

otherwise, the elections committee would be taking upon itself to deal with something with which it had no authority to deal by way of reference from the house. I would just make that point. If the motion is still before the committee, I should like to have something to say on it.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am a little bit confused by the withdrawal undertaking given by the Secretary of State. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni asked if the Secretary of State would give an assurance that this matter would be submitted at the next session of the house, so that it might be dealt with by the house before the next general election. When the next general election is to be is something that I assume the Secretary of State knows. Did he give that undertaking on the basis that there will be no general election before the next session of this house?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): No. I did not understand that the hon. member used the words "before the next general election."

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Yes. They were plain. I would ask the hon. member to stand up and prove that.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): That was my intention.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I could not say—

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): That was your undertaking.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): My undertaking was that at the next session of the house I will recommend that the elections committee be again set up to consider this amendment or any amendments to the elections act that may be brought before it. I, of course, cannot say what can be done before a general election, because I do not know when the general election will be brought on.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Then, may I submit that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni agreed to the withdrawal of the motion on a certain condition. That condition was that the minister would give the committee an assurance or an undertaking that this matter would be dealt with by the elections committee at the next session of the house and before the next general election. That was the request made and that was the request granted by the minister. We have no agreement at the moment, because the minister has not accepted the condition laid down by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. Surely the hon. member for Comox-Alberni must now make his withdrawal absolutely

[Mr. MacInnis.]

without condition, in order to conform with the innocuous statement just now made by the Secretary of State.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I would object to making my withdrawal absolutely unconditional. I assumed that there would not be an election for another year. However, not being in the seats of the mighty, I could not give my hon. friend that guarantee. However, if the Secretary of State can not assure us that there will not be a general election—and after all, we must be fair about the thing—if he will assure us that at the next session of the house he will reconstitute this committee and submit this matter to it, that is satisfactory to me.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Does the hon. member for Comox-Alberni not realize that, whether the election is held now or a year from now, the same government will still be in office, whether it is before the election or after the election.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. KNOWLES: Wrong again.

An hon. MEMBER: That is what you think.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I intend to take a trip to the flooded areas and try to get a little water on my brain.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. Has the hon. member the consent of the committee to withdraw the amendment?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then we shall have to put the question. All those in favour of the hon. member having leave to withdraw the amendment please say "yea".

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yea.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Nay.

An hon. MEMBER: Let him withdraw.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is necessary for us to put the amendment if the hon. member has not the leave of the committee to withdraw it.

Mr. HARRIS (Grey-Bruce): Put the amendment.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have not the leave of the committee. Mr. Brown moves, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that section 6 be amended by deleting subsection 2 (f) of section 14 as set out in section 6 of this bill, All in favour of this amendment will please say "yea".

Amendment negatived: Yeas, 39; nays, 58.