

Some of the major blocks to large-scale consumer purchases are still continued. The down payment on new and used passenger cars is still one-half the purchase price; on other consumer items, one-third. The minimum time payments are \$10 a month or \$2.50 a week.

The current restrictions make the Canadian regulations tougher than those imposed in the United States.

Federal Aid For Universities: Ottawa, January 10 (CP) -- Nine Provinces, all except Quebec, have reached agreement with the federal Government on terms for distributing Parliament's vote of \$7,100,000 to help Canadian universities leap financial hurdles. Quebec, apparently unsatisfied with the federal Government's definition of the type of university eligible for financial aid, has requested that a special joint commission be set up to decide which Quebec institutions will be eligible.

This was disclosed today in a statement by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, outlining the regulations under which the grants will be made. Quebec's request, he said, will be met.

In other Provinces 82 universities and colleges are considered eligible for sharing in the grant, approved by Parliament on recommendation of the Massey Commission. Agreement was reached after informal and formal consultations between the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and the provincial Premiers.

With the exception of Quebec, the number of eligible universities in the various provinces are British Columbia, 4; Alberta, 5; Saskatchewan, 15; Manitoba, 7; Ontario, 29; New Brunswick, 6; Nova Scotia, 13; Prince Edward Island, 2; Newfoundland, 1. Payments are expected to go out within the next few weeks. Provinces will share on the basis of population at the rate of 50 cents a head.

Mr. Drew On Commonwealth: Toronto, January 10 (CP) -- Mr. George Drew, Progressive Conservative Leader, said today that Canadians in extending their partnership with other countries to preserve peace and freedom should "remember that the most effective international partnership ever created by man is the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Mr. Drew, in an address to the Empire Club of Canada, said: "Our greatest service to ourselves, our country and mankind may well be the convincing demonstration we give within this Commonwealth of the ability of nations to work together for their mutual advantage without sacrificing their sovereignty in any way."

Across Canada: The Toronto Transportation Commission has agreed to meet representatives of the striking Street Railwaymen's Union (A.F.L.-T.L.C.) to discuss any new proposals aimed at ending the strike that has tied up Toronto's publicly-owned street-car and bus services since January 4.... Living costs declined in four of nine regional cities during November, but climbed in the other five, the Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.... Henry J. Sissons, Canada's materials co-ordinator, said yesterday there is no end in sight to a critical shortage of strategic metals, and urged that waste and unnecessary use must be reduced "to every practical extent."