

Canada Elections Act

there must be a specified amount calculated on the basis of the voting population. Then I understand that the third suggestion is that there must be a control as to how much is spent and of course that a proper form be filed in that regard.

It is rather interesting, of course, to note that, no matter how you dish this argument out, the expenses for elections have been increasing over the years. For example, I have obtained some figures with regard to the matter. First, I will deal with the country itself. These figures refer to the cost of elections. In 1949 the country spent \$4,328,118. In 1953 it spent \$5,380,436. In 1957 the figure had jumped to \$7,500,000. In 1958 it jumped to \$9,800,000. When all the expenses are added in for the last election in 1962, it cost the country \$10,250,000, and this figure is not yet complete.

I would ask hon. members to keep those figures in mind. The last election cost us at least \$10,500,000 more or less. I ask hon. members to keep that fact in mind, then add the total candidate expenses to the cost the country pays and think what it will cost the taxpayers if we had ten candidates or 15 candidates running in each of the constituencies of this country—what would it cost the taxpayers of Canada?

Let us take a look at what the elections have cost or what the candidates say they cost. Of course, I go along with my good friend when he says we have no way of knowing, unless someone has caught up with whether they have filed the proper return or not. We must therefore take the figures that come from the office in question where the figures have been recorded; that is, the amount spent by each candidate, added together, giving the total amount spent on the election by candidates in Canada. I am going to start off with the year 1949, Mr. Speaker.

The total spent in 1949 was \$2,213,000. In order to be fair, I wish to break it down per party. On that occasion the Liberals spent \$1,001,049; the Conservative party spent \$904,505; and the C.C.F. party, which, of course, now bears a new and more dynamic name, the New Democratic party, spent \$176,830. The balance is made up by others. If at any time these figures which I give do not add up when I include the three groups, it means that others spent the balance.

In 1953, we find this situation. Again Mr. Speaker, you observe that, just as an election cost more money in organizing it in the country, so it cost the candidates more money. In 1953, the election in Canada cost the candidates \$2,535,000. I will read the round numbers. In 1953, it cost the Liberals \$1,287,000; the Conservatives, \$890,000; the

C.C.F. \$159,000 and Social Credit \$82,000. The balance is made up of others. Again in 1957 we observed that the costs are on the climb. Of course the population is increasing and we are moving into the era of television which costs at one time about \$80 a minute; but if the candidate sneezes, it costs him \$160. Hence, naturally, the costs go up. In 1957, the cost to candidates was \$3,398,000. The cost to the Liberals in that election in 1957—and again, of course, they are ahead of everyone else in this regard up to 1957—was \$1,669,000; to the Progressive Conservatives it cost us \$1,261,000; to the C.C.F. \$214,000; and to the Social Credit \$141,000. In 1958, we observed again that the figures are increasing. In 1958, the election cost the candidates \$3,275,000. Of that amount the Conservatives spent \$1,894,000; the Liberals spent \$1,108,000; the C.C.F. spent \$201,000 and the Social Credit spent \$69,000. All the expenses are not in yet for the 1962 election. However, the experts estimate that it will have cost well over \$4 million.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether the hon. member will permit a question?

Mr. Woolliams: Yes.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the hon. member give the source of his figures? Maybe he did so and I did not hear it.

Mr. Woolliams: I am pleased to do that. I obtained them from the office of the returning officer.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member means the chief electoral officer.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes; from the chief electoral officer of Canada. In fact, I obtained them this afternoon. In order to be fair with the hon. member, I may say that the figures were obtained over the telephone. I believe them to be correct as I read them back. With the leave of the house and just because I read them. I should like to file these figures. They are rather interesting.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think they are extremely interesting.

Mr. Woolliams: I am glad the hon. member asked me that question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the hon. member proposing to table these figures?

Mr. Woolliams: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. member leave to do so?

Mr. Woolliams: I wish to have them included in my speech, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: They are included in the hon. member's speech.