

Labor Note Is Dominant As Opposition Members Speak in Legislature

Labor took the major spot in subjects reviewed by speakers during the continuation of the Throne Speech debate yesterday in the Legislature. Members of Opposition groups were the only speakers. The Government members had concluded their discussion of the motion but Joseph Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew's), G. I. Harvey (CCF, Sault Ste. Marie) and Alex A. Parent (Ind., Essex N.) continued the debate, and J. A. Habel (L., Cochrane N.) moved adjournment, indicating further word from his party before the vote is taken.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session, Premier George Drew indicated that debate on the Throne Speech motion would probably end today, according to information he had received, but said that the House would continue to sit. Much legislation awaited consideration, he said, and this would be undertaken if and when the vote was concluded on the debate.

Calls for Home Processing

Jobs rather than labor laws figured most prominently in Mr. Harvey's address when he urged the Government to adopt a policy of insisting on processing in Canada of Ontario forest resources rather than permitting raw or partly finished forest resources to be exported. He also urged support of national health proposals, stressing that in rural areas health facilities were extremely inadequate and particularly requesting closer attention to the conditions of aged indigent persons in public homes.

Joseph Salsberg took issue with Premier Drew for attacking Communists in labor ranks, attributing the Premier's attitude to "typical reaction." Labor had always fought for its just rights, he contended, and its leaders had always been accused of treason or similar objectives. He supported his leader, A. A. Macleod, who had earlier proposed a national loan to finance low-rental housing, and proposed a Provincial program to seek \$200,000,000 to subsidize housing.

When Mr. Parent, making his first Legislature address, accused Premier Drew of having declared the C.I.O. should never enter Ontario, he crossed swords with Provincial Treasurer Frost who, in the Premier's absence from the House, declared such a statement had never been made. Mr. Parent asserted it had been said in 1937; Mr. Frost denied this. Mr. Parent promptly ran afoul of Kelso Roberts (P.C., Toronto-St. Patrick) when he said his race (French-Canadian) had taken many "slurs" from the "Tory group" and recalled that at a Progressive Conservative meeting in Toronto a speaker had been howled down for speaking French.

Mr. Roberts Explains

"I'd like to clear that up," said Mr. Roberts. "I was the speaker, not a French-Canadian. I was introducing a brilliant young man of your race and spoke his tongue in courtesy. The noise from a small group was not a disapproval of him or his race. He was elected a few minutes later to the office being considered."

"Nevertheless," said Mr. Parent, "the boing occurred when French was spoken."

Mr. Parent then took Labor Minister Daley to task for having gone to Paris in the face of a strike at Windsor of a union to which he belonged and which had sought for 18 months to reach agreement with the Ford Motor Company, which offered no good faith as a negotiating requirement. Then the Ontario Government sent in Provincial police, he said, and Attorney-General Blackwell had made an antagonistic address over the radio. In the face of this, he said, pickets walked lines for 99 days without once breaking ranks, evidence of their belief in union security which Mr. Daley publicly had said was of "little importance."

The Government had explained several times this session that housing and control of materials and labor was still a Federal authority under emergency legislation, Mr. Salsberg said, but he urged that Ontario should inaugurate its own housing program and "end its sit-down" on housing.

He advocated setting up a non-

partisan Ontario Housing Commission similar to the Hydro Commission and that the Government should float a \$200 million loan to build low-rental, not low-cost houses. Citizens, he believed, would be anxious to subscribe to such a loan.

Reminded by Planning and Development Minister Dana Porter that Tim Buck, National Labor-Progressive Leader, had advocated a national proposal to build \$50,000 houses a year, Mr. Salsberg said he agreed with the proposal but still believed Ontario should have its own plan.

Recalls Days of Old Globe

Calling for greater union security, Mr. Salsberg criticized the present Ontario labor policy as "unacceptable" and said it was at times "openly anti-labor as in the Ford strike at Windsor." He recalled that those who had opposed the printers' just demand for a nine-hour day 75 years ago had called a demonstration by 10,000 at Queen's Park "riots." Hon. George Brown of the old Globe and members of the Printers' Association had been asked to meet the printers but had refused and the printers' leaders had been jailed, he said. He roused laughter in the House when he added: "Evidently The Globe's George's are always causing us trouble."

There was laughter, too, when, early in his address, he complained: "The Government is not playing cricket in denying us (the two-man Labor-Progressive group) a room, especially when the Government itself represents a minority.

It's not the British way." He also said he "resented" being left off the Legislature's committee on art, where he felt he could be of great help to William Duckworth (P.C., Toronto - Dovercourt), chairman last year.

"I don't need any sympathy," retorted Mr. Duckworth.

Suggests Fall Session

Mr. Salsberg termed the Speech from the Throne "a device to create an illusion of motion while actually standing still," opposed the speeding up of business at this session, and suggested a fall session of the House.

He entered into an extended defense of the Communists, who, he said, were not a small group. One-sixth of the world was embraced within the Soviet Union, and added: "I am not advocating revolution, but an uninterrupted advance of the majority of the democratic people in Canada and Ontario. Revolution need not be on the agenda." Later he said: "We have never raised the question of introducing socialism in Ontario, but subscribe to a philosophy that has a world outlet. This is not an issue today—not an immediate issue, that is."

The issue today, he declared, is jobs.

Calls for Reforestation

Despite its huge production and farflung mill empire, the consumption of the Abitibi Corporation of Ontario forest resources failed by

35,000 cords to match the volume exported from the Province for processing by mills and labor elsewhere, Mr. Harvey said, in pleading for greater processing of Ontario resources. He also urged the Government to adopt a program of reforestation, not a replanting of depleted land areas, but a program to replace timber removed from good areas.

In urging closer attention to, and greater assistance for persons requiring health assistance, Mr. Harvey described an aged persons home in his riding as "a stinking, obnoxious mess." Crippled old men and women were crowded into an inadequate building, a firetrap. They crawled three or four flights of stairs three times a day to reach a cold, damp dining-room in a basement.

When questioned by Labor Minister Daley about who managed "such a place," Mr. Harvey said the manager "was doing an excellent job under terrible, handicapped conditions." His plea, he said, was the general improvement of the conditions, not just a change in management.