

April 7

DENIAL BY M'CREA OF BOND HOLDINGS

Neither Directly Nor In-
directly Owns Any,
Says Minister

STATEMENT TO HOUSE

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, in the Ontario Government, declared in the Ontario Legislature yesterday that he neither directly, nor indirectly owned any Ontario Power Service Corporation bonds. Mr. McCrea drew attention to an article in The Globe yesterday that stated he was a Director of the Toronto General trusts Corporation, which, a statement tabled in the Legislature showed, held certain of these securities.

Proceeding as a matter of privilege before the orders of the day were called, Mr. McCrea said:

"Neither directly nor indirectly do I own any O.P.S. bonds. I am a Director of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation which administers estates and trusts as a trustee. I am not familiar with the details of the securities and holdings of this great trust corporation and I had no knowledge until I saw the press this morning that trust securities held by them included O.P.S. bonds. I have today ascertained that the Toronto General Trusts Corporation is not the beneficial owner of any O.P.S. bonds and their holdings of such bonds is merely in the capacity of trustee. Upon the exchange of O.P.S. bonds for Hydro-Electric Commission bonds it filed the O.P.S. bonds in their possession as trustee for exchange."

Failure of Tories To Record Votes Considered "Bolt"

Empty Government
Benches During Divi-
sions on Contentious
Legislation Causes
Whispers in House —
Nixon Gives Opinion

ABSENCE REPEATED TWO DAYS RUNNING

What is interpreted in Queen's Park circles to be a deliberate bolt by Conservative members from their party on contentious legislation occurred in the Ontario Legislature on the past two successive days.

On Wednesday, when Progressive Leader Nixon's amendment, which proposed to halt what he termed "raiding of the accident fund" under the Workmen's Compensation Act, was voted upon, twenty-eight Tory members failed to respond to the roll-call for "Nays." Yesterday, when Mr. Nixon sought to learn the salaries of certain highly paid Hydro officials — and was prepared to hold up the estimates until he got what he wanted — thirty-eight Conservatives were conspicuous by their absence when the vote was asked.

Prior to both divisions there was a much greater representation of Conservatives in their seats than was recorded in the vote, and the whisper went around that they had "simply walked out rather than put themselves on record." They would not dare vote against the Government, but neither would they be officially listed as favoring legislation which, Mr. Nixon claimed, had been slipped through the House in the dying hours of last session, and for the purpose, he charged, to allow the Workmen's Compensation Board to use money for an employees' superannuation fund which had been accumulated for injured workmen or their widows.

They were not disposed to go so far yesterday as to vote with Mr. Nixon, but they certainly would refuse, it was said, to associate themselves with the determination of the Government to withhold information which the Progressive Leader declared it "was the inherent right of the Legislature" to have.

It was no secret that the action of the Government on both questions would be an issue throughout the Province and the members who absented themselves from the House during the vote had no desire to be linked up with Government votes that easily might have been decided on non-partisan divisions.