

FARMERS' VOTE SAVES BURNABY IN LEGISLATURE

U.F.O. Members Solid Against
Proposal to Call Him
to Bar

SILENCE CONDEMNED

No Voices Raised to Defend
Him in Stand Taken
in Committee

Only the practically unanimous vote of U.F.O. members in the Ontario Legislature last night prevented R. W. E. Burnaby, U.F.O. President, from being called before the Bar of the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Burnaby's refusal to divulge the name of an attempted briber came up for discussion upon the report of the Privileges and Elections Committee, and the Liberal Leader, H. H. Dewart, vigorously denouncing the U.F.O. President, moved that the Privileges Committee be instructed to consider the advisability of taking further action.

Just one U.F.O. member, J. H. Murdock, voted for the Dewart motion, and one Labor man, G. G. Halcrow of Hamilton. Not a member of the House attempted to defend the President of the U.F.O. in the stand he took at committee, but the argument was all as to the uselessness of pressing the matter.

Ferguson is Incredulous.

T. H. Lennox, K.C., Conservative member for North York, who examined Mr. Burnaby in the witness box in the afternoon, shouted across the floor during the vehement debate that Mr. Burnaby had developed "a yellow streak" before the Privileges Committee. Hon. G. H. Ferguson frankly stated to the House that he disbelieved entirely the U.F.O. President's story of the bribe.

R. L. Brackin, Liberal member for Kent, and the Chairman of the committee, sarcastically stated the facts to be that, although the U.F.O. President had boasted at Kettleby that he could back up his statements concerning a proffered bribe, "his greatest fear was he would have to do the very thing he had boasted he could do." Before the Privileges Committee the U.F.O. President stated he knew of no case where a member of the Legislature had ever taken a bribe.

The vote followed a long and at times hot discussion. The amendment to the report was moved by H. H. Dewart and seconded by John O'Neill. D. McAlpine, Brockville, and John Joynt, North Huron, were in the Chamber but did not vote.

R. L. Brackin presented the report of the committee and everyone looked to see it accepted as a matter of course. But Thomas Marshall of Lincoln started the discussion, and raised the point regarding Mr. Burnaby's refusal to name to the committee the man he said had tried to bribe him. He maintained that Mr. Burnaby in this matter was not treating the Legislature and the Government with proper respect.

Oppositions in Agreement.

He was backed up in this attitude by both Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dewart. Speaker after speaker rose on the Opposition side and supported the two Opposition Leaders' views. The Premier tried to turn aside the storm by saying that Mr. Burnaby's statement did not reflect on the Gov-

ernment and did not affect the House. "It does not affect the honor of any member of the House or of the Government," he said.

But Opposition members took decided objection to this and maintained stoutly that Mr. Burnaby's statement and his attitude before the committee did affect the House. R. R. Hall, Parry Sound, in his speech, made a statement that W. H. Casselman, Dundas, said reflected on the members supporting the Government, and he demanded a retraction. The Speaker ordered that Mr. Hall retract, and, amid some disorder, he took back his statement.

Finally, after an hour or more debate Mr. Dewart moved an amendment to the effect that the report of the Privileges and Elections Committee should not be accepted, but referred back to the committee with instructions to consider whether Mr. Burnaby should be summoned before the Bar of the House to explain his refusal to answer questions put to him by the Chairman of the committee which the Chairman said he should answer, and with power to the committee to sit during the recess. The vote was taken and the amendment was defeated, and the report adopted on the same vote.

Claims Disrespect to House.

Immediately the report was laid upon the table Thomas Marshall referred to the fact that Mr. Burnaby had made charges of bribery and then had refused to name the man before the committee. "The matter ought not to be allowed to rest there," he said. "He is not treating this Legislature and this Government with proper respect."

"The only proper action is to bring him before the Bar of the House and make him answer the question he refused to answer in committee," said Mr. Ferguson. "Candidly I do not believe the story, notwithstanding what has been said. What is the statement worth of a man who is not prepared to substantiate it?"

"This should not be passed over so lightly," said Mr. Dewart. If the House could refuse to receive the report he would be glad, he said, to vote for any motion that would deal with the case. "If the member for Grenville (Mr. Ferguson) moves an amendment to that effect, I will be glad to support it."

"I voted to sustain the Chairman's ruling," said the Premier, referring to the vote that overruled the ruling of the Chairman of the Privileges and Elections Committee that Mr. Burnaby should tell who offered him the bribe, "but the statement does not reflect on the Government. The statement is on an erroneous basis anyway, because the man who alleges he was offered the bribe was supposed to have influence with the Government. There was no reflection on the House or the Government."

Should Be Disclosed.

"Why should the name not be disclosed?" asked Mr. Dewart.

"It should be," said Mr. Drury. "But, after all, the whole incident was a matter for the public to decide upon. It did not affect the House."

R. L. Brackin reviewed Mr. Burnaby's statement about the bribery as first made. He said then that he had been offered a bribe and that he could back up the statement. "Mr. Burnaby said today that he could not back up the statement."

Major Tolmie, Windsor, said that the matter did affect the House. At the time Mr. Burnaby's statement was made the air was full of such rumors. Considering the time it was made and the circumstances under which it was made, the Government and the whole House were affected. "I was proud of the Premier when I saw him cast his vote at the committee that the name should be revealed."

His Confidence Shattered.

Herbert Lennox, North York, said that when the vote came up in committee as to sustaining the Chairman's ruling every member supporting the Government who was there, excepting the Premier and one other, was opposed to the witness giving the name of the man who approached him.

"I venture to assert," said Mr. Lennox, "that if Mr. Burnaby did not occupy the position he does occupy in the United Farmers of Ontario he would have been forced to give the name. I approve the action of the Premier in the way he