

I am a man of 75 and enter with less feelings at success and can only say in all sincerity God be with him at all times.

My purpose in writing is to ask why is not a vote ballot given to those who are laid up in these institutions at election time—such was my case on August 10th—no vote—no nothing—one feels he is lost out his services to vote. Is there no remedy for them? I would be pleased to see the matter taken up. I claim any man is entitled to vote Yes or No. I am sorry I lost out August 10th as I felt I should not. Have been a Liberal for 75 years and shall always remain for I see no reason to change for Drew and his click so long as I can follow the Prime Minister. I am a Protestant and not a Catholic but that makes no difference. The Prime Minister is a gentleman of his word. Best wishes to him personally and good luck.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) A. A. MEADOWS

MRL

Item No. 20

PAC-CCL Political Action Committee—Canadian Congress of Labour
11½ Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario

HENRY WEISBACH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April 15, 1954.

Honourable J. W. Pickersgill,
Secretary of State,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir:—

It has been brought to our attention that a group of sailors who sail the Arctic area has continually been deprived of their vote. These men leave their home areas in the spring months and sometimes do not return until late in the Fall or Winter.

They do not have an opportunity to make use of the advance polls because their boats are in continuous motion and they do not have a chance to get to any voting stations. Some of these men have voiced the opinion that they should be treated similarly to the armed forces who have the opportunity to vote for the candidates in their own constituencies. They feel they are deprived of their democratic right. During the last federal election there were about 160 to 180 sailors in the northern waters who did not have an opportunity to cast their ballots.

The problem outlined about would lead us to believe that changes in the Canada Elections Act would be necessary in order to enable people under these circumstances to make use of their democratic right to cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice.

I would appreciate knowing whether the government is contemplating a change in the Election Act to include a provision for absentee ballots which would include people in similar circumstances.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) Henry WEISBACH,
Executive Secretary.

MRL