

Drew Rouses Hepburn, MacLeod as He Charges 'Alliance for Disunity'

In a two-fisted assault that brought Liberal Leader M. F. Hepburn and Labor-Progressive Leader A. A. MacLeod to their feet several times, Premier George A. Drew yesterday in the Legislature declared that his Government would continue in office only as long as it received support for "major, constructive legislation," but no longer would tolerate dissension created by the two minority groups.

With a half-dozen different members at times on their feet, gesticulating vigorously, the Premier assailed Mr. Hepburn as "a gem of human consistency" who repudiated himself in public statements, yet constantly attacked others for inconsistency, and in a brush with Mr. MacLeod declared that "lying Communist" advertising during the last Provincial election, and since, has sought to create disunity.

When Mr. MacLeod objected to his remarks, he smilingly asked, "Oh, so you were responsible for it?" but finally was upheld by the Speaker, who pointed out that the Premier had said nothing himself attributing the advertising to Labor-Progressive sponsorship.

Charges and counter-charges flew thick and fast during the few minutes when Premier Drew, rising after C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe had concluded his remarks on the Throne Speech debate, opened his own address. When he moved adjournment of the debate, to be continued Thursday, he explained that matters raised by Mr. Jolliffe respecting education, postwar plans and similar matters would be discussed at that time.

"Alliance for Disunity"

Obviously seeking to make clear that a defeat of his Government, and an election which he said he would "enjoy" if it were not for the need of unity in wartime, could be attributed to "the Liberal-Communist alliance for disunity," the Premier declared that his Government had carried on "in the very spirit of democratic, parliamentary procedure, accepting responsibility and seeking co-operation."

On that basis it would continue, but, much as he shared the view of the C.C.F. Leader that an election should be avoided, if disunity finally forced an election he would welcome the opportunity to "test the opinion of the people of Ontario, with full knowledge of our success if that is made necessary."

Premier Drew opened his remarks by referring to Mr. Jolliffe's and Mr. Hepburn's constant description of the Government as a "minority administration." True, he said, the Government was a minority group but, he said, this made it truly democratic because it functioned as a result of the support of more than one group. Its very existence

was a proof of British parliamentary methods; no Government had ever functioned in Ontario dependent more fully on co-operation.

Ending War Main Goal

But all groups of the Legislature, he said, were affected by a more important issue: the problem of ending the war and bringing back the men overseas. This concern was general and held by no one party. Yet if this were forgotten by some members, and an election was forced upon Ontario, he would be glad to go to the people, fully assured that they would support him. That, he said, could happen if the legislator was not prepared to support legislation of a major character, designed for constructive purposes.

For this reason, he continued, he wished the record kept clear. Mr. Jolliffe had quoted from an address he had made, implying that the Premier had "reversed" his stand on Canadian unity and Ontario's desire to maintain unity. The implication was that, in asking unity, Ontario had shown disunity by his attitude on the family allowances proposals of the King Government.

The Premier then read from that speech, in which he had declared Ontario's willingness to share the exceptional resources the Province possessed, would stand behind any "legitimate measure for the existence of every part of Canada which is in need of help, and would take our full share in building a powerful and prosperous nation."

But, he said, in that address he had stressed that there was only one basis for a united nation, and that was that equality of opportunity must be attended by equality of responsibility.

Stands Behind Figures

From this address had also been quoted certain statistics, Mr. Drew continued, which refuted Federal claims of benefits to be derived by certain Provinces. Today, he said, he stood behind those statistics, despite other figures released by Health and Public Welfare Minister Brooke Claxton at Ottawa. The latter's figures, he said, had not one bit of support from the Bank of Canada nor the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. On the other hand, Ontario's statistician, who had prepared the figures for his address, had just been made chairman of an interprovincial body of statisticians—evidence of his high standing.

Stressing, however, that he believed in tolerance, Mr. Drew then pointed out that criticism of him for failing to co-operate with Ottawa was not borne out by the facts. It was peculiar that his Government had achieved a degree of co-operation with Quebec "never before reached by a preceding Government." Similarly, it had been able to co-operate in many ways with other Provincial Governments, and he then referred to the C.C.F. Government of Saskatchewan as also professing inability to obtain co-operation with Ottawa. This, he said, should reveal to C.C.F. members that he was not alone blockading Dominion-Provincial relations.

Duplessis Tie-Up

"Our ability to co-operate with Quebec, of course, will be interpreted by certain interests as proof of a Duplessis tie-up," the Premier said. "We all recall those lying, Communist advertisements—"

"I object," declared Mr. MacLeod.

"Oh, so you were responsible for them, eh?" asked Premier Drew.

When Mr. MacLeod said he would assume responsibility only for advertisements published over the name of the Labor-Progressive Party, Premier Drew said he would refuse to accept the objection unless his description were accepted as their definition. Speaker Stewart then ruled that the Premier had made no reference to Mr. MacLeod or his party and the objection was not valid.

"So the description of them still stands," said Premier Drew as Government benches applauded. "They were lying Communist advertisements."

Those advertisements, he continued, were typical of the efforts of certain interests to sow disunity in Canada. Since he had mentioned them, he continued, he intended to refer to other statements made in the Legislature. He did not intend to allow the level of legislative debate to continue to decline, he said, as it had done under the influence of the member for Elgin (Liberal Leader Hepburn).

Refers to Temperament

"I know he had been ill before the session," said Dr. Drew, "so I waited in hope that his temperamental qualities might have subsided and his rampages have consumed some of his energy. Perhaps if he had not been sick and had got up to Grey North he would have been less energetic."

"Where were you?" demanded Mr. Hepburn.

"Taking care of Ontario's business," replied Mr. Drew.

"Well, I never intended to go to Grey North," said Mr. Hepburn. "I spoke five times during the last week of that campaign, so I was able to go."

"You were reported sick," said Mr. Drew. To which Mr. Hepburn remarked that "newspapers are as erratic in their reports as you are right now."

Mr. Hepburn then commented that he had been invited to go to Grey North, which, he said, he doubted the Premier could claim. When he attempted to say something further, Mr. Drew said, "That, Mr. Speaker, is typical of the personalities to which the member devotes himself and I am not going to let him drag this Legislature down to