

Election Expenses

Mr. Leggatt: On the contrary, it represented a serious attempt to improve one of the most important provisions of the bill, and I understand that these efforts have the support of the entire caucus.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Your leader is not here.

Mr. Leggatt: I make no apology for rising to support not only the amendment but also the subamendment, which makes a significant contribution to the improvement of this legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on the amendment proposed by Mr. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Knight. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the said amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.
And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The division or divisions will be held at a subsequent time.

We shall now proceed to a group of motions, Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) moves:
No. 8.

That Bill C-203, an act to amend the Canadian Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by deleting the words "thirty cents" in section 13.2(1) of subclause 4(1) and substituting therefor the following: "fifteen cents".

• (1630)

The second motion is moved by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett), the third motion is moved by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) and the fourth motion is moved by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters).

No. 9.

That Bill C-203, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by deleting the words "thirty cents" where they appear in section 13.2(1) of sub-clause 4(1) and substituting therefor the following:

"twenty cents".

No. 10.

That Bill C-203, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by deleting the words "thirty cents" where they appear in section 13.2(1) of sub-clause 4(1) and substituting therefor the following:

"twenty cents".

No. 11.

That Bill C-203, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by deleting the words "thirty cents" where

[Mr. Horner (Crowfoot).]

they appear in section 13.2(1) of sub-clause 4(1) and substituting therefor the following:

"twenty-five cents".

Before recognizing the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard), we are faced with three different sums, and I think if any divisions are called the first positive division would mean that any subsequent motion concerning these figures would not be put by the Chair. This would arise on the day the recorded divisions are held.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might put this in context since there are a number of amendments dealing with different values. Basically, the bill contains the provision in section 13.2(1) that in order to determine what would be the limitation on expenditures made by a registered party, as distinct from a candidate's expenditures in a constituency, you multiply by 30 cents the number of names appearing for each registered party on the preliminary list of voters for all electoral districts within which that registered party is running candidates. The limitation on expenditure for a registered party may well vary from party to party, depending on how many candidates each party runs in an election.

To arrive at a very rough determination I think we should use the maximum figure, because that is the number that may well be attained. In other words, in finding out what this means one should take into account the possibility that a registered party will run a full slate of candidates. At the moment, without any alteration in the system of redistribution, there are 264 constituencies.

If I may look to the next election, there would be something in the neighbourhood of 14 million registered voters in all of Canada. The point reached in the last federal election was 13 million and some hundred thousand, I forget the exact figure. However, with the increase in population and as a result of new people coming to Canada as immigrants, I am sure 14 million registered voters will be the minimum. Multiplying 14 million by 30 cents as proposed in the bill brings us to the sum of \$4.2 million, and this is the amount that must not be exceeded by a registered party running candidates in all constituencies. This is the limit on the amount it may spend for the purpose of conducting an election. To appreciate more fully what this means, we must refer to the definition of election expenses with which we dealt briefly the other day. This matter was cleared up specifically in the committee when the government moved an amendment as incorporated in subclause (1.1) on page 9 of the bill.

A registered party may expend money in addition to the \$4.2 million. This additional money is in respect of contributions or gifts made by or on behalf of a registered party for the use of candidates at an election. In other words, if a registered party wants to make a donation or contribution—this is standard practice in some parties—from its central fund to one of its candidates in a federal district, this contribution or gift is not included in the computation of the 30 cents times the maximum number of voters. Therefore, in addition to the \$4.2 million limitation arrived at by this provision, there are the amounts that a registered party may donate to its candidates running in ridings throughout the country. This amount will vary, I am sure, depending on the assessment made by the registered party of the chances of their candidate for any given seat.