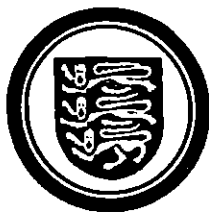


**COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE FRANCHISE
(JERSEY) LAW, 1968.**

Lodged au Greffe on 27th November, 1984 by
Deputy T.J. Le Main of St. Helier.



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to examine the operation of the Franchise (Jersey) Law, 1968, with particular reference to the preparation of electoral registers and the arrangements for obtaining the necessary information, and to report thereon to the States with recommendations; for any changes which the Committee may consider appropriate.

DEPUTY T.J. LE MAIN OF ST. HELIER

Report.

During the Senatorial elections held on 15th November, 1984, it became apparent that quite a number of members of the public who were otherwise qualified to vote were unable to do so because their names were not on the relevant electoral register, although they were certain that they had completed the form of return. In certain cases people had even received an acknowledgement from their Parish Hall but their names still did not appear on the electoral register.

Whilst accepting that even if electors are included on the electoral register there is no guarantee that they will exercise their right to vote and that the existing provisions of the Franchise (Jersey) Law, 1948, as amended, relating to the preparation of the registers may be difficult to operate effectively, the present situation cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Everything possible should be done to ensure that all persons qualified to vote are included in the register. For example, all ratepayers could automatically be placed on the register and the date for collecting information could be brought forward, possibly to coincide with the returns which have to be completed under the Parish Rate (Administration) (Jersey) Law, 1946, as amended. Each elector should be notified in advance of his number, thus cutting down on delays at the polling stations. Although it is not a matter covered by the Franchise (Jersey) Law, consideration should be given to an earlier time of opening (perhaps 7.00 a.m.) for the polling stations.