

STRIKE FORCES BUDGET HOLDUP IN LEGISLATURE

Quorum Lacking as Members Balk at Night Session Plan

Liberal and Progressive Conservative members of the Legislature staged a "walk-out" last night, to bring the House attendance below the required quorum of 20, and force an adjournment. It may also upset plans for delivery of the Budget today.

While there was no authority for the statement other than the opinion of members, it appeared obvious that the M.P.P.'s broke party lines to the extent of getting together and defeating Premier Conant's plan to sit until the debate on the Speech from the Throne was finished.

The walk-out broke up a budding filibuster on the part of the Opposition in protest against the Government's decision to finish the Throne Speech debate Thursday night, despite Col. Drew's vehement denunciation of such a plan.

Premier Not In House.

Premier Conant was absent from the House when Speaker Clark called adjournment, and when informed of what had happened, he expressed the opinion the Budget presentation today might have to be delayed.

"I believe the debate on the Speech from the Throne must be finished before we can go on with the Budget," said Mr. Conant. "I will know more about it tomorrow."

Informed earlier that the debate would have to proceed, Col. Drew warned the Government "there won't be much sleep for any one tonight." He proceeded to assemble a pile of books on his desk in preparation for a marathon session. Previously his motion to adjourn had been defeated on a recorded division by a vote of 34 to 16.

Members Step Out.

It was while George S. Henry (Prog. Cons., East York) was carrying on for the Opposition that members of both sides slipped out. Ian Strachan, Liberal Whip, was absent at the time. The Opposition members soon caught on, and they, too, began leaving singly. The attendance dropped slowly. Even Premier Conant, apparently unaware of what was on, was out of the House.

There were more spectators in the galleries than members in the chamber, when Major Alex Lewis, clerk of the House, began to count noses. He counted 19. There was a consultation with Speaker James Clark. Col. Drew quickly sensed what had happened.

"That ends the debate for tonight," he remarked, a smile spreading on his features.

Adjournment Declared.

"There being no quorum the House stands adjourned," said Speaker Clark.

There was no doubt about the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives "getting together," and arranging for a lack of a quorum. Some of the Liberals found their way to the cafeteria in the buildings. Others wandered off elsewhere. The Opposition members—there were 16 of them in the House a few minutes before midnight—found themselves other points of interest. Leopold Macaulay (Prog. Con., South York), walked out, leaving Leader Drew and about two others as the representatives of the Opposition in the House. Harry Nixon, former Provincial Secretary, also found a reason to leave the chamber. The leading candidate for Liberal Party leadership strolled out through the main door.

There were smiles on the faces of Col. Drew and his supporters when the lack of a quorum forced adjournment. The few Liberals who had not been let in on the plot wore bewildered expressions.

Call To Ministers.

"That's one way to end it," remarked Col. Drew cheerfully, as he prepared to depart.

It is understood that at the time the Liberals went into rebellion at the prospect of sitting most, if not all night, Premier Conant had instructed that several Cabinet Ministers who had gone home, be requested to return to the Legislature.

Not since the Drury Government regime of 1919 to 1923 has the Legislature been adjourned for lack of a quorum. Major Alex Lewis later told newspapermen.

Ontario Social Security Plan Outlined in Government Bill

The scope of Ontario's proposed social security committee was outlined yesterday in a bill given first reading in the Legislature. It calls for the establishment of a committee not to exceed 25 in number.

The powers and duties of this committee are set forth in detail. It provides for an examination of the methods of organizing, conserving and utilizing the resources of Ontario for the successful prosecution of the war. It directs a probe into the question of rehabilitation of members of the armed forces who will require employment at the conclusion of the war.

The committee will also examine existing legislation in Ontario and elsewhere providing for social security, including health insurance, and will examine the steps and measures necessary for the extension of existing Provincial social services and for the establishment of further social services which may be necessary. One of the duties of the committee will be to prepare estimates of the number of persons who will be unemployed in Ontario at the conclusion of the war, indicating the number which will be employable, the number which will have been trained

for civil employment, classifying them by occupations. The committee will formulate plans for the training and education of members of the armed forces and for their re-employment in the postwar period.

Other duties of the committee include consultation with the Dominion Government, municipal councils, farmers and organizations of employers and employees with a view to determining the extent to which wartime industries may be converted into peacetime industries. Plans for the extension of scientific researches in connection with industry and agriculture will also form part of the committee's work.

An examination of the agricultural resources of Ontario will be made by the committee and plans will be formulated for agricultural development to provide homes and employment on Ontario farms for members of the armed forces and other persons at the conclusion of the war.

The social security committee is empowered to examine into any matter referred to it by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and "prepare such estimates, data, plans and reports as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may require."