

Tory Followers Uphold Cabinet In Debate Vote

Attorney-General Defends Administration, Denies Extravagance

WATCHFUL OF RUSSIA

Denying any dissension in the ranks of the Conservatives, and saying that he was proud of the "independent spirit" being shown within the party ranks, Attorney-General W. H. Price yesterday closed the long debate on the motion to adopt the Speech from the Throne.

The subamendment moved by Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, which was essentially a want-of-confidence motion, and which called for an early election, was defeated in the Legislature by a vote of 81-20. No vote was called on the amendment of W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, which deprecated cutting off educational grants without easing the regulations which compelled School Boards to have expensive equipment; nor on the main motion. It was agreed that the same vote should suffice for all three.

Long Debate.

Thus it was that the motion to adopt the Speech was carried after a debate which had dragged out over more than four weeks. Every Opposition member, including Mr. Sinclair, supported the Nixon subamendment, with the exception of C. A. Robertson (Liberal, Huron South), who was paired with Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Brantford), and Farquhar Oliver (U.F.O. Grey South), who was unavoidably absent. Twenty-one speakers had participated in the debate.

"I understand that the member for Huron North (C. A. Robertson) spoke of the increase in the cost of administering my department," said Colonel Price. "I want to tell him that there has been really no increase in the cost of administering justice in this Province, considering the things which have been handed over to my department. During the past few years there have been many things turned over to my department. There were the highway traffic officers, costing \$219,000. There were the acting high constables, costing \$50,000; and the Ontario Securities, costing another \$50,000. Then there was the payment of the Jarvis and other fines, costing \$369,000. When these things are considered, the costs are as low as they were in 1929, and there has actually been a decrease in the number of employees.

"We had an attack on the Prime Minister by the member from Brant (Mr. Nixon) because he was President of a milk company and director of a mortgage company. I wondered when I read it if the member for Brant had thought the matter over, and if he knew the Ministers of other Governments who sat on Boards of Directors. I wondered if he knew that Hon. F. C. Biggs of the Drury Government was Vice-President of the Hamilton Dairy. Why didn't he speak to Mr. Biggs about it when they sat in Council, instead of coming out and attacking the Prime Minister, who is as straight as a die? Mr. Biggs was also a director of the Commonwealth Life and Accident Insurance Company and the Ontario Equitable Life and Accident Insurance Company.

"I am tired of the vilification of public men who are serving their country" said the Attorney-General. He said he thought Mr. Murphy should resent the statements made by Gordon Waldron. He continued reading from a list of men who were directors of companies while Ministers of various Governments. "There are dozens of them. There was Sir George Ross. No Conservative, Liberal or Pro-

gressive rose to say anything about it. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a director of the Mutual Life Insurance Company when he was Prime Minister, and surely no one would question his honesty."

Mr. Nixon—I never imputed dishonesty or lack of integrity to the Prime Minister in any way. Furthermore, Mr. Biggs was not Prime Minister.

Denies Extravagance.

Mr. Nixon should not talk about extravagance, the Attorney-General said. Hon. Lincoln Goldie, who was Provincial Treasurer after Mr. Nixon, had saved \$900,000 in his first term of office, he recounted.

"Then he talks as if we were responsible for the exchange costs on Hydro," continued Colonel Price. "These loans have been going on for years, even in Peter Smith's time. And in 1922 Mr. Smith, in his Budget address, took the credit for a favorable interest rate on a loan, because at that time the exchange was in our favor. We can't blow hot and cold. No Government in Canada nor any financial crowd was responsible for the exchange costs. When a man goes through the Province talking like that, he is talking rot, and nothing else.

Turning to the address of Farquhar Oliver, Colonel Price took up the question of the Barrie packing plant. "We were anxious to see it successful. I think I said that the failure was due to overhead. I was probably wrong there."

He then read what Miss Macphail had said. "She might have used stronger terms. Instead of looking after the farmer, they made jobs for themselves. The Minister of Agriculture was right in going slow. They had to turn out the parasites. Mr. Drury got a commission on that loan. No wonder the Minister of Agriculture was leery of it," Colonel Price declared, adding that some of the shareholders had got meat from the plant without paying retail prices for it.

Government Help.

"I say to the farmers and the members here that if they put their house in order and cut out the little slices Miss Macphail spoke of, and cut out the commission, they will have the co-operation of this Government."

