

Your Committee notes that during the present session Parliament has adopted certain measures respecting the office of Representation Commissioner and its duties, in addition to those assigned to him under the Canada Elections Act and under a measure to provide for the establishment of Electoral Boundaries Commissions.

Your Committee has considered carefully the following practices and principles with a view to improving Canada's electoral procedure:

1. The establishment of a permanent list of electors.
2. Method of absentee voting.
3. Method of proxy voting.
4. Advance polls.
5. Lowering of the age of voting from twenty-one to eighteen.
6. The Canadian Forces voting rules.

7. The distribution during a general election or by-elections to official candidates of lists containing the names of electors of their own electoral districts serving with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Your Committee also recommends investigating the possibility of amending the Queen's Regulations for the Navy, Army, and Air Force to permit candidates and their agents to visit, during an election, the residences of armed forces personnel on property under the control of the Department of National Defence without in any way prejudicing existing security regulations in force with respect to National Defence establishments.

During the course of its meetings, Mr. Nelson J. Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer, was heard and examined. Present also at those meetings were Colonel E. A. Anglin, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Brigadier W. J. Lawson, and Captain J. P. Dewis, R.C.N.

Considerable information relating to the Canada Elections Act was tabled before the Committee at the meetings either on the initiative of the Chief Electoral Officer or at the request of the Committee in the form of prepared statements, memoranda and answers to questions.

A great number of communications received during the years 1960 to 1963 by the Chief Electoral Officer's Office and/or the Secretary of State Department from individuals, organizations and others were tabulated and printed in the Evidence.

Your Committee believes that this material which was either ordered printed or filed with the Committee will be of major assistance to the Committee when reconstituted at the Second Session of this Parliament.

Your Committee proceeded to consider certain amendments to the Act suggested by members of the Committee and the Chief Electoral Officer, which amendments the Committee accepted.

The recommendations of your Committee, prepared in the form of draft amendments, are appended to this Report. Other draft amendments which your Committee has considered but not adopted will be published as an Appendix to the final Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Committee to be used as reference by a future Committee of its so desires.

Your Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be empowered to study the Canada Elections Act at the earliest possible date next Session with a view to affording this Committee an opportunity for exhaustive and constructive examination and study of the said Act.

Your Committee wishes to record its appreciation to the Chief Electoral Officer and his Assistant for their helpful testimony and assistance.