

February 23.

call that I made this clear and very definite statement on behalf of the Ontario Government on Aug. 9 last. At that time I said: "We are in favor of every proper step being taken to encourage large and healthy families. We believe in sound provisions for family allowances and social security."

Must Be Consulted

"That was our position then," said Mr. Drew. "That is our position today. I have stated over and over again that we regard family allowances as one of the most important social services; that it is therefore within the exclusive constitutional jurisdiction of the Provinces; that the Provinces must be consulted if

there is to be any effective administration of family allowances."

The Premier told of the repeated requests made to Mr. King for a Dominion-Provincial conference, and disclosed that no reply had been received from Mr. King to the two latest communications addressed to him on the subject. The last was a wire sent the day before the session opened, Mr. Drew said.

Mr. Drew stressed that his Government had made abundantly clear at all times that it was not seeking to raise constitutional issues but rather was seeking to avoid constitutional issues in the future. If the Family Allowances Act was part of a broad system of social security, "and we have never been in doubt that it was," then this act was an intrusion upon the Provincial field of jurisdiction without any consultation of the Provinces, the Premier asserted.

Criticism of the manner in which the Dominion Government proposes to take the registration in connection with Family Allowances, was voiced by Mr. Drew.

A Briton's Castle

"To British subjects everywhere the home has been a castle, where not even the King may enter except by invitation or legal warrant," said Mr. Drew. "Now we are told, however, that parents who apply for this allowance will be laying open all the details of their lives, their marital status and relations, secrets bravely and sadly borne, tragedies proudly endured, to the reading and examination of those who, no matter how admirable they may be as individuals, are, after all, neighbors living in the same community who are bound by no oath of office, nor by the traditions and control of our slowly developed staffs in the public and private welfare services.

"Our children's and soldiers, our great Protestant, Catholic and Jewish welfare bureaus and other trained agencies dealing with the family are completely disregarded.

"A Shameful Thing"

"To submit the parents of this Province, and especially those of low incomes who have not been able to avail themselves of the full opportunities for education, to the interrogation and even advice of those without special training would be a shameful thing," declared the Premier. "Nothing that I have said carries any reflection upon those splendid women who have worked so hard in the Women's Voluntary Services. I know that their motives are of the highest, but they banded themselves together for patriotic war service and not for civilian social work."

In his concluding remarks the Premier said: "I repeat with the utmost emphasis that we are in favor of a proper system of family allowances, properly administered. But it would be nothing short of a breach of public trust to disregard the serious consequences of the course now being followed by the Dominion Government. The glowing promises of the Dominion Government are being built around a constitutional house of cards."

Mr. Jolliffe made a detailed criticism of Premier Drew's 22-point platform and the extent of their fulfilment. While he was not going to launch "a tirade against broken promises," he said, he believed the people of Ontario elected the Drew Government in 1943 believing it would hold office during the post-war crisis. For this reason they had taken its pledges "very seriously" and expected action. "Action must be taken if we are to keep faith," Mr. Jolliffe declared.

At 5:30 Mr. Jolliffe adjourned the debate; he will resume Monday.