

now, in justice to himself and the office that he holds, to make a public apology to me. If he did make that statement, I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and it is common knowledge, that things that went on in the caucus appeared in the public Press before the caucus ever was held. Where the leak came from I do not know. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, this House and the Province of Ontario, if the Prime Minister accuses me of that he is saying something that is not true. I am going to ask you now, Mr. Prime Minister, did you make that statement and do you accuse me of that?—(Here Mr. Drury laughed.)—That laugh will come off your face in a very short time. Mr. Prime Minister, I want to corroborate, without giving away any secrets, what the member for South Huron says with reference to the notice I got of this particular caucus. My notice did come days after the rest of the members on that side of the House got their notices.

Mr. Drury—Quite true.

An Oversight of Secretary.

Mr. Casselman—And the reason given—this is not a State secret—I asked the Chairman of that caucus why it was that my notice did not reach me and was not dated the same as the other notices, and the Prime Minister then undertook to answer the question I asked the Chairman, and he said it must have been an oversight of his secretary.

Honorable Members—Oh, ho!

Mr. Casselman—Neither the Prime Minister nor any Cabinet Minister can say that at any time when I brought a matter before the House that was at variance with the Government that I did not go first to the Ministers and tell them. Is that not true, Mr. Prime Minister?

Mr. Drury—I have nothing to say.

Mr. Casselman—And if that is not a reasonable course, I want to know what is an honorable course. Can the Prime Minister or the Government or any man say to me that I, a man who was elected an Independent man, must answer the crack of the party Whip, whether I believe in the policy the Government is following or not? If they think that is the sort of government we ought to have in this Province, I am the wrong man to be in this Legislature. If the Prime Minister made the statement that he is credited with, with reference to me giving away State secrets or caucus secrets, I ask him now, and demand that he should apologize.

The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



Again one of those conferences between party leaders resulted in a legislative fiasco in the House last night. This time the Government received much the worst of it, and the amendment to the Highways Act, intended to relieve the municipalities from all obligation in connection with Provincial highways, will be withdrawn. The bill was thrown to the House for second reading as soon as the evening session began. Immediately Mr. Ferguson was on his feet with a protest. He recited that the Premier, Liberal Leader Hay and himself had a conference over this measure. The Premier, he said, had stated there would be another conference. Mr. Ferguson claimed this meant another conference between the three Leaders, while the Premier alleged his intention was to have a conference with his Cabinet.

Put Decisions in Writing.

The same kind of misunderstandings have arisen so many times this session that one wonders if the three Leaders ever met and departed with the same ideas in mind. So many conferences have resulted in ugly quarrels afterward, the suggestion might be considered that hereafter the decisions be put in writing, and four copies made, one for each Leader and one for Mr. Speaker.

Seldom has Mr. Ferguson appeared as angry as when he protested against the bill after the Premier had promised another conference of Leaders. He characterized the measure as a piece of pre-election propaganda. A gentleman's agreement had been deliberately violated, he said, and he intended seeing to it as to what his course would be for the balance of the session. He claimed the Premier had made reckless violations of all undertakings. Again he talked of a "test of endurance," just as he did when the redistribution measures were brought in. "I have conceded everything I am going to concede," he added. "The Prime Minister treats us with disdain, disregard and contempt."

Talk for a Fortnight.

Mr. Nickle came to Mr. Ferguson's help by telling the Government there was not the slightest chance of adjournment before a fortnight if the bill were pressed. Hon. Mr. Biggs was entering upon a long discourse of the merits of the bill, when Col. J. A. Currie drew the Speaker's attention to the fact that this bill put a charge on the Province, and could not be brought into the House without a previous resolution. The Speaker said such was a standing rule.

"We are going to withdraw the bill," interjected Mr. Biggs.

Another debate ensued as to whether the bill entailed a public charge or not, but the Speaker reserved his decision.

Meanwhile members were asking how party Leaders could agree in conference and then disagree afterward.

Andy Was Outguessed.

Andrew Hicks, former U.F.O. Whip, had his say in the House yesterday morning, and the general verdict was that Andy's performance was grossly over-advertised. To be brief, he did not tell very much, though he took a lot of words to say it. He related his side of the story, or part of it, of a U.F.O. caucus at which Premier Drury had mentioned a desire to go to Ottawa to join Premier King's Cabinet. Also, he related

how W. H. Casselman had not received the U.F.O. caucus notice, because the Premier thought Mr. Casselman let out the secrets of the caucus. The Premier half-apologized to Mr. Casselman for this suspicion, intimating that he felt he knew now who let the news out.

It looked as though the former Whip was outguessed in House tactics and in a little political game. Obviously, he did not come out with all that he had intended. It seemed as though he had something in his pocket or on his mind which he did not care to make public unless provoked. He evidently expected that this provocation would come from the Premier himself, but the latter was discreetly and prudently silent.

For once Mr. Drury did not allow careless words to lead him into trouble. Mr. Hicks was non-plussed, and his aims practically defeated, because the Premier refused to rise to his bait. And so the latest threatened explosion made no more noise than an ordinary speech from the most inoffensive back-bencher. Andy Hicks is temporarily in eclipse, and his services will not be greatly in demand on U.F.O. platforms during this campaign.

Hon. Beniah Without Help.

Another outstanding incident of yesterday occurred when Hon. Beniah Bowman attempted to get through some of his main estimates. The Conservative ginger group, in the absence of Mr. Ferguson, busied themselves in asking the Minister all manner of questions. Mr. Bowman had few details in his mind. He did consult his deputies several times, but mostly his answers were to the effect that he did not have the facts at hand. "The Minister tries to squirm out of it," commented Col. Currie, adding that "any man of ordinary intelligence could tell," and much more along the same line. The Minister was helpless, and none of the Government leaders was in the House to lend him aid. He was forced to let several votes stand over, promising to bring down details. Sam Clarke (Liberal, West Northumberland) administered a rebuke to Col. Currie: "No man in this House has the nerve of the member for Southeast Toronto. If he had as much brains as nerve he would be a very valuable member. He wants to talk all the time. We are dead sick of it."

Motion of Want of Confidence.

Shortly after 9 o'clock an attempt was made to get the House into supply, when Hartley Dewart, seconded by George Halcrow, moved an amendment to the effect that the Legislature disapproved of allowing the Gregory Commission to continue work between dissolution and the election. Several speeches were made, when the Premier tried to strike a bargain with Mr. Dewart.

"I do not wish to make any political capital. I want to fight fairly," said the Premier. "After the House dissolves I will see that the Gregory Commission does not make any reports until the election is over. I will undertake that the commission shall not make any reports between the date of dissolution and the date of the election."

Mr. Dewart tried to get a suspension of activities of the commission for the same period, but the Premier would not concede this point, claiming it would not conduce to efficiency.

Mr. Ferguson had another com-