

train people, and we appeal to a special attitude towards representation of the country abroad I think the blow is harder.

Mr. THOMPSON: I hesitate to bring up a new subject at this hour, but I think it is very important, and I would like to have Mr. Cadieux's opinion. I am very disturbed that one of the penalties anyone entering foreign service in Canada has to pay is the fact that his franchise is taken away. We are one of the countries which has not made provision for such people to retain their right to vote. Could this matter be brought up at this time?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, certainly, under item 1; and then we will pass to item 50.

Mr. THOMPSON: I want to be very brief on this, but I think it is a very important item. I would like to have Mr. Cadieux's opinion on this matter.

Canada's representatives abroad in diplomatic, trade and other types of foreign assignment do not have the privilege of exercising their franchise; therefore could the committee recommend to parliament that franchise be extended to Canadians in foreign service?

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: This was discussed in the Commons this afternoon and the Secretary of State informed us that the committee on privileges and elections had made recommendations. Also the new commissioner, who I think was the chief electoral officer, will be studying this in order to find a solution to this problem.

Mr. THOMPSON: I was not there this afternoon and I did not know it had been brought up, but perhaps it is good to hit it again here.

Mr. DEACHMAN: We do have the franchise now for the armed forces abroad. In view of the fact that arrangements already exist for the franchise of the armed forces abroad maybe they could be extended to include other members of the government service...

Mr. LACHANCE: Why not include all Canadians living out of Canada?

Mr. THOMPSON: It is quite a different situation. I would like to ask for Mr. Cadieux's opinion.

Mr. LACHANCE: Why not say "and other Canadians"?

Mr. CADIEUX: This was raised before and considered before, and it came very close to being accepted. The idea was to use the machinery that was set up for the armed forces to allow foreign service employees, in the area where the machinery existed, the same privileges.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: This is not good enough.

Mr. CADIEUX: This is one of the objections. If you can set up the machinery where there are armed services, why can you not do it elsewhere in other areas? Here you get into another problem. If you do it elsewhere—that is, everywhere—are you going to do it just for the employees of the government or for all Canadians?

Mr. LACHANCE: For all Canadians.

Mr. THOMPSON: All Canadians.

Mr. CADIEUX: Then you get into another set of problems and you might find yourself in the situation where a permanent register of voters may be required. There are complicated implications here and I am not sufficiently expert in these electoral matters to be able to discuss them in detail.

Mr. THOMPSON: New Zealand and Australia, both smaller countries, have provisions under which every national can vote, whether he is on foreign service or not.

Mr. CADIEUX: It depends how the electoral system is set up.