

March 3

Challies Denies Hydro Is Unfair

George H. Challies, vice-chairman of the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission, denied categorically in the Legislature yesterday charges that the Commission was discriminating against employees organized into a union or was supporting or financing a "company union."

The matter was raised by J. B. Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew) who asked if such charges made at a meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council Thursday night were true. Mr. Salsberg said the Electrical Workers Union had claimed "active opposition" by the Commission and that it was conducting "a most unfair and costly campaign to upset our efforts" among Hydro employees.

"The Commission has not discriminated in any way against any union," Mr. Challies replied, "nor is it financing any company union. It has spent no funds to oppose any union." Under the Hydro set-up, he added, the employees' association is an entirely independent body which the Commission has no means of dominating. The Association's affairs were solely its own, it collected its own dues and published its own magazine quite independently of the Commission, he said. He also pointed out that it was unfair to demand answers on questions of policy from responsible ministers without giving at least 24 hours' notice.