

Appendix

Accept, Mr. Prime Minister, our sincere greetings and the assurance of our complete willingness to do everything possible to solve these various problems in a friendly, just and constitutional way.

M. L. Duplessis

Translation

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Canada

Ottawa, February 28, 1950

Hon. Maurice L. Duplessis, M.L.A.,
Premier of the Province of Quebec,
Quebec, Que.

My dear Premier:

I have received your letter of the 22nd of February with further reference to the conference between the federal and provincial governments proposed for next September or October.

The federal government is, like you and your colleagues, convinced that it would not be desirable to complicate or delay the solution of our constitutional problems. We believe, however, that the procedure agreed to at the conference in January constitutes an important step in that direction. We have no desire for a multiplicity of conferences, but, like several of the provincial governments, we are of the opinion that there exist many other problems which require consideration as soon as possible.

As for the particular subjects mentioned in your letter, namely, insurance, unemployment and radio broadcasting, the federal government would certainly have no objection to their being placed on the agenda of the proposed conference, if that is generally desired by the provincial governments. We hope, however, that the question of unemployment will not assume proportions which will make it bulk very large at that time.

It is obvious that any general conference would inevitably be primarily concerned with fiscal questions. While the federal government does not see any possibility of any definite renunciation of constitutional rights in fiscal matters, we do feel that there is plenty of scope for practical workable agreements based on a general desire for co-operation.

In conclusion I may say that we fully share the conviction expressed in your letter that these problems should be studied and decided without the intervention of any partisan considerations.

Louis S. St. Laurent

THE PREMIER
New Brunswick

Fredericton, February 23, 1950

Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On January 27 you wrote regarding the proposed dominion-provincial conference suggested for the autumn of this year to discuss general questions of common concern to the provincial and the federal governments and inquiring as to any suggestions we might care to advance for a tentative agenda. This letter was acknowledged on January 31 by my secretary in my absence from Canada.

Since my return I have given thought to this matter and it is my present intention to direct a study by our appropriate departments to the end that this government may shortly advance suggestions in this connection.

I shall be in further communication with you with reference to it shortly.

Yours sincerely,
John B. McNair