

of increasing the cost of the election to the treasury which I think is absolutely necessary if we are to reduce the cost to parties. I think we should be honest and face that. I am putting forward a specific problem, not that I am absolutely wedded to it, but just as an example, that every candidate who is nominated in a constituency who is a representative of a party that had at least 20 per cent of the vote in that constituency in the previous general election should be entitled to half an hour of time on radio and ten minutes time on television, not all in a block, and that this should be paid for as a part of the expenses of the election in order to enable the candidates to make their views known to their constituents. Any other candidate, an independent candidate or one representing a party which did not get 20 per cent of the vote, should be entitled to buy time at whatever rate the government has to pay for the sustaining time, for the same amount of time, but that he should get a refund of that if he does get 20 per cent of the vote in the subsequent election. This would have the effect, of course, of making any nuisance candidates or frivolous candidates, or candidates who did not have any substantial support in the constituency, pay for his own time. It would mean that anyone who represented any substantial point of view would be able to place his views, and his face if there is television available, before the electorate. In that way this would not be something that he would have to go about the country soliciting campaign funds for.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): In order that I understand Mr. Pickersgill clearly, would it then be impossible to purchase time beyond the half hour on radio and the ten minutes on television?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would say yes, but I do not think that is essential to this proposal; I think, however, it would be desirable. I think that competitive action for time is very undesirable. I have said so before and I say so again. I would not say, however, that the one necessarily excludes the other. This proposals at least would mean, in every place where there is radio or television coverage that every candidate who had any substantial support would have an opportunity to place his views before the public at public expense so that there would be a fair opportunity for everyone to be seen and heard.

I do not want to take up a lot of time, sir. I think that sets out the view.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Mr. Chairman, may I comment on what Mr. Pickersgill has raised. His first point, of course, is it should be only sustaining time on the national network. I think that has been the case in recent years and certainly, so far as I am concerned, I would like to see it continue as such. The principles which have been laid down in the white paper and which have been carried out over a period of years should be upheld.

The second point Mr. Pickersgill raises is whether or not there should be a formula for the total amount of time to be available and he suggests that the division of that amount of time ought to be in the act. Mr. Pickersgill is of the view, I presume, that we should place it there so that he who runs may read it.

After giving a considerable amount of thought to this whole matter—as you know I have been associated with this over quite a lengthy period of years—my own conclusion is that to put it in the act would lead to a rigidity and inflexibility which would be undesirable. I doubt very much if in this committee we could reach agreement on a formula which we could write into the legislation. My own view is it would be better for us to continue with the white paper which is a document which initially was worked out by agreement among the parties and which has been amended from time to time, generally speaking, with agreement among the party representatives. I believe