

Caucus Hammers Out New Act; Liberals Will Give Support To Progressive Amendment

Stories of Dissensions in Ranks Are Denied and Party Is a Unit in Opposing Government, It Is Announced

NIXON IS READY TO AID LIBERALS

Complete harmony in the ranks of the Liberals in the Ontario Legislature, with a definite understanding that they were unanimously opposed to co-operation or coalition with the Henry Government, was the answer yesterday at Queen's Park to newspaper reports which stated that Progressive Leader Nixon would speak for Liberal Leader Hepburn as well as the Progressive group in the House.

Added to the expressed views of the Liberals in caucus that there were no dissensions in the ranks, came the assertion of Progressive Leader Nixon that he was speaking only for himself and his party, and would so carry on for the life of the Legislature.

Then came the definite assurance of Dr. George A. McQuibban, Liberal Whip, who spoke to the press on behalf of the caucus, that the Liberal members, including Liberal House Leader Sinclair, would vote for the Nixon sub-amendment which expressed want-of-confidence in the Government.

Dr. McQuibban would not comment on the report that Leader Hepburn was casting the sitting members and their House Leader aside for Hon. Harry C. Nixon's leadership during the session. "We have nothing official to discuss, and I am sure we cannot consider a statement which was apparently issued to a section of the press," he stated.

"Will you support the Nixon want-of-confidence amendment?" The Globe asked. "Certainly," replied Dr. McQuibban. "We have no faith in this Government, and there will be no co-operation by us with the Conservatives in any sense that it may be termed

coalition. We have been always ready to co-operate for the good of the Province, but that is as far as the co-operation will go."

"Will the members, including Mr. Sinclair, be unanimous in supporting the Nixon amendment?" The Globe asked further. "Yes; every man in the party will vote for it."

Previous reports indicated that the Liberal ranks were divided on the issue of the want-of-confidence amendment and it was said that Mr. Sinclair reserved the right to vote against it on the ground that it was unconstitutional. He did not bind his followers to his opinion, the corridor gossip said, and they could vote as their wills dictated.

Dr. McQuibban stated that the Liberal caucus held yesterday afternoon was harmonious, and issued the following brief statement to the press:

"In view of the press reports of disagreement among the members of the Liberal Opposition, the caucus meeting in full today with no dissensions, wish to emphasize that complete harmony exists."

Mr. Nixon was asked pointedly if he had been given the authority of Mr. Hepburn to carry on the leadership of the Liberals in the House as well as that of his Progressive followers. His reply was as follows:

"In case there is any misunderstanding, I will say that, as far as I am concerned, and my attitude and position in the House, I will carry on for the life of the Legislature as elected. When the Legislature is dissolved and an election called, if I am a candidate, it will be on a basis of friendly co-operation with the Liberals under the leadership of Mr. Hepburn."

Asked if he would run as a Liberal candidate in the next Provincial election, Mr. Nixon repeated that part of this statement bearing on friendly co-operation with the Liberals.

Mr. Sinclair would not discuss the question, being satisfied, he said, to have the Liberal Whip issue the statement from the caucus.