

Hepburn Accuses Drew Of 'Bullying Tactics' Toward Lab.-Prog. Chief

Mitchell F. Hepburn rose to the aid of A. A. MacLeod, Labor-Progressive Leader, in the Legislature yesterday, and clashed sharply with Premier George A. Drew, whom he accused of "bullying tactics" and not being "man enough" to admit a mistake.

In his old-time style of making spectacular attacks, the former Liberal Premier declared that neither his party nor "Old Man Ontario is going to be crucified on the twisted cross of reactionary Toryism." This brought a smile to Mr. Drew's face, and the Government members roared in derision.

The flareup was in two parts. The first was over a debate on the coal shortage precipitated by C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe. Mr. Hepburn entered this debate by accusing the Premier of failing to live up to his pre-election pledge with respect to the efficient distribution of fuel and milk and other basic necessities. The second part came when Mr. MacLeod, rising to ask a question of the Government, sought to have the Premier define the Government's stand on the Family Allowances Act.

Objects to Advertisements

The Premier told Mr. MacLeod that the Government would deal with this matter at the proper time, and he added that "it would have been wiser for the honorable member to have learned the facts instead of inserting advertisements in the newspapers stating what is going to be done." This brought Mr. Hepburn to his feet with a rush.

"I must challenge that and say to the Prime Minister that we are getting tired of these bullying tactics," said Mr. Hepburn. "The Prime Minister is the leader of a minority Government which has been permitted to continue because of the co-operation of the other parties in the House. I am not surprised that he has never shown any appreciation of that fact, but has continued to say that he is going to proceed regardless of the feelings of the members of this House. I join with the member for Bellwoods in insisting that an answer be given. We are small in numbers, but we represent a lot of people. Neither the party nor Old Man Ontario is going to be crucified on the twisted cross of reactionary Toryism."

Heated Argument on Coal

In the brief clash which preceded this incident, the Premier reacted vigorously to Mr. Hepburn's criticism of the Government's position with regard to the coal shortage. The Premier had pointed out that the overriding authority of the War Measures Act gave the Dominion sole jurisdiction in the fuel field, and that while his Government had frequently urged that steps be taken to guard against the situation which subsequently developed, nothing had been done.

Mr. Hepburn said that this was one of the 22 points the Government had not fulfilled and "the Premier had better admit frankly that he has made a mistake and throw this plank into the well-known ash can." He added: "He overreached himself and is not man enough to admit it."

"If any one else had made those remarks except the Liberal Leader of the 'remainder' I might have taken exception," said the Premier. "I'm man enough to meet the member for Elgin here or anywhere else. Unlike the member for Elgin, I didn't know the probable length of the war, and I don't today. At the time when he had not re-embraced the reformed Liberals at Ottawa, he arranged a meeting of the coal authorities, which I attended, to do the very thing we're trying to do now."

It was contended by several C.C.F. speakers that the War Measures Act was in effect when the Premier pledged in his 22 points that ade-

quate supplies of fuel, milk and other basic necessities would be assured by effective organization and administrative control. The Premier's reply to this was that this is within the power of the Province but only when the wartime powers of Ottawa were not in effect.

Speaker W. J. Stewart had his hands full when he attempted to keep the discussion from getting out of hand. He checked Mr. Hepburn when the latter, in the words of the Speaker, "got a bit off the subject," and Mr. Hepburn, in somewhat wrathful tones, wanted to know if the Speaker was going to rule him out of order. Nothing came of this flurry.

Mr. Hepburn, following his second outburst against the Government, left the Chamber, and did not return for the remaining half hour the session lasted.

Baby Bonus Echo

In bringing up the matter of the Family Allowances Act, Mr. MacLeod asked whether the Premier would agree to amplify his statement made Aug. 9 last in a radio speech. Mr. MacLeod said that on this occasion Mr. Drew said: "I assure you that the Government of Ontario intends to do everything in its power to make sure that this iniquitous bill does not go into effect. We will not concur in any such highhanded act."

Mr. MacLeod said he was sure the members of the House would be interested to know whether this was still the considered policy of the Government and, if so, what steps had the Government taken to prevent the act from becoming operative in Ontario. Thousands of Ontario families were looking forward to receiving benefits from the Dominion act, he said. The fact that there was no mention of the act in the Speech from the Throne suggested that the Government had retreated from its position, Mr. MacLeod declared.

When the Premier replied that the Government would deal with this at the proper time, Mr. MacLeod sought to debate the reply, and was cut short by Speaker Stewart, who ruled him out of order.

The discussion on the current coal shortage was brought about by the C.C.F. when Leader E. B. Jolliffe urged the Government to take such steps as were necessary to relieve the situation. He admitted at the outset that Federal jurisdiction was involved, and that unprecedented weather had contributed to the dilemma, but he felt that the Province could do a great deal by assuming some responsibility in the matter.

"Conditions today are not only bad, but they may become a great deal worse if there is another heavy fall of snow accompanied by cold weather," Mr. Jolliffe said. "Much suffering already exists. I would suggest that some of the facilities of the Provincial Government be used to supplement the existing setup."

Use Provincial Trucks

Mr. Jolliffe believed that the use of Provincial trucks for coal deliveries would materially aid the situation. Other members of the C.C.F. Opposition, speaking in support of their Leader, called for the use of Provincial labor to help out in the manpower shortage as far as the coal companies are concerned.

J. P. Salsberg (L.-P., Toronto St. Andrew) also backed Mr. Jolliffe.

Premier Drew said that the Provincial Government was most anxious to alleviate the fuel situation, but pointed out that the purchasing of fuel from the United States, transportation, prices, handling and local delivery were all matters under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government through the War Measures Act.

"We have done everything within our power to impress upon Ottawa the necessity for action," Mr. Drew said. "It should be pointed out that the unparalleled blockade of transportation in the United States and the tieup in mine production due to strikes have been factors. As for the suggestion that we establish some authority in Ontario, we have that power as long as the overriding authority of the Dominion is inoperative."

Had it not been for the fact that Provincial employees worked long hours handling snowplows and other equipment, there would not have been the coal deliveries that did take place, the Premier said.

"Lack of forethought on the part of those in authority at Ottawa is responsible for much of the situation," said the Premier. "Steps could have been taken long ago to establish fuel reserves. The suggestions we made did not meet with approval."