

Mr. MUTCH: I would so move.

Mr. MACINNIS: Mr. Chairman, would you repeat the last part of the section again?

The CHAIRMAN: "The person who is chief electoral officer at the date of the coming into force of this act, shall be paid a salary of ten thousand dollars per annum as from the first day of July, 1947."

Mr. MACINNIS: As you all know, I have had no legal training, but it seems to me that this is rather strange drafting for this section. This Act may not come into force for some little time. Before it does come into effect the man holding office at the moment, for whom it is provided, might pass out of the picture—I hope he will not—and if someone else takes his position he will be holding office either as the acting chief electoral officer or else as the actual chief electoral officer. It seems to me that the section should be redrafted, first of all so as not to put the chief electoral officer on the same basis as the deputy minister. I think he should be put on the same basis as a judge because he is in a much different position from a deputy minister.

Mr. MUTCH: For the purposes of tenure of office he is on the same basis as a judge in the amendment.

Mr. MACINNIS: Yes, he is on the same basis as a judge, but as a matter of fact he not only, in my opinion, in a certain sense has an administrative position, but he has a sort of judicial position as between the various political parties, and he must have the same independence as a judge, and he should, I think, be put more on that basis. The salary that we accepted last year, perhaps, should be changed so that a new man coming in would not come in at the higher salary immediately, but I have no idea at the moment in my mind of the drafting. Still, I think it is very awkward drafting.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, the problem we had to solve in the drafting was just with regard to the objections you have talked about, namely, that we are providing for the appointment of a future chief electoral officer, presumably, and yet we want to retain the privileges and rights of the incumbent. I agree that it would be an awkward business if anybody tried to appoint a new chief electoral officer before this Act came into force; but this Act will come into force, presumably, in the course of the next four weeks, and I think we can count on Mr. Castonguay not resigning in that time.

Mr. MACINNIS: You are not counting on Mr. Castonguay; you are counting on the Almighty.

Mr. MUTCH: If Mr. Castonguay should be so inconsiderate as to die in the interval, this other situation can be avoided by refraining from making the appointment until the Act comes into effect.

The CHAIRMAN: I was going to add that and go one step further and say that in the event of these rather unexpected things—

Mr. MACINNIS: Undesirable.

The CHAIRMAN: —undesirable things happening; should Mr. Castonguay cease to hold office and should the government inside of four weeks appoint a successor, I should think that when the Act came into force in any event the new man would revert to the provisions made for him at the preceding session and at the most he might have the advantage of \$2,000 for a short period between now and the coming into force of the Act.

Mr. MUTCH: And if there is an election within the first four months of the appointment he will certainly earn it.