

# Won't Let Clergy Lead Him Around By Nose, He Says

Prepared to Take Political Life in His Hands by Supporting Move for Legalization, Premier Tells House—Macaulay Attacks Publicity on Irish Draw and Resents Being Hounded

## VOTE ON MOTION TO BE LATER IN WEEK

Clergymen of Ontario, who over the week-end heaped high their protests against the Legislature motion asking Federal authority to legalize sweepstakes for hospital purposes in the Provinces, were branded yesterday by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn as "hypocrites" as the Government Leader told the House he was prepared to take his political life in his hands by supporting the resolution.

"I am not going to be led around by the nose by any minister," said the Premier, "and I want to say I don't think there are any greater hypocrites than these gentlemen."

### Cabinet Cleavages Revealed.

The Premier's charges clapped down at the close of a debate that cut across party lines, revealed sharp cleavages in the Cabinet on the question and drew from members heated exchanges based on the economic as well as the moral aspects of the proposal.

The Premier, speaking last, suggested that the vote on the motion be held over until some day later in the week when there would be a full attendance in the House benches.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative House Leader, as indicated earlier, supported the motion, but at the same time declared that he would be prepared to oppose sweepstakes and the principle involved in the motion if newspapers refused to publish the results of the Irish Free State hospitals' sweep.

"I think," he said, "that the newspapers, by giving tremendous publicity in publishing and building up the payoff have lent such an atmosphere of glamour to it that a lot of people put in their \$2.50 in order to have a part in the glamorous occasion that happens to some person in Canada about once a year.

"If the Province would go so far as to prohibit newspapers publishing the pictures of winners and the results and if we tear this out root and branch, I will be for that."

### Resent Being Hounded.

Both the Premier and the Conservative House Leader bitterly attacked the practice that made of members of the House or any public official targets for persons selling draw and raffle tickets.

Mr. Macaulay referred to the decision at Ottawa to investigate election procedure with the view of eliminating abuses. "I suggest something should be done to investigate the petty blackmail that is imposed on members of both parties," he said.

The Premier's objections were raised heatedly in his "hypocrisy" charge, when he declared: "I am pursued by hundreds of church organizations to take tickets on various draws. I am hounded and importuned everywhere to buy tickets and have bought enough to paper this House. Yet when we bring this thing out in the open these are the people who protest. Every one knows this Province is blanketed with sweep tickets of one kind or another."

### Amendment Offered.

The pace of the argument rose and fell for more than two hours after Fred G. McBrien (Cons., Parkdale) led off in his support of the motion which he had tabled on March 18. At the outset, he offered one amendment by cutting out "and

for other charitable institutions," thus leaving hospitals as the sole beneficiaries of the proposed sweepstake scheme.

Mr. McBrien emphasized that the Ontario Government was already in the legalized gambling business through having, during the past sixteen years, collected \$24,520,629.44 by chiselling off 5 cents from each dollar that is fed through a pari-mutuel machine at a Government-licensed race track.

"Any member who fails to raise a protest against this present Government and all other Governments who preceded it up to the time that race-track collections were first made, and then refuses to support sweepstakes for hospitals, will be found guilty at the bar of public opinion for poor thinking and inconsistency," he said.

### Couldn't Touch Bookmakers.

The same issue was raised by Premier Hepburn when William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt) claimed that if the Government entered the sweepstake gambling scheme, its law officers had not the slightest moral or legal right to crack down upon bookmakers or any other gamblers, because the Government was in the same position as the men they sought to penalize. He claimed also that it would be the Government's duty, if it was to sponsor sweeps, to set up a department to operate it and to protect the public from chiselling.

"Are you aware," asked the Premier, "that there is a department of Government now that does nothing else but collect the returns from the race tracks? We are in the business of gambling now, not that this Government has set it up. It has been there for years."

It was raised again by the Premier in comment on the opposition stand taken by W. A. Baird (Cons., High Park). Mr. Baird pointed out that he was President of the Board of Managers of the Toronto Hospital for Incurables.

"I don't want my hospital to take money that is going to come from the sale of gambling tickets," he declared.

### Premier Poses Question.

"Why be hypocritical?" demanded the Premier as he declared that J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew), who opposed the motion, had probably haunted his office more than any other member seeking increased grants for a hospital.

"Hospital costs have increased 100 per cent during the last ten years. My office is literally cluttered up with requests for additional hospital grants. Why be hypocritical?"

It's going on. Let us bring it out into the open."

Then he turned to Mr. Baird and suggested there was more than a strong possibility that some of the Government money that had been paid to his hospital came from the five per cent that the Government took as a rakeoff in horse-race gambling.

"I don't like hypocrisy of any kind, so I am prepared to take my political future in my hands and support this resolution. I wish I could say in my own words what I think of these people who sent these protests to me."

### Nixon to Vote Against.

In requesting a delay on the vote, the Premier revealed that Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary and on occasion Acting Premier, would vote against it.

"This splits party lines and I have no idea what the outcome of the vote will be. I have asked no one to support it. I know my dearest friend," pointing to Mr. Nixon, whose face was dyed by a deep flush, "is going to lead the respectable element among the Liberals and will oppose this motion."

The Premier, at the outset of his address, declared he had never bought a sweepstake ticket and was at a race track on one occasion only and then to see a person. He mentioned Mr. Macaulay's reference to the part which the Opposition Leader said paper had played in promoting buying interest.

Then he charged that the Toronto Daily Star, "which plays up interviews with people who have won sweeps and builds them up with pictures, comes out hypocritical as usual against this thing in an editorial."

### Also Sought by Quebec.

At one point he suggested also that Ontario would be flooded with Quebec sweepstake tickets if the motion that is now before the House of Commons in the name of Ernest Bertrand (Lib., Laurier) of Montreal, was granted by Ottawa. He claimed that the only remedy lay in securing the permissive right for Ontario.