

# Confidence in Hepburn Shown by 60-22 Vote; Budget Likely Thursday

Criticism of Ottawa by Ontario Government Is Not Sign of Disunity, but Indicates Healthy State, Hon. Harry Nixon Declares in Reply to Attack by Tories Who Charge Failure to Confer

## SCORES OPPOSITION FOR SILENCE IN DEBATE

Scoring the Drew-led opposition for its "unfair and untrue" suggestions that Queen's Park had failed to co-operate with Ottawa, and branding its demands for an immediate appeal to the Ontario electorate as "absurd" and "ridiculous," Provincial Secretary Harry C. Nixon, yesterday, ended the Legislature Throne Speech debate in a typical Liberal flourish by authoring a straight vote of confidence in the provincial government and Premier Hepburn's "able and courageous" leadership.

The motion, in the form of a sub-amendment, carried on a registered division of 60-22. On the same division the House stifled the Opposition's amendment, and carried the main motion. With this first stage of the sessional course of 1939 completely cleared, the House now stands ready for the Budget which Mr. Hepburn, in his added capacity of Provincial Treasurer, will bring down tomorrow afternoon.

The Opposition amendment of which Mr. Nixon was so caustically critical would have committed the Assembly to regret that Mr. Hepburn, in effect, had not conferred in the past and did not intend to, in the future, with the federal government in joint action "to increase employment and reduce the cost of government."

### Sees No Sign of Disunity.

"I wonder how proud my honorable friends of the opposition are of this amendment," Mr. Nixon asked. "How much confidence have they in the present federal authorities to increase employment and reduce the cost of government. If we have been critical of the federal government for lack of action it is not a sign of disunity, but a sign of a healthy condition, just as I would have a lot more respect for the future of the Conservative party if my honorable friends when told they couldn't speak in this debate had raised a protest.

"The inference in their amendment is most unfair and untrue. It refers to the 'past failure' of the Premier of Ontario to confer with the Premier of Canada. There has been no failure to confer. I remember two occasions very vividly when our Prime Minister went to Ottawa. The conference certainly failed but through no fault of ours. There have been many conferences. Last week the Highways Minister spent two days there. We are always ready to do our part. But if we have learned through many bitter—yes—humiliating experiences that there is little use to go to Ottawa, hat in hand, are we to be blamed? Our first care and duty as a government and legislature is the affairs of the Province of Ontario and

its municipalities. It is most essential for the future of Canada that this key province be kept solid and prosperous. When you read that out of \$141,000,000 collected in income tax this year practically \$70,000,000 came from Ontario it gives you some idea of the importance of this province in the national scheme.

### Predicts Consternation.

"The Leader of the Opposition wants his amendment to be a vote of want of confidence. He says: 'Make this a want of confidence issue, vote him (the Premier) out of office, create an election.' Well, just let me inform my honorable friend that this government will never shirk its duty, but I have too much respect for the intelligence and common sense of members of the House, including the Opposition members, to ask them to vote on such an absurd amendment, so I propose to move an amendment to the resolution offered by the Conservative Leader.

"I hope," said Mr. Nixon, "that my honorable friend doesn't think he is fooling anybody by demanding an election. There would be utter consternation in his camp if the Prime Minister were to take him at his word, and ten seats would hold every Conservative member after the return from an election. Hon. Earl Rowe, after he was elected leader, challenged the Premier from every platform to bring on an election but none complained more loudly than he did when the vote of 1937 was called. He said we should carry on another two years to the end of our term.

### "Faculty of Being Right."

"I don't think my honorable friend has so soon forgotten the sweet trimming handed him in South Wellington by that doughty, the present member. Surely he will admit that we have a mandate from that riding in any case. And because he was extended the courtesy of an acclamation in East Simcoe he should not take that as an excuse or justification for challenging our mandate. I can tell him now that he won't get an acclamation in a general election. That goes for the member for Parkdale (W. J. Stewart) too."

In submitting his sub-amendment Mr. Nixon declared that the brightest spot in the provincial picture today—not only to him, but to the people generally—was the fact that Mr. Hepburn was "on the job, obviously restored to health, full of the old fire and drive, and able to meet any issue that may develop overnight in these difficult times with direct and vigorous methods, quick decision, wisdom and courage, and the most marvellous faculty of being right."