

Canada Elections Act

a recount. Motion No. 10 deals strictly with the item to which I referred in my comments.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that point. From the minister's remarks, it appears there was an implied discussion of motion No. 11. Certainly, the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott) mentioned that. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the minister and the following speaker mentioned the number "25". That is where the confusion arises. If you state that number and less, it is definite. I understand that the only person who would have qualified for this reimbursement was the former hon. member, Jean-Luc Pepin, in the constituency which he represented in 1972. This amendment would allow that if a person was defeated by 25 or 50 votes, a recount was requested, and after the recount it was discovered there had been an error in the addition—they had won, or lost, by 24 votes or less—then he or she would be covered for the expenditures by the Chief Electoral Officer.

I agree with the minister that it will not happen very often. But it has happened. I believe this is a very worth-while amendment, and I am glad to see that the royal recommendation was brought in by the minister for it.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I fully agree on the suggested amendment for reasons identical to those given by the previous speaker. I think that more and more in Canada, as the number of political parties tends to rise, we should protect traditional parties, the old parties, as possible difficulties concerning recounts will be more and more frequent. So I think we should help those who have governed this country for many years by recognizing at least this aspect that would give them the satisfaction of a recount that would not be an unduly heavy financial burden for a candidate or a party.

Mr. Speaker, even if my remarks might seem facetious, I said it very seriously as it is the only solution considering the frequency of problems and the difficulties we are facing presently at the constitutional level throughout Canada. I do not wish to include the province of Quebec more than other provinces, because in every province there are people who think differently and see Canada in a different way but nevertheless, we should at the time of general elections designate representatives of the people and then the votes might be closer. This is why the government leader included this aspect in an amendment to the elections act to ensure better protection for some candidates following an election that could be a financial burden for them.

● (1622)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order please. Is the House ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 10 (Mr. MacEachen) agreed to.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House will now consider motion No. 11.

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (for Mr. MacEachen) moved:

Motion No. 11.

That Bill C-5, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, be amended in clause 35 by striking out lines 19 and 20 at page 40 and substituting the following therefor:

"relates, the lesser of such amount and five hundred dollars for each day or".

He said: Mr. Speaker, in this amendment we have changed the limits in the Election Expenses Act from \$250 to \$500. This means that in the case of a recount, a person within the category in question will be entitled to receive compensation for payment of legal fees to a maximum of \$500. It would be the amount of the bill up to that maximum figure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 11 (Mr. Cafik, for Mr. MacEachen) agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House will now proceed to motion No. 18.

[Translation]

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (for Mr. MacEachen) Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council moved:

Motion No. 18.

That Bill C-5, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act, be amended in Clause 71 by adding immediately after line 21 at page 82 the following new subclause:

"(3) Section 27 of the said rules is further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(16) The Chief Electoral Officer may make regulations modifying this section for the purpose of making it applicable to Canadian forces electors described in subsection 21(3), and when such regulations are published in the *Canada Gazette*, this section shall, for such purpose only, be read and construed as modified by such regulations."

[English]

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to motion No. 18. I tried to get Your Honour's eye before you actually put the motion. Motion No. 18 is of no consequence whatsoever in the law unless motion No. 16 carries. Motion No. 18 is consequential on motion No. 16 which, as we have discovered, requires unanimous consent in order to be put. I think it is counterproductive at this stage, as motion No. 18 has no meaning whatsoever unless motion No. 16 is carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question having been put, is there consent that it be withdrawn and considered together with motion No. 16?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.