

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

May 6, 1948.

The Special Committee on the Dominion Elections Act met this day at 2.30 p.m., for organization.

The CLERK: Gentlemen, may I have your attention. I see a quorum now. I would like first to mention changes in the personnel of the committee. The name of Mr. Cournoyer has been substituted for that of Mr. Cote, and that of Mr. Harris for that of Mr. Robinson.

The first order of business is to elect a chairman.

Mr. MACNICOL: I take much pleasure in moving that Mr. Walter Harris be chairman of the committee. He has had a lot of experience and I know he will render good service.

Mr. MARQUIS: I second the nomination.

Mr. MCKAY: I move that nominations be closed, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Walter E. Harris, member for Grey-Bruce, Ontario, thereupon assumed the chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am very grateful for your kindness, particularly in view of the fact that I am a newcomer to the committee.

I have looked over the records of last year and I hope that the sweet reasonableness that pervaded your meetings last year will continue during the short time we will have on this bill.

The first business is to call for a motion establishing a quorum.

Mr. FAIR: I move that the committee request that the quorum of the committee be eight members and that section 3 of Standing Order 65 be suspended in relation thereto.

The CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion, gentlemen.

Mr. MACINNIS: What is the membership of this committee?

The CHAIRMAN: Twenty-five.

Mr. MACINNIS: I do not think we could carry on business with a quorum of less than ten, so I move in amendment that the quorum be ten.

The CHAIRMAN: There were two occasions last year when the quorum of ten was not possible. All those in favour of the amendment to make the quorum ten?

Mr. MACINNIS: Ten includes the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of the amendment.

The amendment is carried. The quorum is ten.

The next motion is for leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Mr. McLURE: I move that leave be sought from the House to sit while the House is sitting.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. All those in favour? Carried.

The next motion will be that of fixing the number of copies of the Minutes to be printed.