

## Item No. 29

Michael Engel.  
4516 Girouard #7.  
Montreal.

MARCH 2nd 1955.

The Chairman,  
The Parliamentary Committee on Elections.  
House of Commons. Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

I shall be glad if you will kindly bring the following idea to the notice of your committee for consideration by them.

That the new election act should contain a clause to the effect that all electors who voted in a general election or a bye election should be eligible to partake in a draw or raffle for a cash prize of \$1,000 (tax free) in each constituency.

In practise it would be easy to arrange, by giving each voter a draw ticket together with the ballot. The ballot duly marked would go into the ballot box and the draw ticket duly filled in the the voters name and address would go into a separate draw box.

The poll officers could be in charge of the draw as they are in charge of the ballot boxes and the draw could take place at the same time as the counting of the votes and the name of the winner in each constituency announced at the same time as the election officer announces the name of the winning parliamentary candidate.

The cost could be covered by the cost of holding the election.

*The effect would be that all would exercise their franchise.* In particular the section of the population who do all the work and pay all the bills, men and women over 21, for a change would get back something directly from the government.

To the moralists who might object that it is bad for the soul to get something for nothing, it can be answered, that all religious devotees seek "something for nothing". All suplicants in their prayers point out how unworthy they are of the blessings they request.

In several countries there is penalising legislation for failing to vote at an election, let Canada be the first to have a new approach on this vital democratic function. I guarantee that with this new idea, the next elections would have a full turn out of voters and arouse unparalleled interest in the results.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) M. Engel.  
Michael Engel.