

April 1.

Party Lines Split When Resolution Voted, 48 to 34

Many Liberals, Including Two Ministers, Nixon and McQuesten, Oppose Premier's Stand on Issue While Others Balk—Strengthening of Ontario-Quebec Tax Drive on Ottawa Likely

CONSERVATIVES FORCE RECORDED DIVISION

The Ontario Legislature yesterday voted 48 to 34 for Government-supervised hospital sweepstakes.

As amply indicated, this division on the McBrien resolution, which precipitated the short-lived but highly controversial question, cut sharply across party lines. Many Liberals, including leading Cabinet Ministers, refused to be stampeded from original intentions by the reported last-hour instructions through lobbying associates that the vote should be regarded as a party vote, and that solid Liberal support for the Prime Minister and his stand on the question was imperative. Several Liberal members are said to have deserted the Chamber rather than vote at all.

At no time was the outcome of the vote in doubt, although the sudden and unexpected withdrawal of a large block of Conservative support from the resolution had its proponents in a somewhat jittery state up until mid-afternoon.

To Strengthen Hands.

The decision will, it is understood, strengthen the hands of both Premier Hepburn and Premier Duplessis of Quebec in their reported joint drive against the Federal Government in various fields of taxation. Mr. Hepburn is said for some time to have been seeking the chance to declare himself formally on the question. Fred. G. McBrien (Cons., Parkdale), in sponsoring the resolution now passed upon, is thought to have played directly, if unpremeditatedly, into the Premier's hands.

Prolongation of the Budget debate held up the sweepstakes decision until after 6 o'clock. Then, due to the lateness of the hour, both parties called off further argument. There was no flurry or fuss as the Speaker called for the yeas and nays. The yeas had this by a wide margin. Then every one sat silent in their seats. Liberals who were dissenting from the Prime Minister's stand were noticeably ill at ease, and apparently hoping no registered vote would be taken.

The Conservatives, however, dashed these hopes completely. Five of them—the required number—rose and indicated their demand for a division. It resulted as follows:

FOR.

Liberals: Hon. M. F. Hepburn, Elgin; Hon. H. J. Kirby, Eglinton; Hon. P. M. Dewan, Oxford; Hon. L. J. Simpson, Simcoe Centre; Hon. G. D. Conant, Ontario; Hon. Peter Heenan, Kenora; Hon. Paul Leduc, Ottawa East; Hon. M. M. MacBride, Brantford; Hon. C. A. Campbell, Saul Ste. Marie; Hon. Eric Cross, Haldimand-Norfolk; Hon. W. L. Houck, Niagara Falls; Hon. A. S. Gordon, Kent West; J. A. Smith, Waterloo North; J. H. Clark, Windsor-Sandwich; M. T. Armstrong, Parry Sound; H. N. Carr, Northumberland; W. L. Miller, Algoma-Manitoulin; T. A. Blakelock, Halton; T. P. Murray, Renfrew South; W. J. Gardhouse, York West; A. S. Duncan, London; W. G. Nixon, Temiskaming; F. Fraser Hunter, St. Patrick; E. J. Anderson, Welland; J. Frank Kelly, Muskoka-Ontario; William Guthrie, Lambton West; A. A. Lamport, St. David; A. C. Trottier, Essex North; A. J. Haines, Lincoln; J. Ballantyne, Huron; C. W. Cox, Port Arthur; D. A. Croll, Windsor-Walkerville; R. G. Croome, Rainy River; F. B. Brownridge, Stormont; J. C. Bradley, Renfrew North; J. A. Habel, Cochrane North; L. P. Conacher, Bracondale; Romeo Begin, Russell; E. A. MacGillivray, Glengarry; J. P. MacKay, Hamilton East; J. M.

Cooper, Sudbury; John Newlands, Hamilton Centre.

Conservatives: Hon. L. Macaulay, York South; A. H. Acres, Carleton; T. A. Murphy, Beaches; F. G. McBrien, Parkdale; W. A. Summer-ville, Riverdale; Frank Spence, Fort William.

AGAINST.

Liberals: Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Hamilton-Wentworth; Hon. H. C. Nixon, Brant; Ian T. Strachan, St. George; D. M. Campbell, Kent East; C. A. Robertson, Huron-Bruce; C. M. MacFie, Middlesex South; J. H. King, Wellington South; R. Patterson, Grey North; Morgan Baker, York North; C. G. Fletcher, Essex South; J. W. Sinclair, Bruce; J. J. Glass, St. Andrew; A. L. Elliott, Peterborough; J. W. Freeborn, Middlesex North; A. W. Roebuck, Bellwoods; R. A. McEwing, Wellington North.

U.F.O.: F. R. Oliver, Grey South.

Conservatives: W. A. Baird, High Park; W. D. Black, Addington; T. L. Kennedy, Peel; H. E. Welsh, Hastings East; G. H. Challies, Grenville-Dundas; L. M. Frost, Victoria; G. S. Henry, York East; William Duckworth, Dovercourt; G. C. Elgie, Woodbine; William Finlayson, Simcoe East; R. D. Arnott, Hastings West; T. A. Kidd, Kingston; A. W. Downer, Dufferin-Simcoe; G. H. Doucett, Lanark; G. H. Dunbar, Ottawa South; W. B. Reynolds, Leeds; J. de C. Hepburn, Prince Edward-Lennox.

Little Jubilation.

There was little jubilation on either side when the Clerk of the House officially announced the result to Speaker Hipel. Mr. McBrien was all smiles, but there were a lot of sober faces in both the Government and Opposition groups.

To the press, Mr. Hepburn subsequently declared that sickness of several supporters had held the majority down. Other than that, the issue appeared to be a closed book with him. From Conservative quarters it was learned that at the time the resolution was debated, the Opposition would have voted about 15 to 8 for sweepstakes. The Premier's criticism of the clergy, it is learned, was responsible more than anything else for the abrupt turnover in the Opposition vote.

Mr. McBrien, the sponsor of the resolution, sought therein to have Ottawa grant to the various Provinces the right to supervise the operation of sweepstakes for the maintenance of hospitals. His original resolution would have permitted them to be held "for other charitable purposes," but during the debate in the House it was amended to confine the benefit entirely to hospitals.