

DREW OBJECTS TO RULING OUT OF PROPOSALS

Resolutions Barred From Legislature by Accounts Committee

Opposition recommendations to the Legislature regarding centralization of departmental motor car control, limiting profits of the Ontario Liquor Control Board, change in allocation of highway contracts, and earlier calling of the Public Accounts Committee during the House session were ruled out yesterday at this committee's final session before prorogation.

Chairman L. J. Hagey (Lib., Brantford) ruled, and was upheld by other members, that it was not according to practice that recommendations should be made to the House by the committee, though Opposition Leader George Drew insisted that the whole purpose of the committee was defeated if such recommendations, based on investigations, were not made.

Ottawa Practice Cited.

Col. Drew objected to the limited time for discussion, and pointed out that public accounts should be called earlier in the session. He recalled that in Ottawa resolutions of the Public Accounts Committee were forwarded to the House, and contended there was no reason why it should not be done in Ontario.

A. Belanger (Lib., Prescott) said the rules did not permit recommendations to the House, but that all the evidence taken before the committee would be available in printed form for the members to make their own decisions as to its import. This was an unwritten rule, supported by lengthy interpretations of the rules of the House, rather than a written rule, he argued. With refusal of the committee to accept Col. Drew's recommendations, the committee closed the last of several weeks of hearings.

Gist of the Resolutions.

Col. Drew's resolutions were, briefly: "That the present system of directing and controlling the use of Government-owned cars is unsatisfactory, and provides no adequate protection against improper use and extravagance," and recommends "a system of centralized control"; "that the business practices of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario should be made to conform with the general principle of limiting profits . . . and the Government should insist that there be efficient and fair distribution, and that the price basis should not be predicated upon unconscionable profit"; "that road contracts should be awarded only on the basis of tender"; and that "the Public Accounts Committee should be called within a few days of the opening of the session."