

Item No. 6

Maurice C. Punshon,
CCF Candidate for Greenwood,
1434 A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

Sept. 14th/53.

Chief Electoral Officer,
J. N. Castonguay.

Dear Sir:

When an influential Canadian newspaper, ie, The Telegram supports in an editorial the contents of a letter you have sent them for publication, then I believe that it must be of sufficient value to send to the authorities concerned

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which the Toronto Star and the Telegram printed containing some observations on the recent election. Some of these may be quite practical some may not, but I do hope that you as Chief Electoral Officer will give them some consideration.

Reference to number (2) If vacationers are permitted to use the advance poll, maybe they should produce a form signed by their employer stating they will be away at the time of the election. This would cut down unnecessary use of the advance poll.

(3) Obviously I refer to the extension of the franchise to those in hospital or ill at home who are of sound mind and have no contagious illness. The Tely's suggestion that shut-ins vote by mail is the kind of idea I am trying to get across.

(4) I think it would be an educational experience for the armed services to be able to receive election material, not only from the Liberal Party but other parties too.

(5) The recent election was poorly enumerated. Many people were left off the Voters' Lists, including myself! I had to get my name placed on the revised list! Some of the returning officers have been at the job for a long time and they have become a little careless, unconsciously so, they assume too much that the enumerators and the DRO's have been adequately informed.

(6) I'm concerned over the number of spoiled ballots. In the York Humber race 300 ballots were rejected.

I hope these observations will be helpful and that serious consideration will be given by the government to review the act.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Maurice C. Punshon.

Copy of letter sent to the Toronto Press

AUGUST 27, 1953.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:

The new parliament must review the Election Act. As a Candidate in the recent federal election, the following are some observations I made that could be suggested as amendments.

(1) Advance poll should be extended to cover additional forms of employment that requires workers to be away from their place of residence ie, teachers, construction workers, etc.

(2) A serious attempt should be made to permit vacationers use of the advance poll.