

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**ELECTIONS—PROVISIONS OF RIGHT TO VOTE TO CANADIANS RESIDING OUTSIDE COUNTRY**

**Mr. Colin D. Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, the question I raised before the House tonight involves the enfranchisement of Canadian residents outside Canada when an election is called. Our election laws have been progressively improved, augmented and modernized, and I submit with great respect that the time has come to enfranchise all Canadians who can in practice be included on the election list before writs are called.

This question is prompted by my attendance at the United Nations as a parliamentary representative. I discussed this subject with many of the staff at the United Nations, Canadians employed there more or less permanently? They were distressed that they did not have the right to cast their ballot. I understand some steps have been taken to improve the situation and that they may be included at the next election: some progress has been made.

There are other employees at the United Nations in New York, particularly—I understand there are about 250 of them—who are concerned about this issue and I suggest polling arrangements should be made for these people. Possibly a special advertisement could be placed in one of the New York newspapers. I do not confine it to New York; I realize it is a long-range plan.

I understand France has a system of enumeration under which some attempt is made to give every French citizen, no matter in which part of the world he lives, the opportunity to vote. This is the direction in which we should be moving, and I commend the government for the action they have already taken in regard to the Canadian staff at the United Nations. It seems to me that in these days of fast communications, and with the type of government we have at present, with a real push we could make the effort to see that non-resident Canadian citizens are given a chance to cast their ballot at election time. After all, all Canadians are equal in the eyes of the law; that is a simple rule of law which is enshrined within the Bill of Rights. All Canadians have the same rights.

I have often wondered what would happen if the agent of, say, a resident in London, England, applied to the courts of one of the provinces for an order of mandamus regarding his placement on a residence list in Canada. There might be a technical flaw to such an application, but I would rather see the law changed now than wait for this sort of situation to arise. I can envisage a judge having a very difficult time struggling with a case brought under the Bill of Rights where through oversight or lack of planning a Canadian citizen had become disenfranchised.

I realize that this is not the sort of matter that can be remedied overnight. Nevertheless, I submit that in large

[Mr. Speaker.]

centres outside Canada arrangements could be made for polls to be transmitted through the mails. For example, we could examine the French system and in time evolve our own system under which all Canadians who left the country would know what their rights were. I submit that this would be a worth-while reform and I hope action along this line will be taken.

**Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, at the present time only members of the Canadian armed forces and those persons considered as public servants may vote outside of Canada. The Canadian armed forces have their own polling stations on their installations, and public servants may contact the nearest Canadian embassy and see the officer responsible for handling the vote. Persons employed by the United Nations and who are considered as public servants may vote, which is a point that the hon. member would like to see clarified. At the present time there is no provision under the act for those other Canadians living outside of Canada who are not in the above two categories to vote.

The hon. member's representation is a thoughtful and serious one and I shall be pleased to bring it to the attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

**NATIONAL PARKS—BONNE BAY—LETTING OF CONTRACT FOR SURVEY WORK**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I apologize for having to bring back the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan). I wish to inquire into the letting of a contract for survey work in regard to the establishment of a national park in my district on the west coast of Newfoundland. I am not so concerned about the letting of the contract for survey work as I am with the effect it will have on the people living in the area. There are many Newfoundlanders living within the boundaries of the proposed national park and I am concerned for their future.

Tonight I am asking the parliamentary secretary to say what are the implications for these people. I have offered the government many suggestions in this regard, on many occasions. I feel that the department responsible should send experts to the area to advise every family living in the vicinity what the future holds in store for them. These families have lived in the area for a number of years and if they have to change their livelihood they may suffer. Many communities within the boundaries of the national park at Bonne Bay will have to be resettled, and therefore it is incumbent upon the responsible department, in liaison with other departments who are involved, to advise each and every family of their future once the park is established.

● (10:20 p.m.)

I am an advocate of the creation of a national park on the west coast of Newfoundland which is a remote and isolated area. Everyone knows that development there will mean very much to the future of this community. The future of citizens is my concern, and I should like to