

Canada Elections Act

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): —I will continue, if the House is disposed so to allow me.

Mr. Baker: Absolutely.

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): Thank you very much.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): The hon. member was dealing with a very serious point.

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): My colleague from Rocky Mountain—this is not related to the subject matter before us—has national parks in his riding which are second in rank only to those in my riding, the great parks of Yoho, Glacier, Mount Revelstoke and Kootenay.

Returning to the topic before us, I believe I was reciting to hon. members subsection 4(1) of the Canada Elections Act. Perhaps I could refer members to it for their own edification. They can find it in the Revised Statutes. They will note, no doubt, that there is a direct conflict between the duties of the commissioner, who must see to the administration of this act, and the statutory responsibility now imposed on the Chief Electoral Officer, who exercises general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections.

Admittedly, it might be argued that the duties proposed for the commissioner to see to the administration of this act are broader and encompass more than the Chief Electoral Officer's supervision over the administrative conduct of elections. However, I suggest to members that the obvious answer to the argument regarding the conduct of elections is what the Canada Elections Act is all about. Then I wish to point out to hon. members—

Some hon. Members: Seven more seconds to go. Six more.

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): —that a very serious conflict arises—

Some hon. Members: Four seconds. Three seconds.

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): —in respect of proposed new clauses—

Some hon. Members: Two seconds. One second.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hour and five minutes provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, this House accordingly stands adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock.

At five o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.