

—whether we are going to touch that principle at this time or not. Because, by making a hodge-podge type of arrangement we may end up by developing or we may develop new problems in other sections.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: This amendment I recommend is not introducing a new principle in the act; it is strengthening the principle that is now in the act. But permitting people under 21 years and permitting anyone who is not an elector to act as an election officer introduces a new principle.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I think I agree that if we are going to continue the principle in the act we must strengthen it as it is here. Mr. Richard has pinpointed the problem, that if you take people who are residents and not electors you have really no means of finding out who they are.

The situation is that if they are electors they are on the list and they turn up at the poll in some official capacity. Then the party organizations have a chance to check that person through an official list. If it is just a matter of residence, then it seems to me you would have to have a city directory and a rural mail directory for your people in the area, and you would have a very considerable problem on your hands. No doubt there has been a breach of the provision in the act, so far as students are concerned.

All of us know that students have acted from time to time and I do not think anybody has ever raised any serious complaint about it. But to import a completely new principle of residence only to qualify I think might be very dangerous and very difficult for the party organizations in those ridings where the organizations sometimes are not the very best. I have in mind ridings such as Cartier, which has created problems in every election.

On the other hand those of us who have ridings where there is not too much difficulty in elections would perhaps go along with this; but there are ridings in this country where we have to have the tightest possible control.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any comments, Mr. Castonguay?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The only thing is that, in connection with the requirement that a person be a qualified elector to act as an election officer, we find that they give residence in the constituency for the purposes of receiving their cheques. When we cannot find them on the list we find them on the lists of other electoral districts.

I do not know how we would check where these residences were. People who have residence in other electoral districts could give residence in districts in which they are working, and just get their cheques; and then we have no means of finding out whether they are qualified residents of the district; because their names might not have appeared in any other list.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything further?

Mr. HOWARD: Without prejudice to any future position I might take, I am still of the opinion, especially in so far as poll clerks are concerned, and enumerators, that this provision, so far as being a registered voter is concerned, should be waived. But because we intend to make an exhaustive study at the next session—which I hope will be done early in the session—I would agree to endorse these suggestions, with that qualification, that it does not bind me in any way to a position in review later on.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand, Mr. Howard, that you have expressed the view of the subcommittee when it had a discussion. The purpose was that we look at these things today as amendments to the existing act; the house ordered us to do that.

It is conceivable that the term "elector" could be re-defined, and therefore the operation would be quite different. Is there anything further?