

# Drew, Hepburn Clash When Premier Attacks Ottawa Over Baby Bonus

The King Government's Family Allowances Act was projected into the Legislature yesterday when an attack by Premier George A. Drew on failure of Ottawa to consult the Provinces in this matter brought Liberal House Leader Mitchell Hepburn into sharp conflict with the Premier.

The clash between the Premier and Mr. Hepburn spread to the C.C.F. and Labor-Progressive groups, and Speaker W. J. Stewart, attempting to bring order out of what was rapidly degenerating into a rowdy episode, narrowly escaped having one of his rulings defeated in a division. The division bells actually rang, but the vote on the ruling was avoided when Premier Drew said he had no objection to A. A. MacLeod (Lab.-Prog., Bellwoods) speaking on the question which had been closed by the Speaker.

Premier Drew's Aug. 9 radio address, in which he declared that the "iniquitous bill" (the Family Allowances Act) would be resisted by Ontario, was quoted in part by Mr. Hepburn. Reading from a copy of the radio address, Mr. Hepburn quoted the paragraph in which the Premier spoke of Ontario's money going to the Province of Quebec under the Family Allowances Act.

## Warns Against Debate

"Is that his real objection?" asked Mr. Hepburn.

Speaker Stewart promptly intervened and ruled that there could be no debate on Mr. Drew's statement. It was not debatable under the rules of the House, he said. From this point on the crowded galleries were enlivened by heated argument, in which Premier Drew rapped the Liberal House Leader hard in the exchanges. When Mr. Hepburn snapped at the Premier: "Have you got the courage and resolution to back up your statement?" referring to the Aug. 9 radio address, the Premier hit back with: "Members of the House should realize that these gestures of the member for Elgin should not be taken seriously."

Mr. Hepburn jumped up amid a storm of desk-banging by Government members, and protested that, while he was not "thin-skinned," the Premier would have to withdraw this remark. When the Speaker attempted to ease the tension and proposed that the Orders of the Day be called, thus putting an end to the argument, Mr. Hepburn, red-faced, insisted that the Speaker rule on his request that the Premier be asked to withdraw the remark.

## Jolliffe Takes Part

C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe entered the fray in support of Mr. Hepburn and it appeared for a few moments as though a division would take place if the Premier was upheld.

"Let's get on with the Orders of the Day," suggested the Speaker.

"No, Mr. Speaker, I want a ruling as to this personal reflection. If the ruling is contrary to what I think is right I'll ask the House to vote on it."

"This is really only a tempest in a teapot," remarked the Premier. "I can't help laughing when I recall the names and epithets the member for Elgin has used in this House."

The Speaker ruled that he could see no reason why the Premier should have to withdraw a remark made in the course of this kind of debate, but the Premier cut in: "The member for Elgin talks about my not having courage. I'm quite willing to withdraw and leave it to his imagination what I'll say to him elsewhere on other future occasions."

## Nailing Jelly to Wall

"The Premier has conducted himself in his usual gentlemanly manner," declared Mr. Hepburn, who earlier remarked that to get anything definite from the Premier "is like nailing jelly to the wall."

In the course of the heated argument the Premier reminded Mr. Hepburn of his widely-discussed statement that Ontario was not going to be the "milch cow" for the rest of the Dominion.

Just when it seemed that quiet and order was about to settle over the chamber, the whole issue was reopened as Mr. MacLeod rose and attempted to speak on the same subject. The Speaker ruled he was out of order. Mr. Jolliffe rose in support of Mr. MacLeod's right to speak. The Speaker said he was not responsible for the rules of the House. His task was to enforce them, and the member for Bellwoods was out of order in attempting to reopen a matter which was closed.

## One Course to Follow

Mr. Jolliffe then suggested that Mr. MacLeod be permitted to speak by a unanimous vote of the House, and when this did not seem to meet with the Speaker's approval, Mr. Jolliffe remarked: "If my motion is not acceptable I have only one course to follow."

"I thought you would," remarked the Speaker.

Mr. MacLeod challenged the ruling of the Speaker and rose, along with J. B. Salsberg (Lab.-Prog., St. Andrew), and the two former C.C.F. members Leslie Hancock (Ind. Lab.-Farmer, Wellington S.), Nelson Alles (Lab., Essex North), and Mr. Hepburn.

"Call in the members," said Mr. Hepburn. The division bells started their clamor and the party whips hurried out of the House to round up stray members. Mr. Drew at this stage repeated what he had said earlier, that he had no objection to Mr. MacLeod making a statement. This served to avert a House division, though Mr. Hepburn tried to have the Speaker call the vote on his ruling.

## Question on Policy

Mr. MacLeod, having at last received permission to have his say, repeated the question he put to the Premier on Tuesday. He wished to know whether it was still the considered policy of the Drew Government to do all in its power to

oppose the Family Allowances Act and not to concur in this "high-handed action," (quoting from the Premier's address).

"The Premier should make up his mind what he wants this Legislature to do and let us dispose of it once and for all," said Mr. MacLeod.

This ended the controversy, and the House settled down to hear Mr. Jolliffe open the debate on the Throne Speech. He lost little time in bringing up the Family Allowances issues. He agreed with the Premier that the Dominion Government should have called a Dominion-Provincial conference and that the Provinces should have been consulted regarding the Family Allowances Act. Mr. King was wrong in not having called the requested conference, he said. But, said the C.C.F. Leader, the Family Allowances Act was now on the statutes and it had been placed there with the concurrence of all parties in the House of Commons.

## Support Forward Steps

"It is one thing to say, as the Premier says, that the Province should have been consulted," said Mr. Jolliffe. "And it is an entirely different thing to say that this measure will be resisted by every means within the power of the Government. I assume Ontario families will receive payment under the act in July, and I do not suppose the Government will attempt to intercept the allowances. The attitude of the C.C.F. in this House is fundamentally the same as it was a year ago. We are prepared to support forward steps, and to oppose those we do not consider in this category. We will certainly oppose any re-affirmation by this Government of its statement that it will resist the carrying out of the Family Allowances Act in this Province."

The fireworks started following a 30-minute statement by the Premier. In this prepared statement the Premier said that two announcements by Dominion Cabinet Ministers called for an immediate reply from the Ontario Government.

## Claxton and LaFleche

"One was contained in a speech by Hon. Brooke Claxton, the Dominion Minister of Health and Welfare," said Mr. Drew. "The other was by Mr. LaFleche, the National War Services Minister. These announcements were that arrangements had been made with the Women's Voluntary Services to take part in the registration and sorting of forms required for the payment of family allowances right across Canada.

"In his speech in Halifax, Mr. Claxton made it clear that he looks upon family allowances as part of a 'broad system of social security.' This Government from the beginning has been convinced that family allowances are an integrated part of the whole question of social security, and has so stated. The members of this Legislature will re-