

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Clinch):

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

"Bill C-236, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (non-listed electors), be not now read the second time but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The House has heard the terms of the amendment. The Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby).

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, I want to support the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary. I think that is the appropriate disposition of Bill C-236, presented to the House by the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

I just want to note for the record that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections has before it the report of the Chief Electoral Officer for consideration. Some of the matters raised in the Bill of the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway are under discussion before the committee. I just want to add three points to what he has already said.

In the first place, with respect to the matter of the differentiation between urban and rural voters, I, for one, believe that that distinction has to be eliminated because under the new provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms all Canadians have equal voting rights. I think we should eliminate that distinction altogether. While I appreciate the effort of the Hon. Member, I think there is another resolution to the problem.

With respect to the matter of a permanent voters' list, the Hon. Member mentioned the list in his presentation, but the Bill actually referred to the special voting rules. I agree that that is something we ought to consider for Canadian voters. I think it is overdue. We have computer systems which can put in place a very easy method to establish a permanent voters' list so that we can obtain the kinds of advantages which the citizens of Australia enjoy.

● (1800)

The third point, access to candidates, I think is long overdue and is a provision that the committee ought to consider. Hopefully it will be enacted. When writing to the hotel proprietor in Vancouver, let me say to the Member through you, Mr. Speaker, you can add that the Hon. Member for Halifax West thinks you should have been allowed into the hotel as well. I say that to all the department superintendents across the country: don't try to obstruct the voting process. Maybe we should have provisions like that.

I see it is approaching six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, and you will want to call the question on the motion which I hope all Members will approve.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment to the main motion?

Adjournment Debate

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Dick) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion as amended?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Accordingly, the order is discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Order discharged and Bill withdrawn.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, just because the matter happened to come up a week ago—there is no problem with what has gone through—I think if you check the "blues" you will find there was a case where we all agreed, but the Speaker did not ask to see if there were any nays. An amendment was lost in a Bill two weeks ago on that same type of procedural mistake. I think it should have been checked to see if there were any nays. There were not any, as it turns out.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—ENFORCEMENT OF YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, you will remember that on April 26 I put a question to the Acting Solicitor General with respect to a request that his Department review the Young Offenders Act, bearing in mind concerns expressed by the Chief of Police of Metropolitan Toronto, Jack Marks, in connection with the Young Offenders Act.

Chief Marks, as you will remember, Mr. Speaker, pointed out a number of concerns relating to the Young Offenders Act. He indicated that at that stage in April there were some 400 individual cases of persons under the age of 12 who allegedly had committed criminal offences but could not be charged with those criminal offences. I understand there are somewhere in the neighbourhood of 500 individuals under the age of 12 in the Metropolitan Toronto area that fall into the same category. They had allegedly committed some very serious offences, including arson, break and enter, theft, assault, sexual assault and crimes of that nature. Since that time there have been reports of other very serious matters, including a high-speed chase involving an 11-year old boy who drove a car