No Prime Minister had ever attended to any question more assiduously than the present Ontario Premier had that of the waterways, said. "There was first an agreement to be made between the Province and the Dominion, and then between the Dominion and the United States. The third was that between the United States and New York State. All these things had to be synchronized. That was no child's play; it was one of the biggest things in the history of the Province."

Every one was anxious that it should go ahead, and he was hoping to see the time when the whole valley of the St. Lawrence would be in blossom and the manufacturing industries of Eastern Ontario would rival those of Western Ontario.

"And we did make progress on the trans-Canada highway. As a relief work we made a tremendous improvement. And never before in our history have we seen 65 per cent. of the men out of work in some parts of Northern Ontario. One out of every seven persons in Toronto has to be provided for, the Mayor states.

"Surely no one should try to make political capital out of unemployment, out of the distress of the people. We have shown progress in these things, and there has been constructive ability. This party is afraid of no one in that respect. And I am not worried about another Government coming into power. I do not think there will be one, but I am not worried about it. I would, however, be opposed to some people leading another Government.

"The Government is not anxious to take over the municipalities. Let them look after themselves. If they become insolvent, then they can go under this Municipal Board.

"We made a cut of four and one-half million in the expenditures last year. Try to do it; it is not easy," he said. Those in charge of the highways, forestry, mines or other branches had built them up and were loath to see them torn down again. "What a problem it is," he remarked, in connection with the cutting of expenditures. "And we are going further this year. When the Prime Minister brings down his Budget, he will say more along this line.

Mortgage Relief.

"We have tackled the question of mortgage relief, and I wish to thank the members opposite for their support. We said that it would be a non-political measure. We tackled the problem of insurance rates, and now we have the lowest rate for automobile insurance. There is being \$1,000,000 a year saved in the Province on account of that."

He paid tribute to the work Hon. T. L. Kennedy was doing for agriculture. "He has gone out and perhaps said things which a member of the Government should not have said. He said that the farmers should get better treatment. It has been suggested that the estimates of that department be cut in two. We won't do that, although they will be reduced along with the others. I am sure the Minister was right about the Barrie matter.

"The member for South Grey (Mr. Oliver) said that we should trade with every one. He has no quarrel with me there. I say, trade with every one. Britain won her position by trading with the North American Indian, and with the Indian in India, and with every one. She knew no bounds of race, religion or system of government.

System of Russia.

"But that isn't the question today. We have that country Russia laying down as a point in its program that we should change our system to communism. Karl Marx's book states that they should go out and evangelize the world. They do not want to trade on

an equal basis. They want to break us down and dump their products in here," he asserted.

"They can carry on whatever system they like. But we are not going to have Russian paid agents coming into this country. We are not going to allow here some of the thousands and thousands of spies they have all over the world. I do not say we should not trade with them, but if we do we should watch closely. They would break down our morals.

"This communism is something none of us should approve of. We should not lend our efforts to it. It means breaking up the homes and the prostituting of women. Where does the money come from? We should not allow any country to disrupt the world."

Colonel Price remarked on the condition of Europe, with Communists, Fascists, and others causing trouble. "We take the credit for having prosecuted Communists here and sent them to jail. And when we did it we gave them a fair trial by jury. We did not do it as they did, with the firing squad. We do not execute our enemies here by the firing squad. Here is a place where we have freedom—freedom within the law," declared the Attorney-General.

Praise for Premier.

Referring to Premier Henry's task, Colonel Price said that the Leader of the Government "was strong and noted for his rugged honesty, although he is a little strong-headed at times."

He again reviewed the record of the Drury Government, as compared to the record of the present Administration.

"We have never sold succession duty free bonds and given the money to the promoter; nor have we set up any Hydro inquiry that cost the Province \$600,000," he asserted. "No," he continued, "our record is as good for protecting the money of the people as any banking or financial institution in the Province."

"There is some talk in certain places," the Attorney-General went on, "that this Government should go to the country now; some say in six months or in a year and a half; or others say two years, and there is some talk in the House of some members being cowardly, but I want to assure you, sir, that this party is standing solidly behind the Prime Minister in bringing down a bill to straighten out inequalities in the House."

He advised the Opposition to be constructive in its criticism of ques-