

RAPPING CROSS, STEWART RUNS INTO PROTESTS

**Calls Minister's Attack
on Toronto 'Unworthy,'
and Precipitates Howls**

WON'T YIELD FLOOR

Charging Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Welfare, with having made "unworthy statements" in his budget address Tuesday night, W. J. Stewart (Con., Toronto-Parkdale) yesterday told the Legislature that the Government had been guilty, if not of banditry, at least of "a dignified form of holdup without violence" when it reduced its subsidy to Ontario municipalities by half a mill.

His remarks brought quick protest from the Minister and caused a babble of confusion in the House as he was interrupted repeatedly. His charges of "treasury raiding" brought down such a chorus of disapproval that the Speaker was forced to call for order several times before he was permitted to continue. He was replying to a speech in the House Tuesday night by Mr. Cross, who made an attack on Toronto's civic administration.

Opening his address with a strong attack on the Welfare Minister's description of the Toronto City Council as a "beef trust," Mr. Stewart ran into stormy opposition from the start. When Mr. Cross rose to reply, Mr. Stewart refused, at first, to give him the floor, and there were loud shouts of "order" from the Government benches.

"I won't yield," the member for Parkdale maintained, as the Speaker attempted to restore order.

"The honorable member has suggested I used unworthy remarks," Mr. Cross said, when he had finally been given the floor. "I don't know

if he's speaking for himself or as Parliamentary correspondent for the Evening Telegram. I was simply replying to members of the Toronto Council who used the term 'banditry' in reference to this Government's action and I have no apologies to make for my remarks."

"I'm quoting from The Globe and Mail when I read the words attributed to the Minister," Mr. Stewart replied. "And the words reflect no credit on him. When a Minister of the Crown makes unparliamentary references to people with whom he is dealing, it doesn't do much to inspire confidence in constituted authority."

Toronto, the Conservative member said, desired to live "as a good neighbor" and was willing to do its part to make Ontario a good Province.

Under the present Government, Mr. Stewart charged, municipalities were becoming little more than "branch office collection agencies" for the Ontario Government, and he warned the Legislature that it should not "bite the hand that feeds you." The Ministers were quick to take offense at criticism, he added, but they should face the facts.

"Surely we're not expected to pay homage here and bend the knee to everything the Department of Welfare has done," Mr. Stewart said.

"If the Government's action in withdrawing half a mill of the subsidy was not banditry, it was raiding the treasury of the municipalities—a dignified form of holdup without violence."

He admitted that the Government had saved Toronto \$4,000,000 in subsidies and \$3,000,000 in assuming the cost of social services over the past three years, but charged that the Province had taken away \$9,000,000 when it took over the income tax. That amount, he declared, could have been collected by the City of Toronto in the past three years.

"What was your best year in in-

come tax collections?" Premier Hepburn challenged.

"A million and a quarter," replied the member.

Asked to explain how he arrived at the \$9,000,000 for three years, Mr. Stewart explained the figure had been computed from estimates of the Federal income tax paid in Toronto during three years. Further questioning brought out that his figures included income tax from corporations which was not collectible by municipalities, and that some revision was required to arrive at the correct figure.

Mr. Stewart claimed that liquor revenue had been increased since 1934. "It has been increased to the point where, I think, we might well change the name Liquor Control Board to Liquor Sales Promotion Department," he said.

He believed the Government should amend the system by granting right of appeal from decisions of the commissioner.

"I believe in taxing where you can get it," said Mr. Stewart. "But I do not believe in penalizing business."

Additional emphasis upon the principles and duties of citizenship was urged upon the Department of Education. He complimented the Prime Minister for having launched a "tourist drive and for having placed D. R. Oliver at the head of the Province's publicity. He expressed hope that the Prime Minister would renew his efforts to have Ottawa, assume the responsibility of guarding essential power plants and works as a national duty.

Mr. Stewart believed the public generally must assume responsibility for the ever increasing spending of Governments. The public, he said, seemed to be guided by two codes in doing business, one for private business and one for public business.

"Call in the heads of your departments," he suggested to the Premier. "Take back the Budget and do in public enterprise what you would do in private business."