

April 5.

End of Ontario House Session Expected Today

With the exception of late legislation, which Premier Drew described as not involving deeply contentious issues, the Ontario Legislature last night swept the order paper clean, so that it could assemble today with every expectation that by late afternoon it would have become history.

The House will sit at 11 a.m. today, for an early session, during which several Government bills will be considered in committee stage. Returning from noon adjournment, to sit again at 3 o'clock, the House will give the same bills third reading, and the 1946 session will be concluded. When Premier Drew proposed the foregoing last night as a program which would enable the House to wind up without a night session, Opposition heads nodded in agreement.

Opposition resolutions which had stood on the order paper until last night were also cleared away, one of them occasioning a sharp brush between Premier Drew and Labor-Progressive A. A. MacLeod (Toronto - Bellwoods). This resolution, sponsored by Labor-Progressive Joseph Salsberg (Toronto-St. Andrew), called for appointment of a select committee of the House to recommend a labor code. In his support of the motion, Mr. Salsberg at considerable length recalled earlier discussions on such a proposal and charged that Premier Drew had pledged such a committee a year ago, yet had not fulfilled the promise.

After listening for some time, the Premier rose and said: "I'm rising to put an end to the repeated misrepresentations of those two Communists. They have no true interest in labor and are following the party line decreed by Tim Buck, who openly stated they have adopted a policy of developing demands. . . . The last thing those two men want is industrial stability, because they have been getting their bread and butter from creating industrial unrest for years."

Recalls Explanation

Quoting then from Hansard, he declared that he had clearly explained a year ago that the legislation to appoint such a committee was being tabled in event that the whole question of a national labor code was not considered at the Dominion-Provincial Conference, which was much to be desired, and in which case the appointment of such a committee would be unnecessary. It was that reason, he insisted, that the motion which he had made a year ago was not implemented.

Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Salsberg then charged that the Premier had never revealed whether the conference had considered labor legislation or a labor code. Premier Drew promptly rose and declared that he had informed the House to that effect, but recalled that on many occasions he had explained that, because the conference was "a continuing conference," he had felt obligated to not reveal the extent or full result of such discussions as had occurred.

A resolution in the name of C.C.F. Leader W. J. Grummett, proposing that the Province recommend to the Federal and other Provincial Governments an amendment to the British North America Act to enable Dominion legislation for the marketing of farm products, was attacked by an amendment tabled by Premier Drew. This amendment accepted the preamble of Mr. Grummett's motion, but then commended the Province for the marketing of farm products and urged the continuance of Provincial marketing plans. On a non-recorded division, the Government amendment was accepted and the resolution was defeated.

A resolution in the name of Robert Carlin (C.C.F., Sudbury) urging a labor code covering hours of work, wages, etc., was declared out of order by Speaker W. J. Stewart inasmuch as these matters had already been dealt with in legislation passed by the House.