

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

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Vol. 5, No. 11.

Monday, January 18, 1954.

Parliamentary Salary Boosts: Ottawa, Jan. 17 (CP) -- Mr. St. Laurent gave notice Saturday he will ask Parliament to raise members' allowances in the 102-seat Senate and 265-seat House of Commons by an unspecified amount.

He said also, in his Commons order paper notice, he will ask for boosts for all Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader Drew, Senate Government Leader Macdonald, Senate Opposition Leader Haig, as well as Speakers of both Chambers and the Commons Deputy Speaker.

The Cabinet is studying a proposed 25-per-cent pay boost for judges of Provincial Supreme Courts.

Annual pay of Provincial Supreme Court justices would be raised to \$18,000 from \$14,000; Provincial Chief Justices to \$20,000 from \$16,000; and County Court Judges to \$10,000 from \$8,000.

First increase since legislators got a \$2,000-a-year expense allowance at the end of the Second World War, Mr. St. Laurent's prospective boosts likely will mean a jump to \$10,000 a year from a current minimum of \$6,000 for Senators and MPs.

Work of the House of Commons: Ottawa, Jan. 17 (CP) -- The House of Commons probably will get more variety into its debates this week in contrast to a rather lean four days since members returned from the Christmas holiday.

Only three full-dress debates marked the four-day sitting last week. Tuesday was spent debating the merits of corporal and capital punishment; toll bridges to Montreal occupied Wednesday; Thursday and Friday saw a sustained fight over the Government's plan to boost postal rates a cent an ounce.

However, this week promises something different. Monday's private member day--missed last week--brings up two resolutions concerning the Income Tax Act....

These likely will keep members occupied Monday. Detailed study, clause by clause, of the bulky revision of the Criminal Code is expected to be started Tuesday. On subsequent days, the Government's housing legislation will be called and an external affairs debate may be arranged for late in the week as a result of Mr. St. Laurent's remark last Friday that the Government hopes to launch one this week.

Postal Rate Increases: Ottawa, Jan. 15 (CP) -- Mr. Drew said today Canada will have the highest postage rates in the world if a proposed one-cent-an-ounce increase on first-class mail is adopted.

The Opposition Leader said in the House of Commons the Government's plan is "the payoff on the political bait that was offered last spring" before the general election. The Government knew it would lose money when it removed the stamp tax on cheques then.

On the second day of debate on a resolution preliminary to implementing the postage boost, Mr. Drew was joined by members of the other two Opposition parties in criticizing the proposal.

Postmaster-General Cote defended it, saying his Department is faced with increased expenditures of around \$13,500,000 a year and the Government wants the Post Office to pay its way. He estimated the boosts, scheduled for April 1, will yield \$15,000,000 a year.

The Commons tonight approved the resolution by a vote of 49 to 34 and a bill to implement the increases was introduced... Progressive Conservative, CCF and Social Credit members voted against the motion, which was supported by the Liberals...

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