

Commons when parliament opened because about 50 votes were missing in a couple of ballot boxes, which had no effect whatsoever on the outcome of the election.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: That can be easily cured if all the ballot boxes are not in on the official eve of the voting. There is a maximum period of two weeks in which the returning officer may exercise his authority, until such ballot box or ballot boxes which are delayed because of distances and inaccessibility arrive. A simple method would be to reduce the period of two weeks to one week. Then you would have had your seat on time.

Mr. CARTER: Well, I move that. I move a motion to that effect.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think you will have to make some provision for the fact that at least in a very close election, the other ballot boxes might affect the election. There would have to be some flexibility. In Mr. Carter's of course, he had practically all the votes anyway.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: In a close election we have always taken steps to have an aircraft go in to get the ballot boxes, so that the boxes would always be there; because a recount generally follows a very close balloting and it must be ordered within four days after.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): With reference to that trip to Australia, I suggest that our Chairman should request his leader to send him to the parliamentary association meeting in Australia this summer, and then he could spend his time studying the system over there.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no objection to that suggestion—but perhaps you might carry it further.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Might I ask Mr. Castonguay one or two questions in connection with his report of May 8, 1958? He stresses at page 3 of this report, the report on the inquiry being made by Mr. Justice Wilfrid Lazure. Has that report been received?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The report has been received. I have appointed counsel to prosecute, to take proceedings against one person. Proceedings have been taken, and we have received convictions. As soon as the period of appeal has been reached—about which I must consult counsel—I am prepared to submit that report.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): You will be submitting it to the committee at that time?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: According to the Canada Elections Act I have to submit the report to the House of Commons within the first ten days of each session. Whether I would have to wait until the next session, I cannot say. I propose to do it at the next session, because the period of appeal would have expired by that time. But whether I am permitted to submit it to this committee, without first having submitted it to the house, I do not know.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I should think not.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I would think it would be to the house first. But I can see no objection to its going to the house as soon as the period for appeal expired.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The act permits me to do it within only the first ten days of each session.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): That is something that should be clarified.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Have you had legal advice on that?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: No.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That you could not do it earlier.