

Supply—Secretary of State

those people in the government party who are receiving money for the next election campaign will begin to see the relevancy of this whole question of expenses and the need for possible reform. It is for this reason that my remarks have been so extended. I hope that the organizations which have to do with election matters on behalf of hon. members will give some thought to this very complicated matter.

Mr. Howard: Before the item carries I should like to say a few words. I am indebted to the hon. member for Port Arthur for raising this particular matter. There is one subject connected with it that I should like to deal with in so far as it affects election expenses or, more particularly, election contributions. Whenever this particular section of the Canada Elections Act has been dealt with, parliament has either re-enacted the provision or has said it is desirable that candidates of political parties make known to the public contributions which they have received, and also their source.

I say that in essence parliament has made a decision in this regard by reason of its enactment or re-enactment of the provision. I do not know when the provision first became part of the Canada Elections Act. Form 61, which deals with the return of election expenses, contains form No. 63 which sets out what the official agent is supposed to do. The hon. member for Port Arthur referred to a book which contains instructions for returning officers with respect to by-elections. I assume they would apply also to general elections. On page 265 of this book, under item No. 1, we find the following:

1—Receipts.

(a) Money or its value received.

There are accurately set out hereunder the name and occupation of every person (including the candidate) and of every club, society, company or association, from whom any money, securities or the equivalent of money was received in respect of expenses incurred on account of or in connection with or incidental to the above election, showing in the case of each person the amount or value received as a contribution (including subscription or gift), loan, advance, deposit or otherwise.

In essence parliament has decided it is desirable that the official agent of the candidate shall make known to the public the amounts of money, the loans, the gifts, the bequests, the securities, or anything else of a similar nature, contributed toward the expenses of the candidate in a particular constituency. Although parliament has decided that it is desirable for the public to know where this money comes from, this requirement is not met because of the existence of provincial or national associations of political parties. If, for argument's sake,

my official agent, or any candidate's official agent, receives the sum of \$5,000 from the national or provincial party, the entry he makes on the return is: "Name, C.C.F., provincial, British Columbia, or Yukon section," or whatever it may be. "Address, British Columbia; occupation, political party," I suppose. The source of the \$5,000, whether it is from a company, association, society or the like, is not revealed; it is hidden.

If parliament has decided that it is a desirable thing to make known to the public the contributions toward election expenses, in so far as the official agent is concerned, then to me it is an equally desirable thing, or even perhaps more desirable, that parliament should enlarge this and say it is also in the public interest to make known the contributions which are made at the national or provincial level as well. Otherwise, although parliament has decided it is desirable to do this sort of thing, a loophole would exist so that anyone who wanted to make a contribution with strings attached, as Senator Douglas and others have pointed out has happened, as a sort of prepayment for favours expected, could do so.

Anyone who wished to engage in this sort of contributing with strings attached, could easily evade the provisions of the Canada Elections Act as passed by parliament by making the contributions initially to some person other than the official agent. He could make it to a national association, or a provincial association, or even to a constituency association. On the return the agent could say that the money was received from some general source within the party. This gets around the provision of the Canada Elections Act which parliament decided was essential when it said that the public should have knowledge of most of the contributions made toward election expenses.

Item agreed to.

Civil service commission—

66. Salaries and contingencies of the commission including compensation in accordance with the suggestion award plan of the public service of Canada, \$4,486,681.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say a few words on this item which relates to the civil service commission. I noted in the *Gazette* of this morning a further reference to Dr. Chaput and his case. The article reads:

Chaput says he'll reply in few days

Dr. Marcel Chaput, vice president of a Quebec secessionist movement, yesterday said he will reply within a few days to an invitation that he quit his defence research board job.

He said he will issue a statement replying to Dr. J. E. Keyston, vice president of the board. Dr. Keyston said Thursday Dr. Chaput's "political activities" are incompatible with his work as a federal government civil servant.