



## DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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Friday, January 22, 1954.

Ambassador To Russia: (Press Release No. 5, Jan. 21) -- The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on January 21 that Mr. John B.C. Watkins, who is at present Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland, will be transferred to Moscow with the rank of Ambassador. Mr. R.A.D. Ford, who is at present Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Moscow, will return for duty in the Department. Announcement was also made of the appointment of Mr. Chester A. Ronning as Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland to succeed Mr. Watkins.

Mr. Chevrier On St. Lawrence Seaway: Quebec, Jan. 21 (CP) -- Mr. Chevrier said tonight the federal Government will proceed alone with a deep navigation development in the St. Lawrence River's Lachine section if the Quebec Government does not join it in a power-shipping project.

The proposed undertaking would be part of the down-river works of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The navigation works in the Lachine area would cost around \$98,000,000 on the last estimate made public, while the 1,200,000-horsepower development would cost something over \$270,000,000.

He said the seaway would open up a new waterfront along the south shore in Montreal, which would "stimulate industrial development there".

Mr. Chevrier spoke to the Canadian Electrical Association.

Dealing with the waterway generally, Mr. Chevrier reiterated that Canada proposed to build the navigation works alone from Montreal into Lake Erie. He expressed the hope construction can start next summer if court obstacles in the United States are cleared away.

"The Government is determined to construct an all-Canadian seaway as soon as these hurdles are overcome," he said.

"At the same time, we are committed to consider any firm proposal for United States consideration that would not upset present power plans and would not unduly delay completion of the seaway.

"Congress has such a measure before it even now, but its prospects are most uncertain, especially in the House of Representatives.

(The seaway bill was adopted in the U.S. Senate last night. The House has yet to act on concurrent legislation.)

"Unless it is approved by both Chambers before Canada is in a position to start her own canals, the long history will end with an all-Canadian seaway."

Housing Act Amendments: Ottawa, Jan. 21 (CP) -- The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Winters, hinted today that the \$10,000 ceiling on Government housing loans may be boosted by as much as \$2,500 or \$3,000 under proposed new legislation. Interest rates on National Housing Act loans, currently 5½ per cent, also may be increased, but he said they will be held below six per cent.

In a 6,500-word statement in the House of Commons, he outlined further details of a proposed NHA amendments and urged Members to give the legislation speedy approval so it can be put into operation next spring.

The measure met some criticism as it came up for second reading - approval in principle. Mr. Donald Fleming (PC - Toronto Eglinton) said his party will not oppose the measure but he described some of its features as inadequate.

The measure would admit banks into the mortgage-lending field and this was a "fundamental departure" from existing banking legislation. He