

that was situated in their neighbourhood and wanted to vote there also. In a couple of cases they voted in both places—to which I objected.

However, there were several who came there and then found they could not vote there. They were quite annoyed about it and there was a lot of complaining. They did not make use of their franchise the week previous. Their place of domicile—register—was out of the riding, but they were living in the riding, of course, off the R.C.A.F. station.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: That problem exists in every electoral district where we have military establishments. There is only one way to control it, and that is compelling members of the Canadian forces to vote merely through the service voting procedure. That means they would not be entitled to take part in civilian polls in this country. I am not trying to suggest that it needs controlling, but if the committee wish to avoid this, and simplify the work of election officers, then the only way is to compel servicemen in Canada to vote through their service voting procedure.

Mind you, they have six days to vote; they can vote at any military establishment in the country if they are on leave or furlough. In that way, it could be controlled very easily, and this problem would not arise; but it will always arise as long as the present regulations stay as they are. As long as they are permitted to vote at the civilian poll, this problem will always arise and be very difficult to control.

Mr. GRILLS: I think it does need controlling—and I say that respectfully—because of the confusion that it causes, if for no other reason.

Mr. KUCHEREPA: Do you think it might be desirable, for example, to have a permanent list for these 21 ridings to which reference has been made, as a way of alleviating some of the problems that face your officials and the candidates in these ridings?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: A permanent list requires at least a bi-annual revision in order to bring the list up to date; that is, to record anyone who has left, who has come of age, or has died. You would need officials to operate in this way in these remote polling divisions.

Mr. KUCHEREPA: You would not have that list for enumeration; you would only have revision?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: I do not have any problems there—when I say “problems”, everything is relative—but in these remote areas, do not ever think the enumeration commences on the 49th day and ends on the 44th day. I have power, under the act, to extend the period of enumeration. I do extend the period of enumeration under certain circumstances, when we cannot get in there—that is, the returning officer cannot select a point and get the supplies to the enumerator so he can commence his enumeration on the 49th day. So I extend the period of enumeration in these areas to a time when we can get an enumerator in there, or the supplies in there.

That only happens, under our present system—except for the last few years—once every four years, so there is leeway. The only leeway I have not got, and the only power I have not got is to extend the polling day, if the returning officer cannot get in with the ballot box. There are not many places where we have not been able to get in with a ballot box, including these 21 districts. In one case we dropped them in James Bay; the box, which was on a parachute, fell into the water. They wired me up there and asked me if they could dry them out and use them, and I said, “Yes, go ahead”. They fished them out of James Bay. But I do not think that would happen in many places.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: It seems to me that the main advantage is simply to cut down the total time for the election, and the problem of enumeration is just as great in Toronto as it is in Mackenzie river, from that point of view.