

# COMMITTEE CALLS LYON TO TESTIFY

Will Give Evidence Concerning Province's Capital Advances to Hydro

## MOTION BY ELLIS

Public Accounts Group Refuses Request to Probe 1935 Item

T. Stewart Lyon, Chairman of the Ontario Hydro Commission, and T. H. Hogg, and R. T. Jefferey, Commission engineers, are to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature, next Wednesday, to give evidence pertaining to \$172,000,000 in capital advances that have been made Hydro to date by the Province of Ontario.

The resolution calling for their subpoenaing was moved before the committee at its organization meeting yesterday by Arthur Ellis (Cons., South Ottawa). Mr. Ellis was balked by the committee on his request for authority to investigate a similar \$4,000,000 item appearing in the Public Accounts of 1935, on the ground that the committee could not go back further than a year in its inquiries unless with the consent of the House.

It is expected that such consent will be asked immediately by Mr. Ellis, and that he will proceed at a later date with the second half of his probe in this connection.

"I object to going back to 1935," declared Provincial Secretary Nixon, when Mr. Ellis raised the issue. "We have no power to do so without instructions from the House."

"But have you any reason for objecting to any item in the public accounts for any year since you came into office?" Mr. Ellis retorted. "Why object? You should be only too glad that full light should be thrown on any item. If you want to go back and examine any expenditure during the Conservative regime I, as a Conservative, certainly have no objection. If there is something to hide it should be given the light of day. What objection can there be to examination of 1935 items unless you are worried?"

Mr. Nixon declared heatedly that the Government had nothing to hide, and Attorney-General Roebuck, Government counsel to the committee, charged Mr. Ellis with making a political speech. "It is all very well," he said, "to throw out hints that someone is afraid of something. That may be good political warfare. But the question is one of the authority vested in this committee by the House. My friend (Mr. Ellis) had better think this over. If he wants to go into the 1935 accounts, he must follow the proper procedure and request the House for permission for this committee to do so."

Mr. Ellis also moved to investigate further expenditures on the Kenora - Fort Frances Highway, totalling \$1,677,892 during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1936. In particular he seeks to investigate aggregate payments of \$8,807,779 made in respect of northern road construction and bridge work to the Dufferin Construction Company. R. M. Smith, present Deputy Minister of Highways, and R. A. Campbell, who was Deputy Minister last year of the now defunct Northern Development Department, will be subpoenaed for examination under these items.

# Urges Bonus Plan For Rural Doctors

Would Provide Prompt and Adequate Medical Care in Outlying Districts, Dr. Harold Welsh, M.L.A., Contends

Establishment of a system of bonusing physicians so that people of outlying rural districts could be provided with prompt and adequate medical care when they required it, was urged upon the Hepburn Government last night by Dr. Harold A. Welsh, Conservative member for East Hastings.

Making his first set speech in the Legislature since his victory in the by-election of last December, Dr. Welsh said that many of the patients whom he and other physicians brought to the Belleville General Hospital from remote sections of Hastings were in a critical condition when they arrived, due, in most cases, to the distance they had to travel for hospitalization. If the Government could see its way clear to paying part-time salaries to some designated physicians, so that they would be more readily available to outlying areas than they now are, and the fees they ordinarily charged would not be prohibitive, a great boon would not only be conferred upon the type of rural people affected, but the action would rebound to the credit of the Administration.

Dr. Welsh expressed the hope that some definite form of health insurance was not far distant in Ontario.

Dr. Welsh made his maiden effort a spectacular one when he crossed swords with Premier Hepburn, Dr. Faulkner and Hon. Harry Nixon over the Grand Jury report on alleged overcrowding at Mimico Hospital.

## Hectic Debate.

The debate grew hectic when Opposition Leader George Henry and the Prime Minister started a duel on their own, ending up with direct threats against each other's political party. Mr. Henry demanded an apology from the Premier for what he declared was deliberate rudeness, but it was not forthcoming.

Premier Hepburn denied the truth of the Grand Jury findings, declaring that the foreman of the jury admitted later that he had been misquoted in the press.

It was at this point that Mr. Henry asked the Government what were the findings of the Grand Jury, and the Premier, apparently exasperated, retorted:

"Oh, what do you know about it, anyway?"

"I think I am entitled to an apology from the Prime Minister," declared Mr. Henry. "I merely asked a civil question."

"You were dealt with by a grand jury of the people," returned Mr. Hepburn.

"The other jury will sit before many months go by and you'll have to face it," thundered Mr. Henry, amid applause from his followers.

A few moments later the Premier explained that when the foreman of the Grand Jury was asked to make a statutory declaration, he said he had been misquoted in the press. He had been quoted as saying that patients were eating off the floor of the institution.

## Queries Crowding.

"I wasn't referring to the matter of eating off the floor or off the table," said Dr. Welsh. "It was said that there was serious overcrowding. Is that true?"

"The Grand Jury that says the Mimico Hospital cannot accommodate more than 800 patients is ob-

viously wrong," said Hon. Harry Nixon.

"What we want to know is this: Is the Grand Jury report right or wrong?" asked Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. Davids).

"It is wrong," answered the Premier. "That is what we have been trying to tell you."

Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner, Minister of Health, said the hospital had accommodation for approximately 1,300 patients.