

## RULE PREVENTS C.C.F. MEMBER TALKING HEALTH

A ruling by Speaker Stewart prevented William Dennison (C.C.F., St. David) from discussing health insurance legislation in the Legislature last night. When the C.C.F. member embarked on what was to have been a lengthy discussion of this subject, the Speaker ruled that he could not speak in support of a health measure which he (Mr. Dennison) had introduced in the House. There was also a Government bill on the same matter, the Speaker declared.

Mr. Dennison dealt at length with attacks made on the C.C.F. by those who feared its growth. They were similar in method and pattern to the successful attacks made on the Progressive Party in 1923, he declared. But the C.C.F., he asserted, had withstood the barrage, and the reason was that it was no ordinary political party, but a party of the people.

The member for St. David twitted the Progressive Conservative Party for the change of name approved at the Winnipeg convention, and declared that as far as the two old historical parties in the Province were concerned, he did not doubt that there would be a merger if a C.C.F. Government came into power. The former party leader, Earl Rowe, said on Dec. 5, 1937, that he had prevented efforts on the part of the present Premier George Drew, to effect an alliance with the then Premier, Mitchell Hepburn.

"Even Mr. Drew, admitted that there was talk of coalition but he blamed it on Mr. Rowe," said Mr. Dennison. "In a statement to the press on Dec. 5, 1937, he said: 'Mr. Rowe told me that Mr. Hepburn had proposed coalition to him and had given him assurances which would have resulted in what would have amounted to a joint leadership of the Government between Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Rowe with the assurance that Mr. Rowe would succeed him.'"

## May Build 300 Miles Of Rural Hydro Lines

Three hundred miles of rural Hydro lines will be constructed in Ontario next summer if the problems of labor and materials do not interfere with the program, Hydro Chairman George Challies (P.C., Grenville-Dundas) informed the Legislature yesterday.

He said the commission has accepted 4,000 farm contracts and 2,000 urban contracts for electrical services, the largest volume in the history of the Province for a like period.

"Last year 44 miles of rural Hydro line were constructed," said Mr. Challies. "We are asking the Dominion authorities to let us construct 300 miles of rural line this summer. If we can get labor and materials we will pursue this program as fast as possible."

In reply to an Opposition question, Mr. Challies said the 300-mile program would be divided among all parts of the Province on the basis of need. Abolition of the rural service charge would result in a possible loss of revenue to the commission of \$527,000, but increased use of power would offset that, it was explained.

The House gave second reading to the bill amending the Rural

Power District Service Charge Act and the bill setting up the Hydro Advisory Council. In connection with the latter bill, it was suggested by Flt. Lt. L. E. Wismer (C.C.F., Riverdale) that instead of a per diem allowance the members of the advisory council should be paid a fixed sum. Premier Drew said that the setting up of the council was a new development and he believed changes could be made after a basis of experience had been established.

C. H. Millard (C.C.F., York West) took exception to the wording of a section in the bill setting up the advisory council. This section provides that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may terminate the appointment of any member who, in his opinion, has become unfit to continue in office or is incapable of performing his duties.

It was Mr. Millard's belief that the words "who in his opinion has become unfit to continue in office" should be deleted from the section. This would change the section to read: "The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may terminate the appointment of any member who is incapable of performing his duties." Premier Drew said the Government would give consideration to this suggestion.

## END OF DEBATE LIKELY TONIGHT

The Throne Speech debate may come to a close tonight, it was indicated in the Legislature yesterday. Dana Porter (P.C., Toronto-St. George) will wind up the Government's end of the debate, and C. H. Millard (C.C.F., York West) will perform a similar function for the Opposition.

The C.C.F. Opposition will caucus today and will consider the question of introducing an amendment to the Speech from the Throne. While the possibility of such an amendment has not been ruled out, it is believed the Opposition will not seek to grasp the opportunity of causing a House division and a recorded vote. In the event of a vote, it is almost certain that the Government, with the aid of Liberal members, would be sustained.

The Legislature will carry on tonight, and if present plans work out the debate will end before the House adjourns.