

We are required to collect nine million names in six days. In putting a name on the list, the benefit of the doubt is left very much in favour of the elector when the enumerator calls. When they call at an apartment building, invariably they get their information from the janitor, because the people are not present. In a dwelling house they may get their information from a minor.

Our instructions to enumerators are to include the name rather than deprive someone by not putting his name on the list. During the period of the revising, the revising officers have a great deal of difficulty in knowing whether to add names or strike off names. Then in respect of your officials at the poll on polling day, a great deal of the safeguards are through local knowledge of the electors who present themselves to vote.

If we had a system of permanent lists and a means of identifying the elector, then I do not see any importance to a person serving who is an elector of the riding. Most of the safeguards imbedded in the Canada Elections Act are on local knowledge.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: How long has there been the provision that you must be an elector?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: Since the act was established in 1920; since the office was established in 1920.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Then I broke the law on two occasions. In 1921 when I was 16 I was a poll clerk and again in 1925 when I was 20 years of age. So also did nearly every other impecunious student in my class at the University of Manitoba. I would like to put in a word for students. I think that local knowledge is important, but I do not see any reason why the enumerator or the poll clerk need be of the full age of 21 and an elector of the riding.

Mr. HOWARD: Those are the views I was about to express in so far as poll clerks in particular and enumerators are concerned, that university or high school students in their later years, and so on, be allowed to participate in this process of elections in order to familiarize themselves with the electoral processes. Secondly, I believe in many cases, even under-age high school or university students are far more assiduous in the application to their duties than are many older persons who happen to have these posts.

The particular thing I would be concerned with is it would allow the younger people to participate in some way in the electoral process and to familiarize themselves with it as much as possible so that they may later be able to perform their duties as voters, or participants, when they do become of age.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): I do not agree with that.

Mr. HENDERSON: In an election in the town of Dawson Creek, the enumerators had no knowledge of the people when they went out and swore in 700 people in an afternoon. If they had been high school students doing the work, they would not have had that many.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): I do not agree with the suggestion. I can understand that in certain districts it is difficult to obtain enumerators. I think, however, the whole Elections Act is based on the principle that the electors who cast their votes are also the persons who will be working at the polls as poll clerks and returning officers. I think enumerators should be persons who are punishable under the law and who could be charged with offences under the law.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: There are certain areas in the country where it is very difficult—perhaps not in a year like this, but in some years—to get enumerators, poll clerks and persons of that sort who might be convenient. As a matter