

Mr. MacNICOL: Mr. Chairman, may I have your ruling whether an hon. member is right in calling young men coming—

Mr. POULIOT: The word is found in the dictionary.

Mr. MacNICOL: I ask you, sir, if the hon. member is right—

Mr. POULIOT: It does not apply to any race in particular.

Mr. MacNICOL: —in calling young men from the old country who come out here to train by the name “bloke”?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. gentleman was not speaking of the chair or of any member of the house. I refer to May's Parliamentary Practice, twelfth edition, page 99, and citation 294:

If a member should say nothing disrespectful to the house or the chair, or personally approbrious to other members, or in violation of other rules of the house he may state whatever he thinks fit in debate, however offensive it may be to the feelings, or injurious to the character, of individuals.

That is why, I am afraid, I cannot rule out of order the remarks addressed to somebody outside this house.

Mr. COLDWELL: I would ask the hon. member for Témiscouata if he can give us any particulars of the people to whom he refers. I have this in mind, that over the last two years, since the war broke out, or shortly afterwards, people have not been permitted to leave Great Britain without a special licence or special permit. I wondered whether he had any knowledge of any number of persons of this description to whom he referred, because I must say that if there are people who have come to this country to escape military or other duties in Great Britain, of course they should not be permitted to vote here if our own conscientious objectors are not permitted to vote—and they are not—and they should be treated on all fours with our own people. I should like to know whether the hon. member for Témiscouata has any definite knowledge of people of that description.

An hon. MEMBER: He has not.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank my hon. friend for his remarks—he spoke with fairness—and I will give him any information that he wants. If we were to go together to the eastern townships, and many other places, we could see many of these people. But I will speak to him later about it.

Mr. LEADER: I feel that I shall have to support the contention of the hon. member for Lake Centre and our old friend the hon.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

member for Témiscouata. There are in my constituency a number of Mennonites—I do not believe we have any Doukhobors—and I feel that if these people, who have come to Canada and now enjoy the rights of citizenship under the protection of our government, refuse to fight for their adopted country, they are not entitled to a vote on a matter of this importance. I believe they are amply protected under the clause—

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege; I did not make any such statement. I think the hon. gentleman must have misunderstood me. I was not dealing with the question of voting; I was dealing entirely with the question of conscientious objectors completing their service by four months' work instead of being required to do work throughout the period of the war. I did not touch upon the question of the propriety of their right to vote.

Mr. LEADER: I am sorry. I did not mean to misinterpret the remarks of the hon. member. But I feel I am right in offering the suggestion that these men are amply protected. They can vote if they want to, but they lose their right to appeal for exemption, and I think that is using them fairly.

Section agreed to.

Section 6 agreed to.

On section 7—Manner of voting by qualified voter whose name is not on the official list of voters.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I spoke on this section yesterday, and suggested that as the section stands it provides a wide-open door for potential wrongdoers. It provides that those whose names are not on the voters' lists have, on the day the plebiscite vote is taken, as a result of being vouched for by someone ordinarily resident within the polling division, the right to vote. The penalty section leaves the person committing an offence under this section quite an easy way of escape, in that it says:

(3) Any voter who vouches for an applicant voter knowing that such applicant voter for any reason is disqualified. . . .

—is guilty of an offence. In other words, any wrongdoer who wants to assist in getting large numbers of individuals to vote on the plebiscite would simply be required to swear a declaration, and he would be guilty of no offence under subsection 3 unless the prosecution could affirmatively establish that he knew that such applicant voter was disqualified, although he would be liable to perjury. In the discussion this evening as to the necessity of the production of the national