

APRIL 14

MAY ESTABLISH CENTRALIZATION

Resolution Impending Over Car Control

Persistent Opposition probing into use of Ontario Government cars by departmental officials in connection with what has been termed the Province's "million-dollar taxi bill," and into highway contracts extended without tender, will culminate almost certainly this morning at a final meeting of the Legislature Public Accounts Committee, in a resolution demanding some form of centralized control of cars.

Further, the Opposition will probably offer a resolution urging inquiry into Hydro car use. Such an inquiry had been refused by the committee.

Highways Minister T. B. McQuesten told the committee yesterday when a trip to Hamilton, his home, was under discussion, that his practice is to pay rent for any cars he uses on private trips. The rental charged was \$1.25 an hour, based on examination of maintenance costs over three or four years, and he said the charge was ample.

Col. Drew told the committee he would introduce certain formal resolutions embodying the committee's findings at its final meeting this morning, just before the House enters on its final session and prorogation.

THIRD READING ON BARGAINING

Only Royal Assent Needed to Be Law

The Ontario Government's bill to provide for collective bargaining was given third reading in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, and now needs only Royal assent to become law. The assent will be given today, it is expected.

Also given third reading was the bill which will amend the Judicature Act so that a labor court can be set up within the Province's Supreme Court to administer the provisions of the collective bargaining bill.

Second and third readings were given to a bill providing for the raising of money on the credit of the consolidated revenue fund, while third reading was given to the bill providing for relief for Ontario residents in the armed services in respect of certain obligations relating to their homes.

Object of this legislation is to protect financial equities which those in the armed services have in their homes.

The House gave committee approval and then third reading to four other pieces of legislation. They were the Statute Law Amendment Act, 1943; the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act, 1943; an act to amend the Gasoline Handling Act; an act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act.

Ontario Legislature Turns Down Resolution to Name Fuel Committee

By a recorded vote of 31 to 12, the Ontario Legislature last night turned down a resolution to name a fuel committee "to inquire into the fuel situation in this Province and to recommend to the Government such measures as should be adopted to assure the greatest possible supply of fuel for the coming winter."

The resolution was sponsored by W. A. Summerville (Prog. Con., Toronto-Riverdale), and was supported by J. J. Glass (Lib., Toronto-St. Andrew's) when the vote was taken. Many members debated the fuel issue and the suggested development and use of peat, but Premier Conant explained that Dominion and Provincial Governments had spent a

quarter-million dollars some years ago investigating the use of peat and found it impracticable.

Motion by G. H. Challies (Prog. Con., Grenville-Dundas) asking a return on the brief on the St. Lawrence deep waterways project was voted down after Premier Conant insisted the matter was confidential, and had international aspects.