

*Canada Elections Act*

persons concerned with election organization in the riding of Shefford, found some in ditches, Mr. Speaker. Yet voting was devised to enable us to choose a legitimate elected government, not an usurped one. I found ballot boxes in the ditch, and the people responsible for that state of affairs know all about it. That is unacceptable. I regret that nothing is changed in that field and that electoral expenses are not controlled.

A royal commission enquired on the matter of electoral expenses. I read its report many times, as probably all members concerned, and especially members of the committee on privileges and elections.

In reading that report, we find that members—and once again, I do not wish to offend anyone,—are elected by money and not by the people. We also find that money is the prime factor of the people's confidence in a government. If you are willing to pay such and such an amount for our vote, we shall vote in your favour. The same persons turn around and go to the candidate of the other party and say: If you are ready to buy our vote for so much, we shall vote in your favour. They pocketed money from both sides. The people who do such a thing, Mr. Speaker, are voting for the Ralliement Cr ditiste.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues refuse to change the present system, they are running the risk of having some day a Cr ditiste government, because voters are fed up and tired of a fraud system that does not do justice to a country like ours which has so many examples throughout the world to prompt it to change its electoral system.

I would have many further remarks to make, but I know that several members are also interested in speaking on the subject.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the house on electoral frauds and to say that we disagree entirely with the proposal put before us, namely, to change nothing to the present procedure as far as the armed service ballots are concerned.

I think that we now have the opportunity to prove beyond any doubt that we are responsible and that we are not afraid to face the voters.

If the Liberal government and the Conservative party are not afraid to face the voters, they will have no fear of amending the present elections act in order that everybody will be entitled to a free, strictly honest and unpretentious vote. However, should they be afraid to face the people, they will

be using the same methods in order to win elections as those used in the Shefford and Sherbrooke constituencies.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. Speaker—I have to repeat it over and over again because it is necessary in order to be understood—I beg the intelligent ministers and members of the government now listening to me, although few are present, to inform the minister that, for the fourth time, we are asking him to conduct an investigation concerning the armed forces. I wish I could say it in English but, Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak this language well enough and in fact I am afraid I would stumble in my speech. I ask that an investigation be carried out regarding those members of the armed forces that are stationed outside of Canada with a view to reviewing their election system and to control what goes on at election time, not only to have one or two persons testify but to thoroughly investigate the situation. I think that the situation has deteriorated generally to the extent that members of the armed forces are unaware of whom they are voting for.

Mr. Speaker, they are not told what is going on in their country and in their constituencies but they are told that the better man is Mr. So and so. The serviceman does not fill out his ballot-paper himself, as this is probably done by the sergeant, the colonel or whoever teaches military drill or sentences them to detention for misbehaviour.

I am not making any charges accusations, but we have doubts, Mr. Speaker, since no definite information has been given to us. I think that, to enlighten the committee on privileges and elections, it would be quite appropriate for the hon. minister to have such an investigation conducted, which would not necessarily be expensive but would prove that the government is willing to modernize the elections act.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the mover of this bill which I trust will be referred to the committee on privileges and elections. Personally, I wish to assure the hon. member that I will give my most sincere attention to his motion, while expressing the reservations I have just mentioned concerning members of the armed forces and public servants serving outside Canada.