

Government in due course. That is the limitation on election expenses. I am sorry the phrase used is "the limitation *and* payment of election expenses", if that means the Government has already decided it is not only going to limit the election expenses of candidates for election to the House of Commons, but it is also going to pay them. From my experience, I would be strongly in favour of limiting those expenses.

I have the honour of being called before a committee of the House to describe experiences I may have had, and with permission I shall be doing that. In the meantime I should like to say for the record that I believe the limitation of election expenses can be made effective. There are others who say it cannot, that it is a lot of humbug and there are many loopholes. I believe it can be made effective if two conditions are met. One is that there be a limitation not only against the candidates themselves but also against the national parties, as in Quebec. The second is that the sanctions imposed be not the paltry fines that are now provided by the Election Act, but that there be a forfeiture of the seat in cases of substantial infractions of the law. Anybody who has had close and active experience with candidates

and their problems in this respect will agree that when they weigh the possibility of a fine of \$200 or \$300 against the chance of taking the seat, then they take the chance. Forfeiture of the seat is a very powerful sanction, of course, because inherent in it is a strong incentive to the defeated candidate to invoke the sanction.

With the increase in salaries it would be very unwise for the federal Government to imitate the Quebec legislation—which I do not mean to criticize, because it is in another field—and make arrangements to pay a per capita contribution to every candidate who obtains 20 per cent of the vote. I may be premature in saying that. It may well be that when the question of reform here is considered I will be among those who will be very glad to have their election expenses paid.

Honourable senators, that is all I have to say. There are some other matters I should have liked to mention, but I see that time is getting on. I thank you for the courtesy of your attention.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Pouliot, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.