

# Liberal Campaign Chief Charges Illegal Practices

OTTAWA (CP)—Liberal campaign chairman Walter Gordon accused the Progressive Conservative party Monday of an illegal practice in getting the jump on the opposition in sending election literature to members of the armed forces.

The charge was denied in a statement by Allister Grosart, Conservative national organizer, who said his party acted "in strict compliance" with the law and merely followed a "well-established practice."

Mr. Gordon's statement said Conservative election literature was mailed to members of the armed forces "prior to lists being made available to scrutineers of all parties."

"In our view this constitutes an illegal practice under the Elections Act,"

Mr. Gordon said the Liberals also have been informed that "an order was issued to commanding officers in the armed forces as early as April 27 authorizing them to make copies of lists of names, ranks and numbers of armed forces personnel available to official candidates or accredited agents who asked for them."

**LIBERALS NOT INFORMED**

"Liberal party candidates were not informed of this order,"

Mr. Gordon said that "in our view such an order also constitutes an illegal practice under the Elections Act."

He said the Canadian forces voting rules—an integral part of the Elections Act—stipulates only that lists of forces personnel "shall be open to inspection" by candidates or their representatives.

atives who are permitted to copy the lists.

Chief Election Officer Nelson Castonguay declined comment on the charges.

The issue raised by Mr. Gordon arises one week before the special polls open next Monday for some 123,700 servicemen in Canada and overseas. They cast their votes during the week of June 11-16, as do some 8,200 servicemen's wives in Europe and nearly 6,900 veterans in army hospitals in Canada.

Mr. Grosart's statement said that Mr. Gordon "as an alleged efficiency and management expert" would find that his statement "is nothing more than an attempt to cover up the inefficiency of his own organization."

"The fact of the matter is that the Liberal party was either asleep at the switch or decided to ignore the service vote."

**UNKNOWN TO PCS**

Mr. Grosart said Conservative headquarters "had no knowledge of the so-called order of April 27 and therefore have made no use of it. . . ."

He said that last April the party obtained the services of over 100 civilian volunteers, acting as accredited representatives of official candidates under the rules.

"In the vast majority of cases, they made personal calls on the commanding officers of more than 600 service establishments and obtained access to the lists in accordance with the rules, or copies of the lists where these were offered,"

Mr. Grosart said that in about

25 cases of remote areas such as The Congo, representatives of candidates wrote to commanding officers asking that a list be sent.

It had "long been the practice for many years" for commanding officers to provide extra copies of the lists, where they were available, rather than require the formality of the representative copying out the names themselves.

**LISTS USED**

Conservative head quarters had used these lists, which include the name of the constituency where a serviceman's vote will be counted, to mail individual messages from Prime Minister Diefenbaker as Conservative party leader, "not in his capacity as prime minister."

"From beginning to end, this operation has been conducted strictly within the terms of the Elections Act and the armed forces voting rules," Mr. Grosart said. "There has been no infringement of any kind whatsoever."

The armed forces voting rules made it clear that lists of service voters were available to representatives of candidates of all parties before the lists are made available to official scrutineers of the parties who help supervise the service vote.

Mr. Gordon said that a message to overseas servicemen was sent by Liberal leader Lester B. Pearson Monday on the basis of lists received by scrutineers on May 29 and 31. Scrutineers in Canada would receive Monday lists of armed forces serving in Canada.

## 'Me Too' Tactics Blamed For Loss Of Two Elections

By DAVE MCINTOSH  
TIMMINS, Ont. (CP)—Prime Minister Diefenbaker said here one reason the Conservatives lost the 1949 and 1953 general elections was "we used to say me too."

He said at a press conference aboard his chartered plane flying from Edmonton to Timmins that the weakness of the present opposition is in saying it would do things carried out by the government in another way.

"You don't build an edifice on the foundation of saying you would do things in a slightly different way," the prime minister added.

"In 1949 and 1953 we used to say me too."

Hon. George Drew, Canadian high commissioner in London, led the Conservatives in those elections. Mr. Diefenbaker did not mention Mr. Drew by name.

The prime minister said at another point that a scheme to help the West Indies in the same way that Canada assists the economic development of countries to the south and Southeast Asia will go to cabinet in a "few days."

**GIVE AS GIFT**

It is understood that the government will buy Canadian fish, cheese, skimmed milk and potatoes to send to the West Indies federation where they can be sold by the federation to obtain development funds. These foods would be an outright gift by Canada as in the case of the Colombo plan.

The prime minister again declined to comment on the provisional agreement between Britain and the European Com-

## Island Drivers Said To Have Improved Record In March

mon Market for an end to Commonwealth trade preference for Canadian manufactured goods by Jan. 1, 1970.

OTTAWA — Prince Edward Island drivers had a better driving record in March of this year than they did a year ago.

Latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics' figures show that in the month there were 111 accidents reported as compared to 155 in the corresponding month of 1961.

of the 111 accidents, one was fatal, 24 more involved injuries to persons and 86 involved property damage only.

In Canada as a whole, excluding Quebec for which figures are not available, there were 164 fatal accidents involving the deaths of 183 people. There were 3,296 accidents in which 4,684 people were injured and total property damage was \$6,188,000.

The P.E.I. total was the lowest of any province. Newfoundland reported 222 accidents, Nova Scotia 1,280 and New Brunswick 515.

There was one person killed in March, the same number as in March last year. A total of 28

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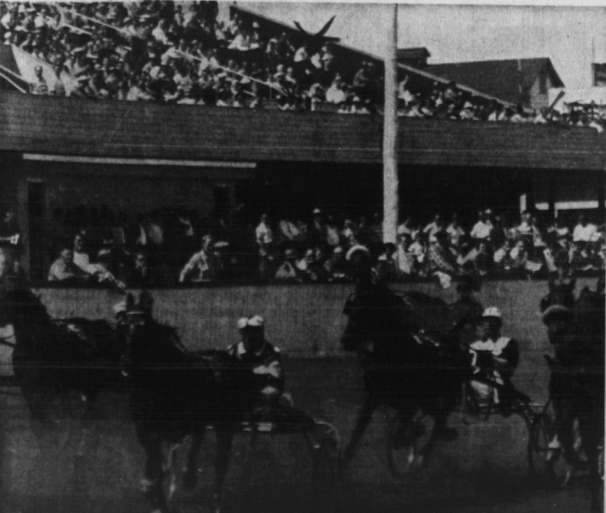
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