

[Text]

to the candidate, "You can buy time, but the parties cannot buy time." Allocate more time to the parties. Extend the CBC principles to the private sector, that is with regard to candidates themselves, leaving them the choice amongst the media and subsidizing that to a certain extent.

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One can argue whether or not 2 cents is an adequate subsidy for all media spending; that is another matter. But they felt that so far as the private candidate is concerned, in a country like Canada, spread out so widely, with the problems of concentration in metropolitan areas and the redistribution of seats that a person running in Grenville-Carleton would have to use a station down around Cornwall as well as the Ottawa stations in order to get the coverage. They felt this should really be left up to him, that one could not make a rational thing except in terms of individual candidates. One cannot write 264 clauses, a clause for each seat, into a law. They therefore left it up to them to pick them.

The Chairman: Mr. Foster. I might say Mr. Walker has waived his supplementary.

Mr. Foster: Apparently, Mr. Walker, you are a real kind soul. I would like you to go into the detail on anything you feel you have not covered on the subsidies and the transfers in the Quebec system. For instance, you mentioned that the scrutineers are paid for by the state. Are there any other examples like this? After covering that, I would like to know what features of the Quebec and the Nova Scotia schemes you think are not suitable to a federal program. What would you recommend in the federal program?

Mr. Paltiel: The Quebec scheme involves a limit on parties and candidates, the reimbursement of expenses to candidates, the payment of poll agents, whom you call scrutineers, one for each of the two leading parties.

Mr. Foster: Just of the two main parties.

Mr. Paltiel: This has been the complaint of the smaller parties, even those with representation. They are divided pretty well like the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk or the enumerators in urban areas.

Mr. Foster: Are they the two leading parties in that constituency in the previous general election?

Mr. Paltiel: That is right.

Mr. Foster: Not in the province?

Mr. Paltiel: No, no. We will not know now until the next election. I could not analyze the information for 1970—you have heard Mr. Drouin—because the figures will not be out until next month. I did speak to him but they were not available. We will know then, because we know that the legislature in Quebec now comprises four parties whereas you had two parties plus an independent in the two previous elections. The other thing was the provision of voters lists.

Mr. Foster: I see. To each party?

[Interpretation]

prendre lui-même cette décision. Chaque candidat est un cas particulier et la loi ne peut pas reproduire 264 articles qui trancheraient cette question.

Le président: Monsieur Foster.

M. Foster: J'aimerais plus de précisions sur toute question que vous auriez omise concernant les crédits et les transferts dans le système du Québec. Par exemple, vous dites que les scrutateurs sont payés par l'État. Y a-t-il d'autres exemples semblables? De même, quelles sont les grandes lignes des systèmes du Québec et de la Nouvelle-Écosse qui, selon vous, pourraient convenir à un régime fédéral.

M. Paltiel: Le système du Québec suppose des restrictions imposées aux partis et aux candidats, le remboursement de leurs dépenses aux candidats, le paiement des agents de scrutin, que vous appelez scrutateurs, un pour chacun des deux principaux partis.

M. Foster: Seulement pour les deux principaux partis?

M. Paltiel: C'est ce dont se plaignent les partis moins importants, même ceux qui sont représentés au Parlement. Ils sont divisés, comme le surveillant du bureau de scrutin, le secrétaire d'élection ou les énumérateurs, dans les régions urbaines.

M. Foster: Il s'agit des deux principaux partis dans la circonscription à l'élection précédente?

M. Paltiel: Oui.

M. Foster: Non pas dans la province?

M. Paltiel: Non. Nous ne le saurons pas avant la prochaine élection. Je pourrais étudier les données pour 1970; les chiffres ne seront pas publiés avant le mois prochain. Il y avait à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec deux grands partis et un parti indépendant aux deux élections précédentes. Il y en a maintenant quatre. Il fallait fournir aussi la liste des électeurs.

M. Foster: A chaque parti?