

## CONANT'S USE OF POLICE CARS INQUIRY TOPIC

Entries in Log Found  
in Names of His Wife  
and Son, Roger Conant

Use of Provincial Police cars by Premier Conant when he was Attorney-General, and by his wife and his son, Roger, was under inquiry yesterday before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature. A log for the year April 2, 1941, to March 31, 1942, showed 360 entries in the name of Mr. Conant for cars used and two entries each in the names of Mrs. Conant and Roger Conant. In the then Attorney-General's name one entry showed a station wagon absent three weeks and cars in use from two to six days on other occasions. Destination of cars in Mr. Conant's name were given as Oshawa, his home, in a number of instances.

Opposition Leader George Drew, questioning Inspector E. Hales, in charge of the police garage, elicited the information that police chauffeurs had at times driven the Conant car. At Col. Drew's request officers who had driven the cars will be before the committee Monday morning to explain the cars' destinations. The committee was told that cars in Mr. Conant's name, while ordered on his authority, had been used by others on departmental business, such as delivering press releases.

Arthur W. Nicol, secretary to the Attorney-General, said cars had been used on inspection trips by Mr. Conant in connection with the work of the Civilian Defense Committee and the Volunteer Civil Guard of which he was chairman. He said he ordered cars on two occasions for Mr. Conant which were driven for him by Mrs. Conant. He did not know what use was made of the station wagon between Aug. 4 and 25, 1941, or of cars over week-ends.

Colonel Drew asked for a check on mileage for the station wagon for the three weeks and for other extended trips and for particulars of Provincial chauffeurs driving Mr. Conant's private car, kept in the garage.

An entry showed a car leaving the garage March 26, 1942, for Niagara Falls, on authority of Mrs. Conant, had been driven by J. E. Cook, a police driver, with Mrs. Conant as passenger, Inspector Hales explained. Possibly authority had come from Mr. Conant to get the car and pick him up.

He told the committee gasoline on out-of-town trips was bought on credit on an identification card at any of the larger companies.

Asked if he had any explanation of Roger Conant's having a car out all night, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. to March 28 at 10 a.m., Inspector Hales said "it would be on his father's authority."

## SOME LIBERALS ARE OPPOSED TO EXTENSION

Several Plan Voting  
Against Measure on  
Second Reading Motion

The bill to extend the life of the Legislature is slated to make its second appearance in the House Monday afternoon. It was learned yesterday that a recorded vote on second reading will find Harry Nixon and other Liberals voting against it.

The extent of the opposition to the measure within Liberal ranks is reported to have changed almost from hour to hour. Mr. Nixon, who will contest the leadership at the party convention this month, told the recent Liberal caucus that he would oppose the bill in a House vote. Farquhar Oliver, former Welfare Minister, is another who, it is said, will vote against the Government. It is believed there are about six other members on the Liberal side who are prepared to do likewise.

Unless there is a last-minute change of plans, the Progressive Conservative forces will oppose the bill. A united Opposition bloc, plus anywhere from half a dozen to a dozen anti-extension Liberals, may result in a slim majority for the bill if the Liberal attendance in the House at the time of the vote is not up to the mark.

Premier Conant declined to make any comment on the extension bill, refusing to say when it was proposed to call it for second reading. Approached when the House adjourned yesterday afternoon, the Premier shied away from any question concerning the bill, but from another source it was learned that the likely day for second reading is Monday.

Those who profess to be "in the know" say the extension measure will pass second reading. They point to the fact that 95 per cent of the Liberals at the last caucus voted for an extension, and it is their belief that the proportion has not changed to such a degree as to imperil its passage.