

to the house such proposals relating to the said act as the committee may deem to be advisable.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. KUCHEREPA: For clarification, do those fundamentals preclude us from submitting further recommendations to the house relative to the Canada Elections Act?

The CHAIRMAN: Further than those put forward by the Chief electoral officer?

Mr. KUCHEREPA: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not a legal officer, but nevertheless I should think they do not preclude such. However, I think in order to avoid the necessity of an immediate interpretation, we would be perfectly safe in proceeding with the recommendations of the chief electoral officer. Of course we are perfectly safe in calling upon him at our first meeting.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Before you do that, I wonder if I might draw the attention of the committee to something which took place in the House of Commons at the last session. It seems to me this committee should take some cognizance of the matter. I am not asking we take cognizance of it today. I am merely giving notice. Perhaps the simplest thing for me to do would be to read from *Hansard* of August 26, 1958 in respect of an amendment I moved to the Broadcasting Act which was later withdrawn at the request of Mr. Nowlan, the minister. This is at page 4119.

Mr. Chairman, in view of what the minister has just said and in view of the opportunity we have had to air the matter, if the minister were prepared to give the assurance that at the next session of parliament—

That is the one we now are in.

—the whole question of political broadcasting would, on the initiative of a member of the government, be remitted to the committee on privileges and elections for study with a view to making recommendations as to suitable legislation, because this is not the kind of legislation the government should design—

Mr. Nowlan interrupted and said this:

I am perfectly prepared to do that. I felt that I could not accept the amendment in the words in which it was phrased.

In view of that understanding given by the minister to bring this matter to the attention of this committee at the beginning of the session—I admit this is quite a long way, we hope, from the beginning of the session—the amendment was withdrawn and I believe that the committee ought to give consideration as to how this matter could be brought before it.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. AIKEN: I feel this would be a matter for the house because we are not sitting to discuss estimates or anything of that nature. We are starting out to consider the Canada Elections Act. That is all the house has referred to us. I would think it would be a matter to be arranged in the house, unless we want to assume much more work than we can handle at this session.

The CHAIRMAN: It is conceivable that the matter may be discussed before another committee which is now sitting dealing with the other aspect of the case.