

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That was discussed at the time the legislation was before the house at the last session. I think there was general agreement it was not a proper subject to go before the broadcasting committee and should go before this committee.

Mr. AIKEN: Might I suggest that perhaps when we have concluded our work in respect of the Canada Elections Act, at that time we might consider asking for further terms of reference.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. It is conceivable there might be quite a lapse of time between now and the conclusion of our work. It is difficult at this time to predict. I think the steering committee, when formed, might have a look at the general picture.

If that is all of a general nature, I would like to call to the committee one of its star witnesses of the past, an expert on this question of elections, the chief electoral officer, Mr. Nelson J. Castonguay whom we are very happy to have with us. With him we have the assistant chief electoral officer, Colonel E. A. Anglin. Both these gentlemen are very well known to the committee.

EVIDENCE

Mr. NELSON J. CASTONGUAY (*Chief Electoral Officer*): Mr. Chairman, since the Canada Elections Act last was referred to this committee for study in 1955, I have received representations and suggestions for amendments to it. I advised all the persons making representations and suggestions that I would submit their representations and suggestions for the consideration of this committee whenever the Canada Elections Act was referred to the said committee for study. If I may I would now like to give you these suggestions. These are all the original letters containing the suggestions and representations.

The Canada Elections Act permits me to make suggestions in respect of amendments for the more convenient administration of the act. I have prepared a draft mimeographed bill with explanatory notes of all the amendments I propose to suggest. They are of a technical nature and in my opinion they would be an improvement to the present provisions, if the committee decides to adopt them.

For each member of the committee I have prepared a kit containing the amendments, plus a copy of the Canada Elections Act, plus a copy of my remarks in respect of the last two general elections of the House of Commons.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have much to say beyond that.

Mr. KUCHEREPA: May I ask a question? Have you had many complaints regarding the difficulties in reading the office consolidation of the Canada Elections Act by the public?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: No. I received only one complaint from one official agent in respect of the office consolidation of the Canada Elections Act. It will appear in these letters which I have submitted to the chairman.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): May I ask what will happen to these letters? Will they appear in our record?

The CHAIRMAN: I would think the committee might move they be printed as a part of our evidence of today.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): I move that that be done, if it is necessary and if it is what has been done.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: It has been done in the past.