

APPENDIX

EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PREMIER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Canada

Ottawa (4),
January 3, 1958.

The Honourable Hugh John Flemming,
Premier of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

In the absence of the Prime Minister, I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 28 with which you enclosed copy of your letter to Premier Campbell in connection with dominion-provincial matters with special reference to the situation of the Atlantic provinces.

I assure you that your letter will be brought to the attention of Mr. Diefenbaker at the earliest opportunity after his return to Ottawa.

Yours sincerely,

Alcide Paquette
Secretary.

THE PREMIER
Fredericton

December 28th, 1957.

The Honourable John Diefenbaker,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Prime Minister:

I am enclosing copy of my letter to Premier Campbell in connection with dominion-provincial matters.

As you will note it deals with some of the implications raised in his letter to you under date of December 18th.

My letter is more or less self-explanatory and is intended to make plain New Brunswick's natural concern that the matter of special adjustment grants to the Atlantic provinces should not become involved once again in the question of dominion-provincial relationships in general. Such discussions can only mean further delay for assistance which is urgently needed.

My letter also emphasizes the fact, upon which we place particular stress, that our economic disabilities have existed for generations and are not merely the result of some economic fluctuation. The chronic character of our difficulties has, of course, been repeatedly recognized by royal commissions

and other authorized bodies investigating conditions over the years.

With all good wishes for 1958.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh John Flemming

THE PREMIER
Fredericton

December 27th, 1957.

Honourable Douglas Campbell,
Premier,
Province of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I acknowledge your letter of December 20th in regard to dominion-provincial affairs and also the copy of your letter to the Prime Minister under date of December 18th last.

I have read this correspondence with great care and, while appreciating the features of Manitoba's position as set forth, I cannot help but feel concerned about the possible influence of your suggestions to the Prime Minister upon the general interests of the Atlantic provinces. I believe that this could be very unfavourable at such a critical time in the history of the relationship of the governments in this region with the national government. It is certainly our hope and, I feel, of all four governments in the region, that our special situation can be expeditiously dealt with in the manner presently being proposed by the government of Canada.

It seems to me that the significant and unique character of the situation of the Atlantic provinces resides in the protracted duration of economic disability. All provinces are subject to economic fluctuation and some more than others, but the compelling fact of our situation is that for generations our development has consistently and chronically lagged far behind the general growth of Canada. It is the extent and degree of this long term retardation which creates our special problem.

I shall be glad if you will accord these views your customary courteous and thoughtful consideration, and I am most grateful for your personal courtesy in keeping me informed.

In view of the circumstances, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and to the premiers of the other Atlantic provinces.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh John Flemming