

Supply—National Defence

matter, and I think they are honest, and that there is no way of knowing the exact vote of a serviceman. However, Mr. Chairman, there is that feeling among servicemen because their names appear on the outside of the envelope. They feel that their vote is known. This is wrong and should be corrected.

It can be cured quite simply. I think that the Minister of National Defence or people connected with the administration of the Canada Elections Act could cure it. There is no reason at all that any person in Canada entitled to vote should not have the feeling that when he puts his X opposite a candidate's name that vote is secret and cannot possibly be known by any one else. That feeling does not now exist in the armed services and I think it is wrong that it should go on. So much for the ballot itself.

Second, may I refer to the publication of the service vote. In each and every federal election we have this hangover from election night. We wait for what is known as the service vote. It is wrong that this vote should be made known later and published after the actual main vote. No class of people in Canada entitled to vote in federal elections should have the result of its vote made known. The votes of doctors, lawyers or any other group are not made known and there is no reason whatsoever why the soldiers' vote should be treated differently.

An hon. Member: Include the sailors' vote in that, not just the soldiers.

Mr. Pugh: That is quite true. The hon. member for Victoria says that I should not call it the soldiers' vote. In common parlance in Canada it is known as the soldiers' vote and it is referred to in that way in the press.

An hon. Member: It is the service vote.

Mr. Pugh: Call it the service vote. The last few remarks I have made in connection with the secret ballot should refer to the service vote rather than to the soldiers' vote alone. The service vote is made known and this is wrong. It is wrong that in any election one class of people should be delineated as being against another.

For the life of me I cannot see why today, with modern transportation, ballots should not be cast in advance in exactly the same manner as they are in an advance poll. In an advance poll the results are made known but there is no indication of the class or kind of people involved. The results published are merely added to the total as an item in the final summation. However, in the services

[Mr. Pugh.]

members of the armed forces voting outside their own constituencies are tabbed. This is wrong and in view of the feeling of members of the armed services that the ballot is not secret the situation ought to be corrected. I say that it should be corrected and it could easily be by the minister making representations to the proper authorities before the next election.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, I was called out of the house and I returned to speak on item 1.

An hon. Member: It has been carried.

Mr. Winkler: Oh, no.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, I have been waiting for a considerable period of time.

Mr. Hellyer: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. To clarify this situation, have we given unanimous consent to revert to item No. 1 in order that the hon. gentleman may speak?

An hon. Member: It has been passed.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The Chair has the impression that we have the unanimous consent of the house to return to item No. 1. The hon. member has explained that he had to leave for a few seconds and I am under the impression that we are still on item No. 1.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Winkler: Thank you. I have spoken on previous occasions to the minister with regard to a question that I want to raise because of my personal knowledge and experience in respect of army retail stores on bases outside the country. I refer specifically to the service known as Maple Leaf Stores so far as the army is concerned and I wish to compare it with the service available to members of the Royal Canadian Air Force on air force bases which is known as PX and is similar to the United States system of retailing on air force bases. Anyone who has travelled throughout the continent in the course of the last two or three years will have had this matter brought to his attention by the people concerned.

Throughout this debate we have heard considerable discussion in regard to morale in