

CROSS INVITED ON JOB SEARCH BY W.J. STEWART

**Challenge Not Accepted
After M.L.A. Scores Him
for Saying Situation Has
Not Reached Crisis Point**

CONFERENCE PROPOSED

Persistently attacking Welfare Minister Eric Cross' recent House statement that it was an exaggeration to say unemployment had reached the state of a national crisis, William J. Stewart (Con., Parkdale), yesterday in the budget debate, challenged the minister to accompany him in a two days' job hunt.

The minister would see the problem in a new light, wagered the member, if they went out without credentials, and in clothing such as the unemployed wore, "to make a door to door canvass for two days trying to find a job."

The challenge was not accepted by the Welfare Minister, who pointed out that his statement referred to seasonal unemployment.

The former Toronto Mayor's initial debate speech in the Legislature was marked by a series of clashes with the Minister of Welfare, clashes in which the members of the Treasury Benches joined, as Mr. Cross charged that the city's expenditures had reached an all-time high during the Conservative speaker's period of high office at the City Hall.

"Splendid Piece of Work."

In the face of repeated sniping, Mr. Stewart insisted that city government costs had been reduced while he was mayor and he appealed for some recognition of the manner in which the municipalities had labored in coping with the relief problem.

"I appreciate what The Globe and Mail is doing trying to wake the people up," he said. "It is all right to criticize those who are in the seats of government, but often those who offer this criticism have never bothered to vote."

He cited from his own municipal experience that much of the criticism had come from people who had not taken the trouble to exercise their franchise in the line of ordinary duty as citizens.

"I think the publisher of The Globe and Mail is doing a splendid piece of work and I hope that he succeeds, for after all, we are shareholders in this province," he continued.

He asserted there was an increasing number of people holding that the unemployment problem was an indictment against democracy, and he referred to the Welfare Minister's statement on unemployment.

"I would like to say to him," said the member, "that I would like him to go with me down to the Coliseum and ask if there is not a national crisis. I would like him to ask my son or any other man's son in early manhood if there is not a national crisis."

"The problem," retorted the speaker, "is becoming more intensified every day. Men are losing their faith and their hope."

While the Welfare Minister had stated the number on relief was down from 1937, he pointed out there were still more than 22,000 Toronto families on relief.

He claimed that while the municipalities, particularly Toronto, which he said was paying 33.5 per cent. of its relief costs, were bearing a heavy proportion of the relief load, the Provincial Minister of Welfare was given power to dictate as to how relief was to be administered.

"I can't believe the Premier knows all that is going on in the Welfare Department, because in addition to what Toronto is spending, there are the additional items like bedding and household utensils. You can go down to the city welfare department and find almost daily that a number of the provincial department's orders have been revoked. I can't believe the Premier knows what is going on. I wonder if he knows how many of the department's orders have been revoked."

"I hope," continued the member, "I am not correctly informed, but I am informed there have been three relief changes in Collingwood and that they have been told in Brantford that they must get a welfare official who will be satisfactory to the minister."

"And to the council," broke in Louis Hagey (Lib., Brantford).

Mr. Stewart urged the Prime Minister to take "a courageous step" and with the co-operation of his departmental heads, endeavor to trim expenditures wherever possible. In so doing he might, said Mr. Stewart, provide a much needed leadership in that connection for the rest of Ontario. He appealed to the Premier and the welfare department to study some proposal for the rehabilitation of unemployed men in hostels, and in that regard suggested

that the monies now spent on them be split evenly between the men themselves and farmer employers with whom the government should try to place them. He also stressed the need for immediate consideration by the Legislature of ways and means to effectively deal with the unemployment problem. A solution could only be found, he believed, by the House sitting in conference with representatives of labor and industry, the Board of Trade and others, and getting the direct views of all involved in the present difficult situation.

For days, said he, The Globe and Mail had on its Leadership League page, been indicating what the Ottawa parliament was doing—in the form of a bit of blank space. The Legislature, he said, should endeavor to "fill that space" if Ottawa couldn't. And the best way to fill it, said he, was to initiate the conference of his advocacy.

BILL HELD UP ON WATER PLAN

While indicating approval in principle to an application by Trafalgar Township for authority to establish a Lake Shore Water Commission and fire areas under the commission, in the Oakville suburban areas, the Legislature Private Bills Committee, yesterday held over the bill until it was rewritten.

Attorney-General Conant declared certain sections were in conflict with existing general legislation governing public utilities and municipal administration.

"I don't like this legislation in its present form. I think it is dangerous," he said.

Petitioners both for and against the bill admitted that a water commission has been in operation since 1929, and one of the main purposes of the bill was to legalize its operation. Reeve Victor Hall emphasized that it had "been a good commission," and that 70 per cent of the water users had petitioned for a private bill.

Alex. Petrie, farmer, expressed vigorous opposition to the bill in its present form, charging that the original petition asked only for a validation of the commission set-up and authority to define the water area. He said the bill as drawn up did not represent the desires of any section of the community.