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Repro of Laban
Sust Branch
MBB. C2.

30th April, 1934. GH.

Mr. F. C. Sweeney,
35 Garsed Street,
Bendigo.

Dear Sir,

I have brought under the notice of the Honorable the Assistant Minister in Charge of Sustenance your communication of the 24th instant regarding official representation for unemployed in Bendigo.

As you are aware, under the Unemployment Relief Administration Act, the local Public Assistance Committee, properly constituted and appointed under the Act, is the only official body that may be recognized in so far as the distribution of sustenance is concerned. With regard to the authorization for representations to be made to such Committees the Honorable the Assistant Minister in Charge of Sustenance suggests that this is purely a matter for the local Public Assistance Committee, and the Honorable the Minister has no intention whatsoever of dictating to the local Public Assistance Committee in respect of the organizations they should recognize regarding grievances from the unemployed.

This practice has been uniformly followed throughout the State of Victoria and the Honorable the Minister feels that he has no justifiable reason to interfere with the domestic arrangements made by an authorized committee in any municipality. We feel sure that you will understand that any dictation in this respect might be viewed very seriously by Public Assistance Committee the members of which are giving such wonderful service in co-operating with the Government in an attempt to alleviate distress due to unemployment.

After all, it is only equitable to suggest that the members of the local Public Assistance Committee, with a full knowledge of all the conditions in the district, are in the best position to give judgment on domestic matters, in which might be included the question of representation in regard to the grievance of the unemployed.

The arrangements made in the metropolitan area in respect of the official recognition of the Trades Hall Council refer only to representations to be made direct to the Honorable the Minister and this arrangement in no manner interferes with the local administration by Public Assistance Committees.

Under these circumstances the Honorable the Minister is of opinion that no good purpose can be served by the special recognition of any particular body in Bendigo to act as counsel for men working in return for sustenance who desire that representations be made on their behalf.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR,
SUSTENANCE BRANCH,
MELBOURNE, C.2.

The Honorable the Minister, therefore, directs me to advise you that he is of opinion that no good purpose would be served by withholding the decision in respect of this matter until you have the opportunity of interviewing him.

It is, therefore, respectfully suggested that in future all matters appertaining to the local administration of sustenance and work in return therefor should be referred to the local Public Assistance Committee in Bendigo.

Yours faithfully,

Officer-in-Charge.