



DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
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Thursday, November 10, 1949.

In Parliament On November 9 : The House of Commons concluded the budget debate without a formal vote on a Progressive Conservative amendment.

The budget debate ended with various members asking for government action on education, canals and potatoes.

The Senate approved a resolution providing for amendment of the constitution on federal matters.

Budget Debate Ends Unexpectedly: Ottawa, November 9 (CP) -- Caught by a surprise end to the 1949-50 budget debate, the Progressive Conservatives today missed a chance to force a vote on their budget amendment.

A combination of circumstances--not the least of which was the broadcast of the Montreal-Ottawa Big Four football playoff--contributed to the situation.

The result was that the few Progressive Conservatives in the Commons at the time didn't think of rising to force a formal vote on their amendment.

The amendment asked that the House express regret that the Government had failed to take effective measures to prevent the present decline in trade with the Sterling Area, and was of the opinion that the Government should consider the advisability of inviting the nations of the Commonwealth to a conference....

Mr. Matthews Minister At Washington: The Department of External Affairs announced on November 10, that Mr. W. D. Matthews, Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy, Washington, had been promoted to the rank of Minister.

Before his transfer to Washington earlier this year, Mr. Matthews was Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in the Department at Ottawa. (See Press Release No. 76)

Continue Dollar Rationing: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on November 9 that the rationing of U.S. dollars for pleasure travel will continue during the period from Nov. 16, 1949 to Nov. 15, 1950. The maximum amount of U.S. dollars which any Canadian resident may obtain during this period for pleasure travel will remain at \$150. In the case of children eleven years and under the amount will remain at \$100.

Decision to continue the pleasure travel ration was reached after a careful assessment of Canada's U.S. dollar position and U.S. dollar travel expenditure, the announcement said. As at the end of last September Canada's official gold and U.S. dollar holdings were about the same (\$985.3 million U.S.) as they were at the end of 1948 (\$997.8 million U.S.). On the other hand the rate of travel expenditure in the United States has risen considerably. It is estimated that total travel expenditure in the United States by Canadian residents in the twelve months ended September 30, 1949 was about \$160 million compared with \$113 million in the calendar year 1948. The Minister attributed the increase principally to the relaxation at the beginning of this year of the regulations applying to the foreign purchases of returning Canadian travellers.

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