

### MANY

(Continued from page 11)  
The returning officer, the man who runs the election in each constituency, is named by the government. A political appointee, he is traditionally chosen from active supporters of the party in power.

How long does it take to appoint returning officers? In the past it has taken more than a year to come up with a fairly full slate after redistribution of the Election Act.

There is some doubt as to how many new appointments will be necessary under the pending redistribution. One school of thought here is that when the new election plan becomes effective, all returning officer posts will become vacant that would require 264 new appointments or, in some cases, re-appointments.

Another view is that redistribution will mean changes only in constituencies with completely new boundaries or new names, or in any where changes shift the returning officer right out of his riding. He has to be an eligible voter within his constituency.

Initial proposals of the 10 boundary commissions, still subject to change, provide 132 new constituencies. In another 32, the returning officer is removed by the residence requirement. Thus, barring further changes which are quite possible, there are at least 162 appointments to be made. Moreover, the great majority of current returning officers were appointed by the Conservatives in 1960.

Even in the present heady election atmosphere, there seems to be no haste in filling the half-dozen vacancies in the ranks of the 263 returning officers for the present 265 Commons seats. The figures don't balance because there are two two-member seats.

Whatever the basis for Mr. Pearson's conclusion, the Conservatives don't agree with it. Richard Thrasher, the party's national director, termed it "a lot of nonsense" and said an election is possible in June, 1966, under redistribution.

The timetable for completing redistribution, first change in boundaries since 1952 when it was based on the 1951 census, is not precise because of certain side factors.

The 10 provincial commissions have until next Jan. 20 to report. Eight will probably do so before the end of this year and the others should meet the deadline if Parliament is sitting, the reports are tabled as soon as received.

Within 30 days of tabling, any 10 MPs can object to a report and call for a debate. The Commons is required to take it up within another 15 days. Once the debate is over, the report

is referred back to the provincial commission concerned and it has 30 days to deal with it. Then redistribution is virtually automatic. Mr. Casonquay, as representation commissioner, prepares a draft order and the cabinet has five days to issue a proclamation declaring it to be in force. It is effective on dissolution of the existing Parliament or, if Parliament is dissolved at the time on the succeeding Parliament.

One possible delaying factor is that if Parliament is not sitting when the reports come in, they are tabled within the first five days after it does sit. A long Christmas recess, well into February as this year, could delay the process. So could debate, not specifically limited by the Redistribution Act.

That explains why estimates for completing redistribution are so far from late April until early June.

To say that woman's place is in the home is a one-sided and misleading statement, he said.

Mr. McRuer noted that 19th century industrial revolution was followed by the enactment of workmen's compensation plans in every province of Canada, every state of the U.S. and every industrial country of the Western world.

His paper was presented Wednesday to the third Common-wealth and Empire law conference in Sydney, Australia.

With respect to accidents as had been raised by the industrial revolution, he said "Modern social and industrial conditions have imposed on every member of society at the risk of using highways as they are today," said the former chief justice, who retired from the high court in 1964.

"Compensation for injuries sustained by reason of motor vehicles irrespective of fault is a burden that can well be distributed among all those for whose benefit the highways have been developed."

Mr. McRuer said under the law as it exists the difference between an injured person receiving compensation, or doing without, may rest upon the court's determination of fault.

He discarded this philosophy, saying "momentary inattention or error in judgment are faults common to everyone."

He added that any auto injury compensation plan should not provide benefits to anyone injured through "a reckless disregard for his own safety."

### RC Women Urged To Join Local Groups

TORONTO (CP) — Roman Catholic women should join and work for community organizations as well as church groups, Rev. Edwin C. Garvey of St. Michael's College says.

Addressing the 14th biennial convention of the Canadian Catholic Federation of Alumni, Father Garvey said here Roman Catholics are obligated as Christians to work with their fellow citizens for the benefit of society.

He said that woman's place in the home is a one-sided and misleading statement, he said.

### Compensation Plan Proposed For Injured

TORONTO (CP) — A system of compensation without fault for persons injured in auto accidents, based on Ontario's workmen's compensation insurance plan, was proposed Wednesday by J. C. McRuer, former chief justice of Ontario.

Mr. McRuer, in a 50-page paper on The Motor Car and The Law, said the courts have proved themselves to be incapable of administering justice in its traditional sense in cases of injury resulting from auto accidents.

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