

EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, May 22, 1959.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, at long last I see a quorum and we will proceed with our meeting. It is my pleasure to announce that, pursuant to your action of last meeting, I selected the steering committee, comprised of the following members; Deschambault, Aiken, Bell of Carleton, Howard, Richard of Ottawa East, and Webster.

This group met on Tuesday and gave some consideration to questions of agenda. As I recall our collective thought, it was felt that we might, with feasibility, proceed with the recommendations suggested by the chief electoral officer; that we might subject him to questions and elicit his views on certain other suggestions which have come in from various sectors of the public. We need not, necessarily, proceed in this session towards that very important and somewhat Herculean task which has eventually to be performed by this committee, the close and detailed, section by section survey of the act with a view to amendments to be passed on to the house.

The steering committee paid some special attention to the letters which were presented to us at the previous meeting by Mr. Castonguay, and certain considerations have arisen which affect the decision taken at the last meeting. It has been discovered that several of these letters are—to all of us, so far—quite indecipherable. That is one factor.

There have been, since then, memoranda from the office of the Secretary of State referring to several other letters which have come in and which are not, therefore, included in this group. The steering committee concluded that it would be better—indeed, perhaps necessary—that these be not printed, because of these technical reasons; but that the chief electoral officer might make a summary of the letters and note the suggested amendments to the Canada Elections Act to which they refer.

We have received—and I will table these—two notes from the office of the Secretary of State, dated May 15 and May 19, doing just that with respect to other letters. That is the report of the steering committee. It will be up to the committee to take action relative to its action of the last meeting, and I am prepared to entertain a motion along those lines.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Mr. Chairman, I would move that the summary alone be printed as an appendix to these proceedings.

Mr. HOWARD: I second that.

The CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Howard: that the letters be printed in summary and that the chief electoral officer prepare that summary. Is that agreeable, gentlemen?

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: I am happy to have with us the Secretary of State, showing his interest in this committee. We do appreciate your presence, sir, and ask you to take a place with us. I call upon Mr. Castonguay and Colonel Anglin to come before us again.

Our first item today will be consideration of the amendments proposed and tabled by the chief electoral officer at the last meeting. If he has any comment to make at this time, we will be happy to have him do so: if not,