

*Canada Elections Act*

That is the information I want to get and that is exactly the information the minister refuses to disclose. Consequently, this motion will bring about no change at all if the said passage is maintained, and I quote:

—without, however, altering the present method of balloting by the armed forces—

We must change this procedure, Mr. Speaker. I urge the sponsor of this motion to change that sentence to read.

—however, by altering the present method of balloting by the armed forces—

Then, he would be able to tell between a man who goes forward and a crayfish.

Mr. Speaker, I said I would be brief and I shall be.

The third part of the motion concerns the members of the public service who are posted abroad.

Here again, Mr. Speaker, I do not understand anything. I quote the relevant part:

—that members of the public services of Canada and their dependents stationed abroad shall be enabled to cast absentee ballots in the manner prescribed for the armed services—

There is not only too much cheating in the method of balloting used by the Canadian armed forces, but the situation would be even worse if the members of the Public Service posted outside Canada were treated in the same manner.

Mr. Speaker, I do not accept that. I would like our Elections Act to be completely revised, so that it be adapted to our modern life. We are clever enough to give a free vote. Mr. Speaker, when I consider the number of impersonations at each election, I am flabbergasted and I cannot tolerate such a situation. One knows that money is circulating in all constituencies in Canada during an election campaign, that there is blackmailing and that refrigerators, electric stoves, crayfish, in short, all you can think of, are offered to people. One also knows that advertising which says the same thing over and over again without being controlled, leads people astray in many cases. I do not speak necessarily about Liberals or Conservatives; I mean that our electoral system is basically rotten.

Mr. Speaker, these are so many methods we must expel from present electoral system. Our governments will be much better because they will be more free, more legitimate, more desired and not imposed. That is the reason why so many voters are absent: our governments are not wanted.

[Mr. Fortin.]

When I organized the campaign for my party on the occasion of the by-election in the Hull constituency, the member of parliament was Mr. Caron. At that moment, I realized that there were more undecided people, more people who did not vote. Why? We cannot explain it.

Mr. Speaker, the mover of the motion said, a few moments ago, that 33 per cent of his constituents did not vote. Now, if the Liberal party, The New Democratic Party, the Progressive Conservative party and the Ralliement Cr ditiste have been unable to bring those electors to vote, it is because they are utterly disgusted by what is going on in the political field—and I can but approve on the main of this—because of the out-of-date and unsatisfactory electoral methods used in Canada, a free country. However, it is possible that they are not public-minded, and we must react against this. I admire the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he spoke about the permanent democratic participation as a means of getting the people involved in what is happening in this country.

Secondly, they should be given every possible chance, every opportunity to vote, and to do so honestly.

Mr. Speaker, I regret, of course, that everything cannot be put together, that everything cannot come within one motion, and I regret that no mention is made of identity cards, as a means to avoid such a fraud.

I regret also that there is no mention—still in the same field—of an amendment concerning the manner of voting for members of the armed forces.

I also regret that no mention is made of civil servants posted abroad, so that they could vote as intelligent people should do—I suppose they are—honestly, respectfully, individually and not collectively, as it is done in the armed forces.

I regret also that those who are away from their riding on voting day, are not given more incentive to vote. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks on the transportation of ballot boxes.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Nobody mentions this problem, but we know the scandal which occurred in the province of Quebec, during the provincial election, in connection with the transportation of ballot boxes. I myself, with other