

the date of the issue of the writ and polling date, in 1935, was 60 days, even though the legislation provided a period of 30 days. So you could reduce it to 30 days, I would say, in this country.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: You think you could: you could provide for the necessary revision, and so on?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: If we had a permanent list.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That was always my opinion, that it could be very substantially reduced; and it has always seemed to me it was pretty important from that point of view. Obviously, a permanent list would cost more than the present system, I would think; but you would have an enormous saving in the cost of elections.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: There would be a big problem with the 21 constituencies where there is a period of 28 days between polling day and election day.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Is that 28 days really necessary?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: In some cases, yes. The period of 28 days is provided because of the limited printing facilities in some of these remote districts. In a large city you can get your ballots printed in two days, and in these districts it may take five or six days. Then there is the question of transportation and communication, and the climate may be such that you cannot land by aircraft. That time is very essential, in those circumstances, to get the boxes in. We have dropped ballot boxes by parachute.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I know.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: I would not say the period of 28 days is required in all of the 21 constituencies, but I would say that in maybe four or five of those districts that are now listed in these 21, the period of 28 days may be essential. If the writ issues on the 30th day, and nomination day is on the 28th, it is going to present a very great problem to political candidates.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not think you could have a thing like that; but even three days would make a difference. My riding is one of those 28-day ridings, where obviously it is not necessary it should be 28 days.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: At certain times of the year, no; but at other times of the year, yes—when the ice comes down.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: In my experience, in my riding it has not been necessary. But in Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador—

Mr. CASTONGUAY: There, you have difficulty.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Even with 28 days.

Mr. GRILLS: You have difficulty in my riding too.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not think that in the other ridings you would have difficulty.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: If I mention some of them: the Yukon, the Mackenzie district, the electoral district of Saguenay, White Bay-Grand Falls-Labrador, it is essential, if the ballot box is going to be delivered on time to all places.

Mr. HARDIE: It is evident, from what Mr. Castonguay has said, that you could not drop a man off by parachute, very well, to enumerate some of those polls in my riding.

Mr. GRILLS: Mr. Chairman, I was not here at the earlier part of the meeting. Was there any discussion about this military service list? One of the most confusing problems we had in my riding was concerned with military lists; military personnel who had the privilege of voting the week previous to the elections. In some cases they did not vote, and in some cases they had voted and they went—in two cases that I know of—to a civilian polling booth