

Mr. MACNICOL: I would like to point out—

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if for the convenience of the committee we could get Senate Hansard of that particular date?

Mr. HEAPS: The members can get that themselves.

Mr. GLEN: There is no use cluttering up the whole record with the debates of the Senate; those who wish to get them can get them and see the record for themselves.

Mr. MACNICOL: I started to say that I believe it would be worth while to point out in any reference to compulsory voting in Australia that the climate of that country is warm whereas compulsory voting in Canada in the winter time might present very serious difficulties for many thousands of voters, particularly if the election were held on the 15th of January in Saskatchewan or Alberta with a cyclone raging. That condition does not prevail in Australia. In my humble opinion the records of compulsory voting in Australia could not possibly apply to Canada unless our Election Act distinctly stated that no election should be held in the months of December, January, February or March.

A MEMBER: Or during a cyclone.

Mr. HEAPS: The worse kind of cyclone is a political one. However, Mr. Chairman, I think one of the reasons which contributed to the voting result of the last election—the large turn-out—was because election day was a very fine day, and that helped to bring the voters out.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, we will change the subject a little and refer to the reference that was made to this committee yesterday in the House which deals with redistribution.

Mr. HEAPS: How can we logically discuss that even now if we have not decided upon the form of voting that is going to take place. Suppose this committee were to decide upon P.R.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no conclusions given, as I understand it; it is only a matter of making suggestions as to the circumstances.

Mr. HEAPS: If we were to decide on P.R. the whole question would be entirely different.

Mr. GLEN: We will have to put that reference in the record because the order of reference will have to be added to.

The CHAIRMAN: It is only a matter of putting on the record something that will provoke thought.

Mr. GLEN: It will be necessary to include it as an order of reference, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand, for instance, that yesterday we had the four subjects proportional representation, alternative vote, compulsory registration and compulsory voting, and to that order of reference must now be added redistribution? Don't you think that that should be carried into the record?

The CHAIRMAN: No, it is referred to the committee, and Mr. Butcher, after dealing with these other subjects which came under the first reference, is now going to give us some information in connection with the reference of yesterday.

Mr. GLEN: I thought that, perhaps you might wish to have it put formally on the record as part of the order of reference.

The CHAIRMAN: No, we do not need that.

WITNESS: I have studied the method of effecting redistribution in Australia and New Zealand only to date.