

NIXON INSISTS SPECIAL FORCE STILL REQUIRED

**Ontario's Best Insurance, He
Answers Critical Opposi-
tion**

COST \$119,000 IN YEAR

**Conant Denies Suggestion It
Is Maintained as Club
Over Union**

Conservative Opposition sniping at the Provincial Police Force reserve, mobilized during the Oshawa strike crisis, was turned bluntly aside yesterday during the closing hours of the Legislature session by a Government declaration of policy that the reserve would be maintained while times remained unsettled.

"It is the best insurance that Ontario ever had," declared Hon. Harry Nixon, Provincial Secretary.

And again, during the course of debate, he stated: "The Province never spent money to better advantage, and as long as times remain as they are, they are going to be kept on."

To George S. Henry (Cons., East York) he retorted a "Don't be absurd," to the former Conservative Leader's claim: "They were only put on for election purposes."

Cost Set at \$119,000.

Hon. Gordon Conant, in setting down the estimates for the administration of justice, and the police force, revealed that the reserve had cost \$119,000 up to March 31.

Injected into the debate by W. H. Baird (Cons., High Park) was the suggestion that the reserve was being maintained as a club over the C.I.O.—affiliated Motor Workers' Union

"I come from Oshawa, and I think I know the sentiment there as well as any one. The charge is absolutely false. We are not holding a club over any group," replied the Attorney-General

The entire issue flared into the open when Colonel T. Ashmore Kidd, Kingston Conservative Whip, dubbed the reserve a "Gilbert and Sullivan Army," and demanded details of the cost and administration.

Equipment at Queen's Park.

The reserve, Mr. Conant stated, consisted to date of 305 who were being paid at the rate of \$100 each per year. The force at the time of organization totalled 376. Equipment, said the Attorney-General, is maintained at Provincial Police Headquarters at Queen's Park. Estimates for the coming year, covering the cost of maintaining the reserve, were listed at \$30,500. Members last April and May received on an average six weeks' training.

"After their period of training was finished they went their different ways, but their equipment was left here," said the Attorney-General.

Colonel Kidd charged that Premier Hepburn's election promise of giving veterans a preference, provided they were qualified, for Civil Service positions had not been implemented. He demanded a report on the number of veterans on the reserve and information as to whether the Government had rehired members of the regular police force who were dismissed after the Hepburn Administration took office in 1934.

Claims Politics Entering.

Up rose Colonel Fraser Hunter (Lib., St. Patrick), who was entrusted with the training of the reserves, to declare that Colonel Kidd was making "a political speech" on a serious matter. He claimed he had lost several hundred votes in the last election because of a roorbach, for which he held Denton Massey, Conservative M.P., Greenwood, responsible, that "Hunter, this ex-Bengal Lancer, was riding at the head of an army into Oshawa."

"There was not one man who served in Oshawa," he declared. "The original recruits had nothing to do with politics, and I want to tell you there were more Tories than Grits on the force."

Colonel Kidd hammered on: "It has been stated by the Treasury benches that any veteran who was qualified was given preference, and that statement is not true."

"That is true," retorted Mr. Conant. "There were not only 32 per cent of the men on the reserve who were returned men, but every one was put on who applied."

Wants Reserve Disbanded.

George Challies (Cons., Grenville-Dundas), in urging that the reserve be disbanded, claimed that in this Anglo-Saxon Province, the Provincial and Dominion forces were wholly capable of handling any emergency.

"That's what you think," said Mr. Nixon.

"Why not give \$100 to the returned men and disband the force?" asked Mr. Challies.

"Why not give it to the C.I.O.?" countered Colonel Hunter.

"And ask them to be good," added Mr. Nixon.

A. Holly Acres (Cons., Carleton) broke in to say that he was entirely behind the Government in its stand.

Suggests Ottawa Would Act.

L. M. Frost (Cons., Victoria) referred to a statement of Premier Hepburn, made at the time of the Oshawa trouble, to the effect that Ottawa's vacillating policy made it impossible to count on assistance from the Federal police. Would it not be possible, he suggested, to clear this situation so that the Province could count on Federal police aid in an emergency, and so that the Provincial reserve could be disbanded at a considerable saving to the Province?

"The Government believes," replied Mr. Conant, "that the force should be retained as it is as a matter of policy."