

PROROGATION EVEN ON FRIDAY HELD DOUBTFUL

The Ontario Legislature is making such slow progress towards its 1939 sessional wind-up that Premier Hepburn at midnight last night said the House would sit until three this morning and expressed the belief that even a Friday prorogation might now be out of all question.

"And if we go beyond Friday," said he, "we'll probably be here all next week."

At 12.30 during Mr. Hepburn's temporary absence from his seat, Provincial Secretary Nixon announced to the House the three o'clock hour that had been decided upon.

"Why that's silly," observed Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Cons. South York.)

"We must make some progress," said Mr. Nixon.

"We have sat around here about fourteen hours today, I appeal to the Government," said Mr. Macaulay.

"We must make progress," declared Mr. Nixon.

Frayed tempers, drawn to a thin point in the early hour of the morning, broke shortly before one, when Colonel Drew, nettled by the manner in which the School Law Amendment Act was being considered, moved that the House committee rise.

"This is an insult to the House that we should be left here to try to carry out important legislation of this kind while others, among whom was one who gave two long-prepared speeches and introduced a bill as a sort of stage play without any idea of having it put to a vote, have left the House. It is an insult to the Minister of Education. I don't think the remnants of this House should be left to deal with such an important bill as this," he said.

"I do assure the leader of the Opposition that there is nothing contentious in this bill," replied Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, and Colonel Drew's motion was lost in the vote.

Second reading disposal of four bills—all contentious and lengthily debated by both sides of the House—constituted the work done by the House yesterday. At 12:30 the members were still busily engaged in arguing principle of a fourth bill—Hon. T. B. McQuesten's Highways Traffic Act amendments.

The House committees have completed their deliberations but the estimates have still to be voted and on these the Opposition expect the various government ministers who have not yet addressed the Assembly this session to "speak their piece" on behalf of the departments they administer.

The session was originally and unofficially scheduled by the government to finish on April 21. That date under the pressure of business developing was set back until today, Wednesday. Last night when the Premier was asked when the final curtain would fall, he simply threw up his hands saying: "your guess is as good as mine."