

man is not in a financial position to make that deposit, he is not a serious candidate and should not be allowed to run. I would recommend striking out the clause altogether.

Mr. J. J. DENIS: I am ready to second my hon. friend's suggestion. The law either means something or it means nothing. If it means something then I support its amendment; otherwise if it is desired to leave the matter wide open I am ready to strike out the clause altogether.

Mr. COPP: I would draw the attention of the Acting Solicitor General to the amendment he made of subsection 8 of section 40 in regard to "the consent in writing of the person therein nominated, except where such person is absent from the province"—which has been changed to "electoral district." It seems to me that if you are not going to have consent where the person is absent from the electoral district, you might as well forego consent altogether. My hon. friend to the right (Mr. Devlin) may be over here in Ottawa on the day of nomination, and he would not have to consent to being a candidate because he would be out of his electoral district.

Mr. GUTHRIE: But that works out differently in other cases. A man standing for Ottawa may be at Port Arthur on nomination day; he is still in the province but out of his electoral district. The amendment is intended to cover a case of that kind.

Mr. COPP: I would suggest that we have no consent at all. A man may be just over the line from his own constituency, but the section in its amended form does not provide for his consent.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Subsection 6 (c) provides for the electoral district from which the candidate may be absent, and we have amended the other section to make it correspond.

Mr. GOULD: I would like to call the attention of the hon. gentleman who made reference to the amount of deposit—

Mr. DENIS: That is settled.

Mr. GOULD: A point I would like to make is that such a proposal would put a premium upon money instead of upon brains. That is an absolutely wrong principle, and wherever we of the New Democracy encounter it we desire to protest strongly against it. Incidentally, a remark was made as to individuals who are unsuccessful being classed as incompetent.

Possibly we might apply that standard to ourselves and find that some of us although elected were very incompetent. The difference between two hundred and three hundred dollars may be the difference between success and failure, but it should not necessarily disqualify a candidate. Particularly am I pleased at this time to make reference to my opponent at the election in Assiniboia; not by any means is he a gentleman whom I consider incompetent, I take this opportunity to record my disapproval of the sentiment expressed.

Mr. NESBITT: Was he serious?

Mr. BEST: Half the candidates who lost their deposits in the last election should not have run. If they had not contested those elections thousands and thousands of dollars would have been saved to the people of Canada. If the deposit had been raised to five hundred dollars many of those gentlemen might not have run. As the hon. gentleman from Assiniboia stated that brains counted and not money, I must say that it seems to me it is money and not brains that is going to count in some of the western provinces, for they have already \$45,000 subscribed for election funds according to the latest newspaper reports. I think it is only right that the deposit should be fixed at five hundred dollars so that elections will not be forced on the people and the Government where they are not needed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think that would be a move in the wrong direction. If the present law fixes the deposit at two hundred dollars it would be a mistake to increase the amount. I for one would be inclined to keep the amount comparatively low.

Mr. GOULD: I may say to my hon. friend from Dufferin that possibly we might be able to dig up that five hundred dollars if it were demanded, even if we have a campaign fund. Further than that, I would remind him that we are not afraid to let the country know how and where we are getting our campaign fund, which has not been the rule in Canada in regard to campaign funds of the past.

Mr. GLASS: Is the minister of opinion that the delay of returning officers in the past to return deposits to candidates was sufficient to justify this change? Supporting my friend from Edmonton (Mr. Mackie), under this Act the deposit by the candidate is sent by registered letter to the Auditor General. In all my experience I