

APRIL 13

Mr. Nixon said this was his position at the time, and it was his position now. He added: "While it is presumptuous to say what may happen at the convention of the Liberal Party, or what may happen after, I wish to say that I am not prepared to underwrite the pledge of the Prime Minister to fill the vacant seats in Ontario."

"I am not seeking to evade my share of responsibility for the vacancies," declared Mr. Nixon, "but I am of the firm conviction that vacancies should be filled as they occur, and if ever again I sit on the treasury bench they will be filled or I will cease to sit there. But to fill these vacancies now would be to hold a little election in itself, and not such a little one, either. It would be unfair at this time to ask candidates to go to the expense and work of putting on campaigns when there is the possibility they might never sit in the House, or, at the most, only one session.

"This bill is permissive, but if I voted for it I would feel honor bound and in good faith to carry it through. I am not prepared to take that position. I cannot support the bill."

J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew's) supported the bill because, with prospect of a great offensive soon overseas, he believed an election neither desirable nor wise. Failure to pass the bill would be a calamity, Ian Strachan, Liberal Whip, declared, as immediately after adjournment the election machinery would be started throughout the Province.

Opposing the bill, W. A. Dickson (Lib., Perth) declared the Government was making a big mistake, and that he did not believe he had any right to sit beyond his term without a vote of his constituents. J. M. Cooper (Lib., Sudbury) declared people in his riding would be shocked if there were an election.

Farquhar Oliver (Lib., Grey South) said he had resigned from the Cabinet "because I didn't feel we should go on and on beyond our elected term of office." And he added: "I'm not so sure my riding wants an election, but I'd feel I stood on more solid ground if they had the opportunity to say whether they wanted me to continue."

Opposition to an election was reported by Morgan Baker (Lib., North York) and T. A. Blakelock (Lib., Halton), and Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Labor, said there was little public interest in Provincial politics at present to justify an election. There was no issue, and though a third party was "tantalizing" the members into an election, he didn't think many were taking them seriously.

House Prorogues Tomorrow Morning

The Ontario Legislature will prorogue Wednesday at a morning sitting when the Lieutenant-Governor will give Royal assent to legislation passed during the session. There will be a session tonight.

The House passed departmental estimates totalling \$7,425,246 last night, only the Education Department remaining to be dealt with.

Included in supplementary estimates of \$700,000 was the sum of \$200,000 as an additional subsidy for certain mining municipalities in Northern Ontario, which, in the opinion of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, have suffered loss of revenue through curtailment of mining and increased Dominion taxation of mines.