

Calls Gas-Tax Increase Repudiation of Pledge

In a sharp attack on the Hepburn administration's taxing policies, W. B. Reynolds (Con., Leeds), last night in the Legislature charged the Premier, in increasing the gasoline tax had repudiated election pledges and at the same time he twitted the government for the paucity of support given by its members to the gasoline measure.

"There were a great number of vacant seats when the vote was called," he said. "And when the government whip went out to round up the members he came back by himself. The vote was 43 to 21, and I do say that out of 66 members, 43 wasn't a very large number."

At the outset, the former Brockville Public Utilities chairman, handed a bouquet to the Premier, saying: "As long as we have to sit over here I don't know any one I would sooner look at than yourself. I like the way you transact business and I think that is all the nice things I am going to say."

He charged that despite 1934 election promises of reduced taxation, that the taxation item had been increased by \$20,000,000 in eight years. In 1937, he said, the Premier came

down to his riding and announced that the financial condition of the province was such that he was able to announce a reduction of \$5 on auto licenses.

"I believe now," he told the Premier, "that you never did anything in your life that got you more votes. But now, after getting \$5 from the license fees, the motorists have to dig down and bring out \$20 in gasoline taxes."

Special Session Is Proposed On 'Tribulations of Toronto'

A ten-day special session of the Ontario Legislature, to deal with the "trials and tribulations of Toronto so as to get it over with at one time," was advocated in a budget debate speech last night by F. B. Brownridge (Lib., Stormont), as he opposed that city's bid for government assistance in building a sewage disposal plant.

"I don't see why we, away down in Cornwall, should assist to build a sewage disposal plant for Toronto, and I hope that the Provincial Government will turn them down," he said.

The member backed recent pleas from the French-English eastern counties for a more intensive study of the French language in the public schools. Opposition, directed from Toronto, he believed, was due to a lack of appreciation of the problem of English-speaking people living in a section in which there was at least

an equal number of French, and he stated that many Cornwall public school pupils were studying French under private tutors.

He claimed that passage of the gasoline tax measure in Ontario created a problem for communities near the Quebec border, and he welcomed today's announcement from the sister province that the tax there had been placed on a parity with that of Ontario.

Premier Hepburn, in making a formal announcement of Quebec's action, revealed that the Duplessis cabinet, without the formality of legislative proceedings, had simply notified the gasoline companies that the tax would be chargeable effective yesterday. The sudden announcement, he said, was designed to prevent hoarding of gasoline. He assumed legislation of a retroactive nature would be passed by the Quebec Legislature to cover the tax increase.

Awaken Public M.L.A. Urges

The Leadership League can be of great benefit by awakening the conscience of each individual citizen to his or her responsibility in citizenship, H. N. Carr (Liberal, Northumberland), emphasized before the Legislature in his speech on the budget debate.

Mr. Carr, who had earlier expressed deep concern over the effect of unemployment and relief upon youth, urged the League to advise citizens that the privilege of self-government was dearly bought by our forefathers "and that it is their duty to protect that privilege by exercising their franchise, not only on election day, but by taking also a keen and intelligent interest in what their governments are doing."

He warned that the potential benefit to be derived from the League would not come by "criticizing or slandering the men who give their time to public service, many of whom do so at considerable financial sacrifice as well as the sacrifice of their own comfort and home and family life."

Of essential importance to its program, he said, was the education of the public to realize that when they insisted upon governments spending money for new buildings, roads or services that it was the people who must provide that money.

SURVEY FOR OIL ASKED IN NORTH

Mines Minister Paul Leduc was asked in the Legislature last night by Frank Spence (Con., Fort William) if he planned to send a geologist or surveying expedition to the Severn River district near Hudson Bay to examine reports of the discovery of oil-bearing formations there.

"For two years many reports from the far north of the province have persistently claimed the limestone formation from the edge of the Pre-Cambrian shield down the Severn to Tidewater is oil-bearing," said Mr. Spence. There was no road into the remote district, he said, but he knew of people who were anxious to go ahead, if given a large lease, in prospecting work and would even be prepared to build a road into the district.

Mr. Spence's speech carried the House nearly three-quarters of an hour past the 11 o'clock adjournment hour. The Premier announced that the debate would continue today until concluded, and the House would then proceed to consideration of the estimates.

Mr. Spence clashed with Mr. Leduc and Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests, over rationing of newsprint production. He charged that much tonnage was lost to the Province of Quebec mills, resulting in less work in Ontario mills and in the bush. He asked that the Minister of Lands and Forests explain his policy before the House prorogued.