

"would have gone to the bow-wows in short order had the former Henry administration continued in office and been permitted to buy Quebec power on an extravagant scale." Hydro, honestly developed, honestly distributed, and honestly run, would be able, he felt, "in the next eight or ten years of Liberal rule in Ontario," to set a flat rate for power consumers and a very low rate, at that. Efforts of the Opposition to convince the public that the Hydro Commission and certain members of the Government were the main stumbling-blocks to new agreements with the Quebec companies were decried by Major Clark. Two companies, represented by fair minded men, had come to Hydro, and got new agreements. There was no doubt in his mind, he said, that the other companies would get a friendly reception from Hydro if they chose to negotiate.

"Does that mean," asked Arthur Ellis, Conservative, South Ottawa, "that Hydro would be prepared to buy additional power from Quebec, if they met these companies?"

"I'm not authorized to say that," answered Major Clark. "I would say that from the fact that the other companies were able to get new agreements, it is evident that Hydro is not the stumbling-block in the way of further negotiations."

**Colonel Kidd.**

Colonel T. A. Kidd, Conservative, Kingston, enlivened the closing minutes of the debate with a characteristically nettling attack on the power policy of the Hepburn Government ranging high criticism from Arthur Slaght's friendship for Mr. Hepburn, to the appointment to the Liquor Board of Arnold Smith, son of one of the two Judges who presided over the Royal Commission inquiry into Abitibi. Colonel Kidd was constantly in hot water, and in the first half hour of his lengthy address was compelled by the Speaker, at the request of Attorney-General Roebuck, to withdraw remarks which the latter claimed to be "untrue."

**Mr. McQuesten.**

Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways and Hydro Commissioner, said Opposition Leader Henry had shifted ground in the Hydro situation. First, he had said the contracts should have been revised amicably with the Quebec companies, and then later he had doubted the sufficiency of the reserve of 12,000 horsepower. If the contracts had been revised, and the amount of Quebec power cut down, the reserves would have been less, Mr. McQuesten declared.

"The Leader of Opposition was Prime Minister for four years," said Mr. McQuesten. "During this time, and prior to it, Hydro was paying vast sums for power. My honorable friend stood by and did nothing, while this was going on. He stood by while the Hydro contingency fund was reduced from \$14,000,000 to \$3,000,000. And then we reached the point where the price of power could not be further increased.

"Now my honorable friend comes to this House and says he always favored revision of the contracts," continued Mr. McQuesten. "Why didn't he show he was in favor of revision of the contracts when he was Prime Minister? I am one of those in this House who do not believe the honorable Leader of the Opposition took any pleasure in seeing the bankruptcy of Hydro. He is a man of large business experience. No one could estimate better the degree of compassion these companies would have shown to the Hydro Commission if they said they could not pay for power contracted for. My honorable friend didn't move an inch toward a friendly settlement.

"And I venture to say that it was no more possible for him to obtain a friendly settlement than it was for us to obtain it. He could not do it. We could not do it."

**Mr. Heighington.**

There was nothing partisan or small about the Opposition amendment, urged Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. David). If the facts

were as stated by the Attorney-General, then the Opposition would accept them. But up to the present time there was only the Attorney-General's say-so for it all.

"Let us put a stop to this pitiful, partisan business," urged the Conservative member. "Does the Government intend to act without the evidence? Is this Legislature going to pass this bill blindly and vindictively? Let it go to a committee and let us have all the facts."

Similar statements were made by A. H. Acres, (Cons., Carleton). He denounced the insinuations that the former Government was guilty of fraud in connection with power contracts. The Opposition was just as anxious to steer Hydro clear of danger as were the Government Ministers, he said.

## NEWS "LEAKS" BIG WORRY TO CAUCUS

### Roebuck Declines to Discuss Reported Impending Quebec Power Purchase

### NIXON IS BACKED

### Humorist Murray Suggests Best Liar Feed Inaccu- racies to Press

There was no discussion at yesterday's Liberal Party caucus of the reported pending purchase of more Quebec power from the Ottawa Valley Company, because Attorney-General Roebuck refused to talk—for fear that what he might divulge would promptly "leak" to the newspapers.

Any member, the Attorney-General is reported to have said, was welcome to visit him in his office and there discuss the situation, but as for revealing future policy before caucus—"nothing doing."

Both he and Hon. T. B. McQuesten, the other Government representative on the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, dealt at length, however, with power policy of the past, declaring every effort had been made on the Province's part to negotiate new agreements with the "power barons," and asking caucus to accept their assurances that Ontario was not face to face with a power shortage, as reported, and that provisions that had been made by Hydro were ample to take care of any unforeseen emergencies which might arise.

Acting Premier Nixon, who incidentally was voted a resolution of confidence in his leadership, capped Messrs. Roebuck and McQuesten's bid for unanimous Liberal support of the present power bills with the argument that the members need not worry about the opposition of influential newspapers with which the Government was at present confronted.

**Cites Roosevelt's Case.**

Roosevelt in the last Presidential election, he stated, had almost a solid press against him, and yet had triumphed. The common people had backed him, and the common people in Ontario would again back the Hepburn Administration, Mr. Nixon believed.

There is no doubt of the mounting influence which Hon. Mr. McQuesten exercises over the private Liberal membership. Following the conclusion of his caucus remarks,

different M.L.A.'s said that any misgivings they may have had as to the correctness of their contemplated support of the legislation had vanished.

Another member, however, raised the question as to why only one Cabinet Minister had, up to that time, spoken in the House in support of the legislation. What more did they want when the Attorney-General had taken up six hours alone? Mr. Nixon is said to have asked in reply.

A plea for a special caucus on the liquor question is reported to have been entered by Dr. W. D. Smith (Dufferin-Simcoe). Feeling as expressed by other supporters of the plea was that "booze" might easily become a major issue in the next election, and that it would be wise to have a frank talk about present administrative policy as soon as possible.

A lot of caucus argument was centred on the possibility that "traitors" were providing the press with caucus information that could not be obtained except through "leaks." Major James Clark (Windsor-Sandwich) was strong in his denunciation of such alleged tactics, and had the caucus adopt a resolution providing that all speeches therein be regarded as "secret." Tom Murray, veteran legislator and famed humorist from North Renfrew, suggested that the best way to get around the situation was to trip up the press by having the best liar among the Liberals invent inaccurate stories to feed out systematically to the reporters.

## HOUSING PLAN WILL PROVIDE 560 HOMES

### Start in Supervised Municipalities Announced in Legislature by Croll

### NO EXTRA TAXATION

### Toronto and Other Points Can Join, Declares Minister of Welfare

A Government housing scheme which will have its first large-scale test in the supervised municipalities of the Province, was announced by Hon. David Croll, Minister of Welfare, in the Legislature yesterday. In answer to a question from Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. David), the Minister explained the Government's plan, stating that 560 houses would be started this spring in the supervised areas, including the Yorks, Scarboro', Mimico and adjacent districts.

The scheme was open to all municipalities, Mr. Croll emphasized, and he mentioned Toronto particularly as one city which should avail itself of the opportunity of erecting low-cost homes, under the terms of the plan.

"If Toronto needs a housing policy—and I think she does—it is her business," said the Welfare Minister. "She is large enough, wealthy enough, to embark on one. She can have no doubt about the true conditions after reading that disturbing report presented to her two years ago by the committee headed by the Lieutenant-Governor. Toronto has received every encouragement from this Government and under the present plans, she will receive still more. If Toronto prefers to hear endless debates and appoint endless committees, that is her business. Short of coercive legislation, this House can do no more."