

Mr. MURPHY: As to that point which Mr. McLure emphasizes, let us take an extreme case. It might be that the deputy returning officer has initialled only one ballot ahead of time. Therefore to prevent him from so initialling the next one as to know, later on, how that particular voter voted—if he has to initial 300 ballots ahead of time, then he cannot keep a record of it. But if you give him the opportunity to initial the ballot prior to the voter taking it, then he might change his handwriting, or employ some other idea that might enter into his head, and the result would be that the secrecy of the ballot is no longer in existence.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the committee was sound in wanting to tighten up the initialling last year. I suggest, sir, that this amendment would defeat the purpose of the committee, or the committee should reconsider its decision and leave it in the manner in which the electoral officer suggests, knowing that it won't give effect to what they want.

Mr. MACINNIS: I move that section 21 carry.

The CHAIRMAN: As it stands?

Mr. MACINNIS: As it stands.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): Do you mean to say that when he does not initial them, the people cannot vote?

The CHAIRMAN: No. The chief electoral officer should instruct his deputy returning officer that the section of the Act must be obeyed. On page 3 of the mimeographed copy there is an amendment, amending subsection (2) of section 34, reading as follows:

(2) Each of the agents of such candidate, and, in the absence of agents, each of the electors representing such candidate, on being admitted to the polling station, shall take an oath in Form No. 35 to keep secret the name of the candidate for whom the ballot paper of any elector is marked in his presence.

Is there any explanation necessary?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The present provision prescribes that a candidate's agent is to keep secret the name of the candidate for whom any of the voters has marked his ballot paper in his presence.

No voter marks his ballot in the presence of a candidate's agent. When the voter is incapacitated and he cannot vote without assistance, then his ballot paper is marked by the deputy returning officer in the presence of the sworn candidate's agent at the poll, and this is the object of this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Then will somebody move?

Mr. MACKAY: I will move that form number 35, found on page 8 be carried.  
Carried.

FORM No. 35

OATH OF AGENT OF A CANDIDATE OR ELECTOR REPRESENTING CANDIDATE (Sec. 34)

I, the undersigned (*insert name of candidate's agent*), agent of (*or elector representing*) (*insert name of candidate*), one of the candidates at the pending Dominion election in the electoral district of..... do swear (*or solemnly affirm*) that I will keep secret the name of the candidate for whom the ballot paper of any elector is marked in my presence at the said election. So help me God.

.....  
(*Signature of agent or elector*)

Sworn (*or affirmed*) before me at....., this..... day of....., 19....

.....  
*Deputy returning officer.*  
(*or as the case may be*)

Carried.