

territories, particularly the settlement of Yellowknife, would vote on the plebiscite, but I do not notice it in the bill.

Mr. McLARTY: That is provided in section 2, paragraph (d).

Mr. SHAW: I do not want to prolong the debate unnecessarily, but I do feel that there is one other matter which has thus far not been discussed and which should be given consideration. I am not sure that what I am about to say deals particularly with section 9, but it seems to be a case of either section 9 or never. I have in mind the question of an educational campaign and regulations that may be brought down regarding, say, a government-sponsored campaign. A few weeks ago the press dispatches indicated that the government was at that time contemplating purchasing radio time from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as was done in the last general election, and that certain time periods would be allocated to the various groups in this house for the purpose of expressing their views on the plebiscite to the people of Canada. I have not heard the matter discussed since then, but if the government are contemplating such a step, there are a number of things which should be borne in mind.

First, if moneys are to be taken out of public funds for the purpose of sponsoring any type of educational campaign the radio time should not be allotted only to government leaders, but all other groups in this house should be allotted a certain portion of time—I might even go so far as to say an equal amount of time. I would ask the Secretary of State if it is the government's intention to purchase time on the Canadian broadcasting network for the purpose of carrying on an educational campaign and, if so, what method is to be followed in allocating time to the various groups in this house?

Mr. McLARTY: I think the only reply I can give to the hon. member is that so far no consideration has been given to the point which he raises or the campaign he suggests, but I have no doubt that when consideration is given, if it is given, his observations will be borne in mind.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Section 9 says that the regulations for the taking of the plebiscite shall conform as nearly as possible to the provisions of the Dominion Elections Act. Will the procedure under the Dominion Elections Act be used in setting up the machinery for taking the vote? I have in mind the selection of returning officers for the various constituencies. Will the 1940 return-

ing officers be used, or has the government in mind selecting a fresh list? Has the government considered asking the Canadian Legion and other national organizations to make suggestions? I would also ask the minister how he proposes to select the deputy returning officers for the various polls. In the 1940 election a lot of voluntary service was given by service clubs and similar organizations, and I am quite sure it would be possible to get a lot of voluntary service on this occasion. Does the government propose to accept voluntary service, or does it propose to set up a lot of election machinery pretty well on a patronage basis? The public, I am sure, will be resentful if, when a war is on, we propose to spend one and a half million dollars, a large part of which is to be spent on a patronage basis. If the Canadian Legion, service clubs and other organizations interested in public welfare were approached, I believe they would be glad to make suggestions, and their membership might even be willing to give voluntary service in taking the plebiscite vote. How will the election machinery be set up?

Mr. McLARTY: The intention is to have the same returning officers as acted in the election of 1940. There necessarily are some changes under section 8 of the elections act. The returning officers have the appointment of the deputy returning officers, and the deputy returning officers appoint the poll clerks. I believe the suggestion made by the hon. member for Weyburn is one that has been drawn to the attention of this committee, namely, the advantage that will accrue if we take the opportunity of employing as much voluntary help as is available, and I understand that steps are being considered whereby advantage will be taken of that.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That just means that all the returning officers are political appointments. They are now. Everyone in New Brunswick is a political supporter of the government, and they will all be paid out of public funds. They will make political appointments. They are there in most cases entirely because of their politics. They are not there because of any special qualifications. The returning officers will appoint the deputy returning officers, who will also be political appointees, and the poll clerks will also be political appointees.

There was an effort made prior to the last federal election to have the nominations of returning officers divided up in a measure. In some constituencies there was, I believe, a break. My colleague tells me that there was. In mine, in the rural districts, the returning officer absolutely refused to appoint