



CARS ARE TICKETED

Six policemen descended on downtown Ste. Cecile street in Montreal after a newspaper published a picture showing how motorists were parking on sidewalks during demolition work in the area. But it could have been worse, the police handed out only warning tickets.

(AP Wirephoto)

Fleming Warns Against Demands From Provincial, Municipal Bodies

HALIFAX (CP)—Finance Minister Fleming Tuesday night cautioned against provincial and municipal demands on the federal government that would have inflationary results.

Provincial and municipal governments "in their own interest should support the federal government in its efforts to combat the perils of inflation," he said in a speech to the Atlantic tax conference here.

Mr. Fleming also ruled out, as being unworkable, the proposal that the central government should provide for special low-interest rates on loans in the Atlantic provinces.

"The federal government has no short-cut to lower interest rates," he said. "If one existed, the federal government would not have overlooked it in its own behalf."

REITERATES APPEAL

Mr. Fleming's speech reiterated the appeal he made in a Toronto address Oct. 8 for national support in efforts to fight inflation. At an Ottawa conference with provincial treasurers last week, he rejected their requests for larger federal tax-sharing payments to the provinces.

Tuesday night he said provincial and municipal governments have less opportunity than has the federal government to protect themselves against inflation. But he added:

"They can, however, operating within their own area of responsibility take fiscal measures to reduce demand where demand is dangerously exceeding supply, and they can refrain from asking the federal government to take courses . . . which would have inflationary consequences."

He said inflation affects the financial positions of the provincial municipal governments much more rapidly than that of the federal government.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Mr. Fleming said there are sometimes requests for a special monetary policy applying to the Atlantic provinces which would give them special advantages through lower interest rates.

"So long as we have a national currency and a national banking system, monetary policy can hardly be regionalized," he said. "Interest rates tend to find national levels . . ."

Fluoride Health Improvement Blocked By Small Minority

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States public health service says a militant minority is blocking chances for a virtual revolution in the health of the American jaw.

The service is admittedly worried about those who oppose fluoridation of water supplies, contending that the anti-fluoridationists are perpetuating tooth decay—a disease that seriously impairs the nation's health, manpower and economic resources.

Fluoridation involves adding controlled amounts of chemical fluoride to water supplies as a means of preventing a lot of tooth decay in a country that has 97,000,000 people with decayed teeth, 21,000,000 more with no teeth at all, and an annual family dental bill of \$1,700,000,000 for just the 40 per cent of people receiving treatment.

The health service says it has been proved beyond question that fluoridation can prevent two out of three cavities in growing children, and that the benefits last through life. Also, that the method is absolutely safe.

They say Americans could save billions of dollars in dentist bills at an average annual per capita expenditure of only a dime.

PROGRESS BLOCKED

But health service scientists say that organized and unorganized anti-fluoridationists—mostly laymen, but also some medical men—are blocking progress towards such an attainable goal, often by tactics which play upon the emotions of uninformed people.

Opposition arguments range from charges that fluoridation involves exposing people to a "rat poison" to a claim that it is Communist-inspired as a means of weakening the will of the American people.

In a free economy, no monetary policy could direct money into capital-short areas at a lower rate than exists in centres where capital is generated.

"The only ways in which money could be made easier in, say, the Atlantic region—is by applying compulsion to financial institutions, or by the federal government making funds available in ample quantities at less than market rates.

"If this latter policy were followed to an extreme it could defeat itself, by causing locally-generated savings to move out into unsubsidized regions in order to earn a higher return."

But Mr. Fleming said the federal government is continuing in many ways to help the economies of the Atlantic provinces.

He said the \$25,000,000-a-year Atlantic adjustment grants, begun last year, "are the most comprehensive and far-reaching measure of fiscal assistance ever extended to the Atlantic provinces in the history of Canada."

The total of unconditional grants from Ottawa to the Atlantic provinces, including the adjustment grants, rose to \$117,500,000 last fiscal year from \$76,000,000 in the previous 1957-58 year. In the same period, conditional grants to the four provinces rose to \$49,000,000 from \$26,000,000.

The statements were included in a text of the speech issued to the press before delivery.

water, including 7,000,000 whose water supplies contain natural fluoride.

But another 118,000,000 get water from community supplies which lack fluoride. And such national health leaders as Health Secretary Arthur S. Flemming and Surgeon General Leroy S. Burney report these factors:

1. There has been a steady decline in the rate of community acceptance of fluoridation in the last six years. For example, in 1953—the peak year so far—376 different communities adopted the system. But in 1956, only 145 places began fluoridation programs.
2. The number of communities which discontinued fluoridation has increased in the last five years.
3. Most of the gain in the program has been in the larger cities, such as Boston, San Francisco, Baltimore and Chicago. (New York City is a notable exception.)

"The big and medium-sized cities have enough competent people to understand the problem, digest the information that is available and come to a decision," says Dr. Donald Galagan of the health service.

"The small communities constitute the big problem. There, one person can block the whole business."

One anti-fluoridation leader is Dr. George Waldrott of Detroit, a specialist in treating allergies. He says many persons never suffer ill effects from fluoridation but "another portion is especially susceptible to its poisoning."

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