

## APPENDIX

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PREMIERS  
OF SOME OF THE PROVINCES WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED  
DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
Province of British Columbia

Victoria, February 10, 1950

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

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of January 27, and may say that the government of the province of British Columbia will be pleased to participate in a conference to discuss questions of common concern to the provincial and federal governments at a time to be designated.

I note your desire to have my views regarding matters to be discussed at the conference in the fall. I shall be pleased to forward you my comments regarding the agenda following the prorogation of the British Columbia legislature.

With kindest personal regards,  
Yours faithfully,

Byron I. Johnson

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
Province of Newfoundland

St. John's, February 17, 1950

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C., M.P.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

This government will be most happy to attend the dominion-provincial conference which you have called for the coming autumn. We have at the moment nothing in particular to suggest for the agenda, but will govern ourselves largely by the suggestions which our sister provinces will submit to you.

With all good wishes,  
As ever,

Cordially yours,

J. R. Smallwood

Translation

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Province of Quebec

Quebec, February 22, 1950

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C., P.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Mr. Prime Minister:

The very important additional work necessitated by the session of the legislature of Quebec has prevented me from writing you before today on the

subject of your letter of the 6th of February, concerning the new Canadian intergovernmental conference in September or October next.

I wrote you December 14 last:

"The government of the province of Quebec is always pleased to co-operate in the pursuit of the provinces' and the country's welfare and prosperity, on a basis of fairness and within the framework of constitutionality.

"The Ottawa conferences obviously involve a considerable amount of trouble and inconvenience for provincial authorities. Nevertheless we accept that with pleasure, when it results in greater prosperity and progress for the Canadian confederation and for the provinces of which it consists and which have given it birth."

In your letter you say:

"But there are other problems of interest to both the federal and the provincial authorities. It is with a view to discussing these problems that I made my proposal of a general conference next fall."

Do you not believe, Mr. Prime Minister, that it would be opportune to proceed in a way that would not complicate or delay the solving of our constitutional problems? In our humble opinion the multiplicity of conferences could result in making the situation more difficult.

Assuredly, apart from the constitutional questions which were the object of the conference in January, and the vital questions mentioned in the letter which I wrote to you on the 1st of February, there are numerous other problems in this connection. To mention just a few—and this is obviously not complete—there are the problems relating to the exclusive rights of the provinces in the matter of insurance, unemployment, radio broadcasting, etc., etc.

Are you of the opinion, Mr. Prime Minister, that it would be practicable to consider all these problems together? Don't you think that we should first study and decide the fundamental questions in respect to the rights of the federal authorities and provincial authorities in fiscal matters? It seems to us necessary to establish first in a precise and incontestable manner the fiscal powers of each authority, that is to say, our means of action and possibilities of realization.

You may rest assured, Mr. Prime Minister, that it is the sincere desire of the government of the province of Quebec to co-operate diligently and in a friendly way in the study and the settlement of all these problems on a just and constitutional basis.

It is our firm conviction that these problems ought to be studied and decided without any partisan approach. It is our most ardent wish, respectful of the rights of all, to co-operate for the progress and prosperity of Canada and of the provinces, and of ours in particular.

The cordial invitation of the government of Quebec to hold these conferences in the old capital applies to each and every one of them.