

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I would like to make a suggestion there, if I may. I think we sometimes fail to appreciate the machinery that is really at our disposal. I happen to know that Mr. Coats, of the Bureau of Statistics, in his census branch has one of the most efficient organizations in the public service; or, a very efficient organization, I will put it that way; and if Mr. Butcher would see Mr. Coats and his chief of the census staff and discuss this whole problem with them I believe we would get some very useful suggestions.

Mr. FACTOR: Do you not think that we had better find out first the basis of the Australian figures, whether they include the cost of taking the census as well?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: He will get that. That is the reason I make the suggestion. What I am getting at is this, without question you have a marvellous machine down there with respect to both personnel and equipment. They have this card system worked out to a wonderful degree of efficiency. It might be of interest to the committee to know that a junior official of the census bureau some six or eight years ago invented the machine; he not only invented it but he built a machine there which has since been recognized in other countries throughout the world as a most phenomenal machine in dealing with this card system. It is really superhuman in its achievements. I mention that because that whole equipment, as well as men of training and experience in census matters, is all there, and it might possibly be that we could adapt it to this registration system. Then when we further consider this matter of compulsory registration we might have the benefit of some very valuable suggestions to be secured there.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. I wonder if it would be possible for Mr. Butcher to work out what would be the cost in this country of an election in which we have compulsory voting and compulsory registration.

The CHAIRMAN: We have not heard from Mr. Butcher on compulsory voting yet.

Mr. HEAPS: We are discussing the question of costs now?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HEAPS: It might be possible for him to work out such a tabulation now.

Mr. FACTOR: He has it all worked out.

Mr. HEAPS: Not for Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: His figures include both.

WITNESS: On the basis of \$5 to the pound, which evidently is incorrect.

By Hon. Mr. Stevens:

Q. I think you will agree, Mr. Butcher, that that might be revised in the light of additional information?—A. Yes, that is correct. You mean the value of the pound, for instance?

Q. And the possibility of co-ordinating with the census bureau?—A. Yes, I understand that. I will do that.

The CHAIRMAN: Had we better proceed with compulsory voting?

WITNESS: I should like to quote from the statute.

By the Chairman:

Q. Just one question in connection with these cards. Has that to do with the census returns as well?—A. No, only application for enrolment or transfer of names.

[Mr. Harry Butcher.]