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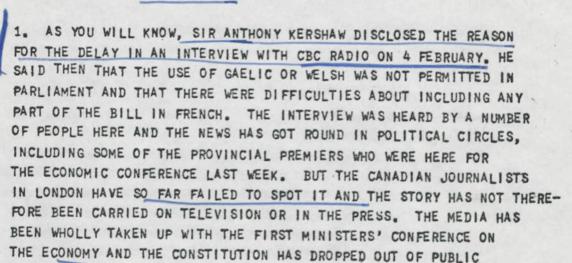
FM OTTAWA Ø82215Z FEB 1982

TO PRIOGITY FCO

CONSCIOUSNESS_

TELEGRAM NUMBER 69 OF Ø8 FEBRUARY

YOUR TELNO 51: CANADA BILL



- 2. I SAW MR MC MURTRY, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ONTARIO, ON FRIDAY. HE WAS, WITH M. CHRETIEN AND MR ROMANOW OF SASKATCHEWAN, ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE LAST NOVEMBER, AND IS A SHREWD POLITICIAN. HE SAID THAT OBJECTIVELY THERE WAS REALLY NO HURRY ABOUT THE PASSAGE OF THE CANADA BILL. IT WAS PURELY MR TRUDEAU WHO WAS OBSESSED WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY, THOUGH HE CONCEDED THERE WAS SOME SUBSTANCE IN THE QUEBEC COURT ASPECT. THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS. CANADIAN IMPATIENCE IS VERY MUCH PERSONAL IMPATIENCE BY MR TRUDEAU, BUT HE IS THE PRIME MINISTER. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE HOW SOLIDLY BASED HIS ANXIETIES ABOUT QUEBEC ARE. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO QUEBECKERS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT QUEBEC HAS A VETO. IF THEY DID THEY WOULD NOT HAVE SENT FORWARD THE REQUEST. BUT I CAN SEE THAT TO HAVE TO MAKE THIS POINT EXPLICITLY IN COURT MAY DO MR TRUDEAU'S IMAGE SOME HARM IN QUEBEC. I THINK THEREFORE THAT THERE IS SUBSTANCE IN HIS CASE BUT NOT PERHAPS AS MUCH AS HE MAKES OUT.
- 3. I HAVE MYSELF MADE REPEATEDLY HERE THE LORD PRESIDENT'S POINT ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID GIVING MPS AT WESTMINSTER ANY FEELING THAT THEY WERE BEING RAILROADED AND HAVE EXPLAINED THAT IF THEY ARE RUSHED THEY MAY TURN MULISH AND TAKE MORE AND NOT LESS TIME TO PASS THE BILL.

4. I AM SURE THAT WE SHOULD AIM TO PASS THE BILL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT MINISTERS NEED REGARD THE 15 MARCH DEADLINE AS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

MORAN

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DR PARRY P & CD PCCU PARLIAMENTARY UNIT NEWS D TSY SOLS MR RAILEY INFORMATION D PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF PS/IPS LANCASTER PS MR LUCE PS MR HURD PS LORD TREFSARNE PS/LORD CHANCELLOR HOUSE OF LORDS PS/LORD PRESIDENT PS/PUS MR H STEEL, LAW OFFICERS' DEPT SIR E YOUDE MR DAY PS/HOME SECRETARY
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