planning Board would merely repeat the Lockwood conclusions on Magee, and possibly at an even less opportune time. It was, no doubt, already widely known in those British academic circles from which an Academic Planning Board would largely be drawn that the University Grants Committee had declined to advise in respect of Magee. Academics from Great Britain were more likely to be influenced by the views of Lockwood and the U.G.C. than by the purely local factors which the Cabinet was bound to consider. He wondered whether it would be possible to adopt wording on the following lines:- "The Government has considered the conclusion reached by the Lockwood Committee that the implications of the establishment of a second university in Northern Ireland are inescapable for Magee University College. While it is accepted that a second university, particularly one to be located as close to Londonderry as at Coleraine, will have inevitable effects upon the University College, the Government cannot agree that there is no alternative to the discontinuance of the College as a university institution. No final decision can or will be taken on this matter pending thorough discussion with the responsible authorities".

Referring to the suggestions made by the Attorney-General, the Minister of Finance dealt first with the request that Magee should be "retained and encouraged" on an interim basis. He had already told the Minister of Education that he was prepared to agree to the payment of grants to sustain Magee at its present level during an interim period. On the other hand, the Attorney-General asked that Magee should be "used as a nucleus for the new faculties". No Government statement could be dogmatic about this, as it was not a matter for the Government to say how Magee should be used. All that could be said was that the Government would propose to consult with the Magee authorities as to the future use of the College. Then there was the point as to the incorporation of staff. No one could give an outright guarantee on this point, but it should be possible to incorporate in the statement wording to indicate reasonable safeguards for the interests of the Magee staff. As to the future use of the Magee buildings, here again the Government could do no more than

indicate a willingness to discuss the question with the Magee authorities. The Minister of Education also referred to the suggestion that Magee should be a "nucleus for the new faculties" and pointed out that some of the subjects taught at Magee might not form part of the new university's curricula.

The Minister in the Senate commented that the great bulk of the Lockwood recommendations appeared to be acceptable to the Cabinet. He did not consider that there should be any major objection if the Government declined to accept the Report only on the comparatively minor issue of Magee. The Minister of Commerce agreed, and said that he was attracted by the strength of the wording suggested by the Prime Minister.

After considerable further discussion it was agreed that the Minister of Education should supply the Attorney-General with a copy of the Lockwood Report, explain the problem with which the Cabinet was faced, explore possible solutions and report back to the next meeting of the Cabinet. In the meantime, a temporising reply would have to be given to the Parliamentary Question on 19th January.

4. REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: NOTICE OF MOTION

Referring to the Notice of Motion for the following Tuesday, the Minister of Development said that he would propose to accept in broad general terms the need for reform, while emphasizing that complex and difficult problems were involved and that no early action should therefore be expected. After some discussion, it was agreed that this course should be adopted.

5. MINISTERS' AND MEMBERS' SALARIES AND PENSION

The Minister of Finance explained that the question of the amount of a salary increase for Members could not be divorced from the attainment of a reasonable pension level. The Chief Whip considered that a pension of about half the Westminster level would be the minimum which would be acceptable. The difficulty was to persuade the Inland Revenue to accept a continuance of the £300 allowance while making a further increase in salary and basing the pension upon the total salary inclusive of that allowance. A pension based, for example, upon a net £1,325 (total salary £1,625 less £300 allowance) would fall short of the half-level standard. It might be necessary to think in terms of a total salary of £1,800 (including the allowance) in order to provide an adequate pension scheme. He still hoped that it might be possible to persuade the Inland Revenue to agree to a salary of £1,625 (£300 tax-free) with the pension based on the full amount, but he was not particularly hopeful. After discussion of various aspects of a pension scheme, it was generally agreed that the Minister of Finance must be given reasonable room for manoeuvre on this particular point.

On the question of Ministers' salaries, the Minister of Finance said that he had considered the idea of a comprehensive pension for Ministers

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