

been held to decide otherwise. I hope the significance of that will not be overlooked by the people of this Province when they come to vote.

Outside Influence

"Let every person in Ontario know that when the C.C.F. members come to this House to transact business, they are bound by some one outside this Legislature," charged the Premier.

"They are bound by a democratic organization," retorted Mr. Jolliffe.

"I have never heard of a franker admission of the misconception of democracy which permeates the C.C.F.," declared Premier Drew. "They can't do business as elected representatives unless there is a conference outside which tells them what to do. We don't wait for some one to decide what our course shall be."

The Premier then dealt with the report that if the Liberal sub-amendment failed, there was to be an amendment moved by the Labor-Progressive Leader A. A. MacLeod (Bellwoods). There was no need for it, he said. The Opposition amendment was straight want of confidence, he asserted.

"Let us vote on that without trailing in a lot of subamendments," the Premier urged.

"At least, on the subamendment," the Premier urged, "let us vote on the facts as they are and not on the figment of some disordered imagination."

To this end Mr. Drew said he wanted to put on record what he had said before on immigration. "Before voting let me state the position of the Government, so that there need be no doubt or misunderstanding afterwards as to how you voted."

The Premier pointed out that immigration comes under Federal jurisdiction and Federal law. "But," he said, "the Provincial Governments must assume the major responsibility for the social security of those who come here as well as those who live within their boundaries, so that we may obtain the best results for the immigrants and the other members of our population."

Assurance For Veterans

He repeated his previous statement of policy, that "no large scale immigration (after the war) should be permitted until such time as the re-employment of our war veterans and munition workers has been assured."

Contrasting that policy with the Dominion, he quoted a cable which said: "The Canadian Government is not in favor of granting preferential treatment to United Kingdom service men, even those who were serving or who had served in Canada."

Premier Drew insisted: "We have a right to ask the Government to give these men preferential treatment when the door is finally opened."

Replying to criticism of religious education in the schools, Premier Drew pointed out that in Mr. Nixon's own county of Brant the Ministerial Association and other bodies had approved it as it was approved in every other county in the Province.

Ignorant of Regulations

"But when a suggestion is made that pupils are compelled to submit themselves to sectarian teachers, that statement can only be made in complete ignorance of the regulations.

"Not a single School Board in Ontario is under compulsion to have teaching or Bible reading unless they approve." Also no teacher need teach it nor any parent permit a pupil to take religious instruction unless they approved.

"It is significant," he said, "that out of 5,000 schools in Ontario only about 40 have indicated, for various reasons, that they do not want it—and their objections are not to the course as such."

He said the present books had been amended and approved by the inter-church committee since it had first expressed fear for some dangerous indications and that body was among many asking that it be maintained.

"I'll put on record again what I have said about religious education," the Premier went on. "There's been too much emphasis on plans for the future in terms of dollars and cents instead of in terms of the character of the youth we're going to build.

Mr. Drew recalled also that he had said: "It was as part of the training of the character of the citizens of tomorrow that we expanded religious education in the public schools of Ontario." Provisions in the regulations give, he said, "the greatest freedom of conscience."

Striking evidence of the value of "faith in the decent and abiding things had been seen in the courage of the people of Britain as they stood their greatest test.

About Flag-Waving

"May I emphasize that," he said, "to those who talk here in a slighting way about flag-waving. I am not ashamed to proclaim the fact that I take pride in those who stood in the front rank of the battle as we have not, and it is because of

them that we've been able to conduct this Legislature as a free forum here tonight. There was little to sustain them except their great faith."

It was because of that and the part played by one man "to whom we all owe so much," he said, that he desired to quote the words of Winston Churchill. "They are words you may take as the present and future purpose of the Ontario Government. Here we have freedom of thought as well as freedom of conscience and religious toleration. Religion has been a rock in the life of the British people on which they have placed their cares. This fundamental element must never be taken from our schools . . . As long as I am Prime Minister it will remain!"

Know What Will Happen

"The people know what will happen if the Liberals come into power. They know religious education will be taken right out of the schools. They know, too, that the C.C.F. have no convictions. . . ." Here a storm of crossfire from C.C.F. benches drowned out the Premier's words. Speaker Stewart was forced to restore order before he could continue under threat of adjourning the House.

"If the interruptions do not stop I'll have to adjourn the House," was Speaker Stewart's warning.

In the midst of the commotion, one C.C.F. member, L. G. Robinson (Waterloo South), shouted: "The gentleman across the way hasn't the guts." To indignant cries of "Withdraw," Mr. Robinson said: "Well, intestinal fortitude is probably a better word."

Will Amend Books

Continuing, Mr. Drew said: "We have made it quite clear that the system of religious instruction we have introduced in the schools is neither final nor put forward as the last word on the subject. The textbooks are only provisional, and the Department of Education will welcome any suggestions. The books will be amended in the light of experience."

Calling for the vote to be taken on the Liberal subamendment on religious education and immigration policy, Mr. Drew declared: "We stand by our principle and we will vote on it here tonight. The subamendment is in two parts. Since it has been publicly stated from the beginning that the textbooks are provisional and to be amended in the light of experience, then a vote for this subamendment can only be a vote to take the course of religious education right out of the schools. It can't be regarded in any other way."

"We will certainly abide with the very best grace with the decision here because I believe no group in this House has greater confidence in the judgment of the people, of Ontario than we have. If the members, without a test, refuse to support what we have done, we will accept it as a want of confidence vote and the people of Ontario will have a chance to make their decision."

Jolliffe on Subamendment

At 10:45 p.m., the galleries still jammed to capacity, Mr. Jolliffe rose to wind up the debate for the Opposition.

Dealing specifically with the Liberal subamendment respecting religious education in the schools, Mr. Jolliffe said: "We believe this is not an issue for partisan controversy and that it must be dealt with according to the individual conscience of the members required to vote upon it."

"All the members of the C.C.F. Opposition are free to vote on the amendment to the amendment as their conscience direct," continued Mr. Jolliffe. "This may seem an unusual course, particularly in connection with an amendment to a motion of no-confidence in the Government of the day. We believe it to be the necessary and proper course, in the best interests of all the people of Ontario, with respect to an issue having religious significance.

Holds Strong Views

"C.C.F. members of this House know that I hold strong views on the question," continued Mr. Jolliffe. "I believe they respect these views and they know I respect theirs. To each of them I say 'let your conscience be your guide.'"