

National Research Council

were only the one advance poll in the constituency they would be entitled to go there to vote.

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have heard nothing said in favour of the single transferable vote.

Mr. Ross (Souris): The hon. member was not here this afternoon.

Mr. Benidickson: I do not want to delay the setting up of this committee, but I want the house to know that my views have not altered. I was one of those in the last parliament who made the suggestion that the transferable vote should be permitted at the last election. I do not want the house to think that the decision reached in that election has changed my views in any way. I want this committee to study the single transferable or the single alternative vote as it is sometimes called.

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Mr. Speaker, there is one matter that has received little attention during this debate and which I should like to emphasize. I think anyone who represents a metropolitan or suburban constituency realizes that more voters are disfranchised because of the hours of voting than because of any regulation.

There are many voters in Toronto, and particularly in the suburbs, who have to travel from 12 to 15 miles in order to vote. It is true that workers are permitted time off, but in actual practice there are literally hundreds who do not apply for it. To wait until the factory closes at five o'clock and then attempt to get home before the polling booth closes is just not possible.

What I am saying applies more particularly to by-elections than to general elections. In a general election it is a common practice for factories to give employees time off during the day, but it happens quite often in a by-election that there are only a few employees from the constituency concerned working in a plant and they hesitate to request time off. Almost invariably they depend upon getting home before the poll closes.

This is one feature that should be studied by the committee. There are many reasons why the polls should be kept open until eight o'clock instead of being closed at six o'clock under the present practice.

Motion agreed to.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTO OPERATIONS**

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to examine into the operations of the national research council;

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that the said committee be empowered to sit during the sittings of the house and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee; and to report from time to time; that the said committee consist of Messrs. Breithaupt, Brooks, Coldwell, Bourget, Gibson, Green, Kirk (Digby-Yarmouth), Low, McCusker, McIlraith, Murphy, Pinard, Stuart (Charlotte), Winkler.

He said: In moving that a committee be appointed to examine into the operations of the national research council, perhaps I should say a word about the subject matter of the motion. The national research council is a corporate body operating under the general auspices of the committee of the privy council on scientific and industrial research, of which the Minister of Trade and Commerce is chairman and the ministers of agriculture, fisheries, mines and technical surveys, national defence, national health and welfare, and resources and development are members.

The honorary council, which acts as a general board of scientific directors, includes the president and vice-presidents of the council and seventeen other distinguished Canadians appointed for a term of three years and chosen to represent industry, labour and university scientific departments. I would like to pay tribute to this distinguished group of Canadians, among whom are three presidents of universities, two of Canada's outstanding medical scientists, two industrialists with wide experience and other outstanding scientific and technical people. These gentlemen give their time on an honorary basis and spend from three to four days, four times a year, on most important work.

Nearly 3,000 persons are employed in the laboratories, which include biology, chemistry and physics, in the pure sciences; and engineering divisions for aeronautical and hydraulic studies, radio and electrical engineering, and building research. A division of information services operates the library and the liaison offices, issues the *Canadian Journal of Research*, and through its technical information service offers scientific advice on manufacturing problems. The division of medical research has an office in the national research building, but its activities are largely conducted through grants and fellowships, tenable in medical schools.

Laboratories outside Ottawa include a flight research station at Arnprior, Ontario, and prairie regional laboratory at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the maritime regional laboratory at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the atomic energy project at Chalk River, Ontario. A post-doctorate fellowship plan enables scientists from many countries to share in the laboratory activities.

In addition to its laboratory research, the council awards scholarships and fellowships