



DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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Wednesday, June 22, 1955.

Ottawa Will Pay Half Welfare Relief Costs: Ottawa, June 21 (CP) -- The federal Government today acceded to provincial demands and boosted its proposed scale of unemployment relief aid to one-half the total cost under a reduced floor.

There were indications most provinces would accept this final offer, though there still were some complaints that it was too low.

Under the upwardly-revised contributions formula, announced by Mr. St. Laurent, the federal Government would pay one-half the cost of providing relief for persons in excess of .45 per cent of the provincial population.

This followed overnight revision of the central Government's previous offer to pay for persons in excess of .50 per cent of the population with federal contributions increasing from 30 to 50 per cent as unemployment intensified.

Federal officials estimated the final offer, if accepted by all provinces, would cost the central treasury roughly \$10,000,000 a year on the basis of last winter's unemployment figures. The cost would be higher if provinces increased their present welfare outlays. Officials believed Ontario might do so.

Mr. St. Laurent, in a House of Commons announcement following the wind-up of a 1½-day federal-provincial conference, said the agreements based on the federal offer may be discussed at another ministerial meeting "if a subsequent meeting is necessary."

"But I think it is the desire of those who were at the conference to try to have agreements worked out and signed before the October meeting (of federal and provincial premiers) as an indication that we can come to terms when we set about trying to do the right kind of job for the Canadian people."

The federal-provincial conference, at the insistence of Premier Frost of Ontario, also agreed that consideration be given to public investment and other measures to keep employment high.

This subject is to be taken up at the October 3 conference of premiers, following study by an advisory body of federal-provincial finance deputies here early next month.

The relief proposal, embodying a number of qualifications, was taken back by delegates to provincial Governments for decision on signing of pacts.

The federal Government is ready to make the deals effective July 1.

Bill To Increase Judges Salaries: Ottawa, June 21 (CP) -- A Government bill to increase salaries of federally-paid judges by a flat \$2,500 annually ran into CCF and Social Credit opposition in the House of Commons today while being welcomed by the Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (CCF-Winnipeg North Centre) demanded an investigation into Judges' salaries and pensions, the amount of work they do, their extra-curricular activities on commissions and boards and their appointments and retirement ages.

He said judges' salaries compared favourably with those paid for comparable jobs in private life.

Mr. George McLeod (SC-Okanagan-Revelstoke) said his party opposes any increases at the present time because judges' salaries compare favourably with those paid other persons with equal qualifications in the public service.

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