

ELECTORAL REFORM

I would like to comment on the report, "A Preliminary Statement to the People of British Columbia"

I am strongly opposed to "PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION" as it provides no relationship between a citizen and any representative. That is NOT democracy. It always becomes a fascist dictatorship, a "police state". Hitler committed suicide to avoid punishment. The Italians hanged Mussolini.

I am also strongly opposed to the system where ballots are voted CHOICE 1 and CHOICE 2, with the 2s counted if the top choice 1 received less than 50%+1. The problem is that voters will NOT give their 2nd vote to the best rival candidate. That might defeat their own candidate.

Your study appears to be ignoring two very important points.

1. THE INDEFINATE TERM

In Canada, the legislative voting is a roll-call of the parties. I have heard representatives explain that their approval of legislation, detrimental to their electors, was because a defeat of a government bill would have meant another election, the cost of which would add to taxes. More important to them, they might lose their job. In the U.S.A., the fixed four year term, permits the representatives to vote against policies detrimental to the people he represents, so in every vote you find democrats voting with republicans and republicans voting with democrats.

2. COMPUTERS replacing SCRUTINEERS

The use of punch cards in the U.S.A. and special pencil marking cards in Canada; are each counted by computers without any scrutineers This is now being thrown out by the courts in many states of the U.S.A., as today, elementary school children can manipulate computers to give any result wanted.

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Higher wages have not attracted better candidates. When my wife entered municipal politics in 1969, only candidates actually interested in community safety, education, conveniences, recreation and/or health sought elected office. Today, the much higher pay attracts people who are not really interested in any of these needs, but like the high pay and prestige.

In the Canadian army, I was trained in security, evidence and interrogation, to be an "investigating officer" for courts martial and other investigations. As I also had my B.Comm. and C.G.A., the Federal civil service offered me employment when I requested transfer to the Reserve of Officers. Although based in the Appeals• division in the Vancouver Income Tax office, my internal investigations took me into different offices between Victoria and Ottawa.

I have only seen our B.C. House in session on the television, so I expect that all members were present when the cameras were present. However I had a pass to the Civil Service gallery in the Ottawa House of Commons, so I watched many evening sessions, when

there were no cameras. With the exception of the M.P. who was speaking, the other MPs were reading magazines, newspapers or novels. No one was listening, as an M.P. -

“always votes at his party’s call and never never thinks of thinking for himself at all.”

In my internal investigations, I saw the increases in staff misappropriations in the 1960s when computers came into use. To me, finding how the thefts were being hidden was fun, like solving a riddle. That’s when I learned how easy it is to manipulate a computer.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT COMPUTERS DO NOT CONTINUE TO
REPLACE SCRUTINEERS.

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