

LEGAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNED TO PROBE M'CAUGHRIN CHARGE

Premier Henry Moves for Inquiry in Orillia Case

Former Magistrate McCaughrin's charges that the Henry Government tried to buy him out of office will be investigated immediately by the Committee on Legal Bills of the Ontario Legislature. First witnesses called, it is reported, will be heads of The Globe's editorial staff, who were responsible for publication of the sensational charges.

Premier Henry introduced the McCaughrin case unexpectedly into yesterday's proceedings of the Ontario Legislature. He said that while Mr. McCaughrin's affidavits, published in The Globe, formed the only documentary foundation for the charges, the Government intended that there should be no delay. He moved, therefore, that the matter be referred to the committee.

Progressive Leader Nixon said he had expected that a special committee, rather than a standing one, would make the investigation, but he was prepared to concur in the Government's present action. The House then carried the Premier's motion.

The Premier's acceptance of the McCaughrin challenge had been unofficially predicted to come at the latter part of the week. Observers had predicted that the day's session would be short and unimportant and the routine prior to the Premier's motion had borne this out with the exception of a short passage at arms between Premier Henry and Harry C. Nixon when the latter charged the Government with delay in the production of answers to House orders.

Immediately after this the Premier rose and with an allusion to an "incident which came to the attention of the public in December last" forecast the subject of his motion.

"I intimated at that time in reply to newspaper comment and in reply to affidavits published in The Globe, that I had consulted the law officers of the Province and had been assured that sections of the Criminal Code had not been violated," the Premier stated. Speaking slowly and decisively he continued, "But I said that as soon as the House assembled I would raise the question of submitting this to a committee."

Pointing out that present evidence was limited to newspaper clippings, and that, although it was customary to wait for formal charges, the Government did not propose delay, the Premier declared. "If I cannot have anything else than the affidavit published in The Globe, I propose to recommend to the House that it be sent to the committee."

The Premier then addressed the Opposition benches, asking if the Opposition had the affidavit of Daniel McCaughrin in their possession, and suggesting in such case that it should be laid on the table. Without awaiting definite answer, he read the formal motion introduced in his name and seconded by Hon. Charles McCrea, authorizing that the charges of Daniel McCaughrin published in The Globe should be taken up by the Legal Bills Committee, with full power to completely investigate these charges, and with an injunction to report to the House "at all convenient speed."

Harry C. Nixon, rising after the bill had been formally reread, remarked briefly that the case had aroused considerable comment and that he had understood it would be referred to a special committee. Feeling that it was a matter for the Premier and Cabinet to handle, he expressed concurrence in the motion. A moment later the resolution was pronounced "Carried."

The Legal Bills Committee will hold its organization meeting Wednesday morning. Hon. Charles McCrea is its Chairman, and the members are: Premier George S. Henry, William A. Baird (Toronto High Park), Arthur Ellis (Ottawa South), Hon. William Finlayson (Minister of Lands and Forests), Wilfrid Heighington (Toronto St. David), A. E. Honeywell (Ottawa North), Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora), Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Minister of Highways), Argue Martin (Hamilton West), James P. Moore (London North), William Morrison (Hamilton East), F. G. McBrien (Toronto Bracondale), E. J. Murphy (Toronto St. Patrick), D. Paul Munro (Wellington South), Dr. G. A. McQuibban (Liberal House Leader), Hon. Harry Nixon (Progressive Leader), Hon. W. H. Price (Attorney-General), C. A. Seguin (Russell), Dr. L. J. Simpson (Simcoe Centre), W. E. N. Sinclair (Ontario South), E. Fred Singer (Toronto St. Andrews), Captain A. B. Smith (Essex South), T. K. Slack (Dufferin), J. F. Strickland (Peterboro' City), S. C. Tweed (Waterloo North), and F. W. Wilson (Windsor East). The great majority of the members are lawyers by profession.

Challies Tables Report On U. of T.'s Finances

The financial health of the University of Toronto was reported as "considerably better than might have been expected," in the annual statement which was presented to the Legislature yesterday afternoon by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. George H. Challies. The last fiscal year ended with an operating deficit of \$27,696, but this is being carried forward by the board in the hope that "it can be overtaken in the ensuing year." Assets included general revenue of \$1,543,280, a transfer of the special contingency account and Provincial grants, totalling \$2,681,161, and expenditures amounted to \$2,668,251. On the Dunlap Observatory \$83,529 was expended, \$41,099 on the Botanical Buildings, and \$216,850 on the Hygiene Building, the latter being made up of the earnings of the Connaught Laboratories.