

*Canada Elections Act*

constituency of Acadia which adjoins mine I believe that in the last election there were six or seven candidates. We might get 17 or 18 if this idea were adopted. In fact, it might encourage the very thing to which I have always been opposed in this country, the fact that we now have so many splinter parties. This does not only happen on the federal scene but on the provincial scene. The result is that when you look over the records of elections you will find that on most occasions the successful candidate has won with a minority vote simply because it was not a case of a straight vote against the government. I say that if we start to allow a specific sum for anyone who wants to come forward in Canada as a candidate the situation may very well be carried to the extreme and possibly all the 50,000 people in a constituency will want to be candidates. Where do you draw the line?

I said at the beginning that my heart was with the hon. member, but my mind tells me he is wrong. I know what he has in mind. His idea is the same as that in the United States where it is said that any citizen of that country can become president. I still think that in this land of ours anyone who really wishes to become a candidate for a party in an election can do so. When I listen to some people from the far corner of the house I sometimes think that they believe they have a monopoly on the fact that they have come from homes of a kind that do not have too much money to spend on the necessities of life and education. Many of us come from humble surroundings. Irrespective of what party we represent I believe under the free enterprise system in this land of ours any citizen who wishes to become a candidate can become a candidate in an election, be it federal, provincial or at the local level, and get elected. Therefore I do not believe that the system we have today is denying the right to any person to run as a candidate.

In fact, I will go further. The problem is not one of being a candidate but whether you can afford to be a member after you are elected. I think everybody will agree with me on that. Without any animosity toward the socialists I say to them that I believe there is a growing feeling in this country that not only is socialism evident in their own party but it is seeping into industry and is also seeping in the Liberal ranks.

It seems to me that this is another motion placed on the order paper by the socialists because they wish to control elections. They wish to control our elections. There is one country where people have only one candidate to vote for and no doubt in that country the

state pays the cost of elections. I refer to Russia. It seems to me that when the state starts to control how much money will be spent in election campaigns and to whom it will be paid we are on the road to telling people who are going to run in elections, and I want no part of that in Canada.

**Mr. Lewis:** What nonsense.

**Mr. Woolliams:** It may be nonsense but I am reminded of Bernard Shaw who before he died completed his works with a little satire in which he said that what the people really want is a system where what they wear is controlled, what they do is controlled, what they eat is controlled; and if you have not the personality to put up with such control by the state, then the authorities take you out and kindly execute you. I am against that kind of control. I do not want it in Canada in any form whatsoever.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask the hon. member a question? Does he realize that George Bernard Shaw—

**Mr. Woolliams:** I have a few moments left in which to make the remarks that I know the hon. member wants to hear me make.

**Mr. Lewis:** Are you aware that when George Bernard Shaw said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I would point out to all hon. members that they cannot force their way on to the floor. The hon. member who has the floor may see an hon. member for the purpose of a question but no one may insist on the floor.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I was talking about this socialistic control, and what is more dangerous to this country is that it is seeping into the grand old Liberal party. We have Thatcher who left the ranks of the socialists and is leading the Liberals in Saskatchewan. We have the hon. member for Assiniboia who left the ranks of the socialists and is now one of the agricultural experts of the Liberal party. Then we have the former provincial minister of health who left the C.C.F. party—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have some difficulty in reconciling the hon. member's remarks with this motion, so if we can—

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to bring them to the point. I may say that I believe that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is in favour of this kind of motion, and I suggest that the reason he is behind it is that socialism is seeping over from the New Democratic party corner of the house into the ranks of his party. That is how I bring them together.