

EXPECT HOUSE RECESS APRIL 9; BUDGET PASSED

**Drew Criticizes 'Waste'
as \$115,000,000 Total
Estimates Approved**

HEAR HYDRO REPORT

Ontario's \$115,000,000 budget, highest in the Province's history, received Legislature approval Thursday night when Liberal members rolled up a 51 to 19 vote to defeat a Conservative amendment asking the Government to slice \$25,000,000 from the estimates.

Adoption of the main motion to enter committee consideration of the estimates, cleared the session program to a degree that led members to anticipate a Wednesday night recess.

The wind-up of the budget debate witnessed a slashing attack by Conservative Leader Drew upon the "wasteful extravagance" of the Government and an unequivocal denial by Premier Hepburn, backed by a Hydro report, of Opposition charges that the Commission faced a power shortage.

The Premier made one reference to the C.I.O.-led strikes which are threatening the United States defense program. "If I have ever done one constructive thing that I am proud of, is that," he said, of his 1937 stand in opposition to the industrial unions then headed by John L. Lewis.

"You can thank this Government, and give some credit to the Leader of the Opposition, that in our war industries there is no anarchy and no bloodshed such as that taking place across the line."

"Cut Governmental Costs."

Adoption of Colonel Drew's resolution was not necessary, Mr. Hepburn said. "The Opposition members can move to reduce any item in the estimates as they are presented. The House holds the power of reducing or rejecting any item in the estimates. There is no use in sending these back to the departments. The departments already believe that the items to be presented are at the lowest figure or they would not have presented them."

To his demand "to cut expenditures to the very bone," Colonel Drew coupled a plea to eliminate duplicating services of government.

Only five years ago, the budget was \$65,000,000, he said, and he argued that if Premier-Treasurer Hepburn could finance the Government's operations on that figure then, that he should be able to operate on \$90,000,000 at a time when economy was even more imperative.

Ontario could help most in the national war effort by eliminating every unnecessary service and by economy. But there was no suggestion of economy, he said. "There is no pretense of ending the wasteful extravagances of the past few years," he added, in declaring that the \$115,000,000 budget meant a \$30 contribution to the Treasury from every man, woman and child in Ontario.

Calls It Nonsense.

"While the present Premier has been Provincial Treasurer taxation has increased enormously, and the net debt of the Province has been increased by \$149,000,000. This means that he has failed to provide for the current obligations to the extent of \$27,000,000 a year, and if we are to arrive at the actual cost of government an average of \$27,000,000 a year must be added to what is already shown as annual expenditure. To talk of a surplus of \$12,600,000 in the face of that fact is unadulterated nonsense," said Colonel Drew.

"Let the Government show it is prepared to do what it is asking the people of this Province to do," said Colonel Drew as he introduced his motion:

"That the debate be adjourned and that the estimates for the current year as submitted to the House be referred back to the executive council with instructions to decrease the total amount of supply asked from the House by the sum of at least \$25,000,000."