



## DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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Wednesday, November 9, 1949.

In Parliament On November 8: Prime Minister St. Laurent announced the federal-provincial Constitutional Conference will open January 10.

Opposition members criticized increases in rent controls.

Finance Minister Abbott said the Government considered abandoning rent controls but decided against the step.

Members discussed a bill to incorporate the Prairie Transmission Lines Limited.

Defence Minister Claxton sponsored a bill in the Senate to unify defence legislation.

Federal-Provincial Conference January 10: Ottawa, November 8 (CP) -- Canada's 10 provincial premiers have agreed to come to the Capital next January 10 in a federal-provincial conference that may reshape the destiny of Canada's constitutional future.

Replies to Prime Minister St. Laurent's invitation to come to Ottawa and discuss problems of amending the constitution on matters which directly affect the provinces were tabled today in the House of Commons.

Three of the Provinces--Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan -- thought the conference should be held at an earlier date, but nevertheless agreed to attend on January 10. Another--Alberta--believed a preparatory conference of constitutional experts should precede the general meeting.

To all Premiers, Mr. St. Laurent answered in a letter dated November 7 that it was proposed to open the conference at 10:30 a.m. EST. The preparatory conference would not be held because a majority of premiers did not ask for it.

The January conference will form part of the Government's dual plan to transfer the right to amending the Canadian constitution from the United Kingdom Parliament to Canada.

Mr. Malik's Statement At U.N.: Before the Special Political Committee of the U.N. Assembly yesterday, Jacob A. Malik, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, criticized as "slanderous" a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, on atomic control. Mr. Pearson, Mr. Malik said, according to this morning's report, had misrepresented Russia's action in stating that Russia had used the veto recently to block collection of information on conventional armaments because, in Soviet eyes, it would amount to espionage. Mr. Malik, the report added, said his country objected primarily to the proposal because it did not include provision for collection of information on atomic weapons.

Gradual De-Control Rentals Policy: Ottawa, November 8 (CP) -- Under concerted verbal onslaught from all opposing quarters, Finance Minister Abbott today defended recently-announced domestic rent increases.

In a lively debate virtually monopolized by speakers from opposing parties Mr. Abbott told the Commons the federal Cabinet had "seriously" considered abandoning all rent controls but decided against the step after careful study.

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