

Mr. RICHARD (*Gloucester*): I move that under the authority granted under the terms of the Order of Reference 500 copies in English and 200 copies in French of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the committee be printed from day to day.

The CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?

Carried.

Now, with respect to a steering committee: I understand there was one last year. Do you want one again this year?

Mr. McKAY: I do not think it is necessary, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: We will try to get through in one meeting.

Mr. BROOKS: What is the objection to having a steering committee? We usually have one.

Mr. McKAY: It just means one more meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: We will let that stand for the time being.

Now, with respect to the procedure to be adopted.

Mr. MacNICOL: You would have to have a steering committee or else you would not have any program.

Mr. MacINNIS: Your program is the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that we let the matter of a steering committee ride for one meeting anyway.

Now, gentlemen, you have the bill before you, which I am told is not in exactly the form that you passed last year. There are a number of changes, all of them with respect to the matter of draftsmanship or definition.

The Chief Electoral Officer has suggested an amendment to the bill before you. It is not included in Bill 198, so copies will be handed to you now.

Besides that, there is a copy of a letter from the Deputy Minister of Justice explaining the nature of the changes in this bill or the draft bill you passed last year; and copies of that letter will be prepared and put in your boxes tomorrow.

For the moment, I think that is all I have, although I shall take more time later.

Now, the Minister is with us and I wonder if he would like to say a few words.

Hon. Mr. GIBSON: I just want to express to the committee my appreciation of the work it did last year.

I do not think that the further amendments which the Chief Electoral officer has brought forward will take up a great deal of time, but there is one amendment I would suggest for consideration on my own behalf.

Last year the committee recommended that the salary of the Chief Electoral officer, which had formerly been \$8,000, be set at \$10,000.

Now, while we realize that the present incumbent, who has been there for many years, is entitled to that salary, I think it would be wise to put in the bill that the salary should not be in excess of \$10,000 so that if a new appointment be made it won't necessarily be at the maximum, and could be increased up to \$10,000 after some years of service. I bring that suggestion before the committee because I think it is worth consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will take that up, when we come to section 2.

Now, I have looked over some of speeches made in the House upon second reading, and I find there are a good many suggestions made about this bill. I wonder if any member of the committee has in mind a change in the bill, or something which was not done last year, or something which he thinks should be done.

If so, I wonder if he would be good enough to reduce it to writing between now and the next meeting so that we may have, the next time we meet, definite