

APRIL 9

EXTENSION BILL IS PRESENTED TO LEGISLATURE

Rumors of Possible Snap Election, but Leaders Confident

Second reading of the bill to extend the life of the Legislature will not be called this afternoon. When the House adjourned at 11 p.m. Premier Conant was asked when the extension bill would be called for second reading, and he replied that he was not prepared to say, but it would not be Friday.

Queen's Park was alive with rumors. There was talk of possible defeat for the extension bill and dissolution of the House as a result; of Liberal members changing their attitude on the question of an extension; of a "snap" general election with Premier Conant leading the Liberals in a campaign; and dozens of other rumors of similar character.

But the political figures who say nothing, but know plenty, are confident the bill will go through, though they concede there will be Liberals who will vote against the Government. Furthermore, they are convinced in their own minds that there will be no general election in Ontario this year.

When the bill was introduced at the afternoon session there was a brief, sharp clash between the Premier and Opposition Leader George Drew, who pressed for a statement in view of the importance of the measure. This the Premier refused to give, declaring that he would give all the information at second reading.

"This is a most important bill, probably the most important we have had this session, because it determines whether Parliament is to be extended without the ordinary vote of the people," said Col. Drew. "In view of this bill, and the shrewd

guesses made in the newspapers concerning the probable course of events, the sooner the facts come right out in the open the better it will be not only for ourselves but for the public who are entitled to know."

Speaker Clark intervened to say that it was not in accordance with the rules of the House to debate a bill at first reading.

"I don't think I am debating the bill," said Col. Drew. "But I feel it is perfectly proper for me to make a few observations to the House. I think the Premier should make a statement."

"It is a most extraordinary position to take," declared Premier Conant.

"It is a most extraordinary bill," retorted Col. Drew.

All Ontario Deputy Ministers already have been in conference with an Ottawa official laying plans for postwar rehabilitation, Premier Gordon Conant revealed in the Legislature last night. Mr. Conant made his statement in reply to Leopold Macaulay (Prog. Con., York South) who urged that a committee on reconstruction works be set up in connection with rehabilitation plans.

Discussion arose during passage of \$136,750 public works estimates over a \$50,000 item for preparation of a plan of postwar construction and works. The House also passed Attorney-General's Department estimates of \$3,045,365.