

if the boundary could be left as it now exists in the present dual constituency.

I should like to make one final point before I conclude my remarks. Like the dual constituency in Prince Edward Island, Halifax has enjoyed representation by two members, elected by the people of Halifax, since the time of confederation. As evidence of the good representation of that city, one can point to the fact that not less than three prime ministers of this country at some point in their lives pursued their careers in that city, sought election there or served in the house of assembly. I would be remiss, as the last new member from that constituency, if I did not pay tribute not only to those men who rose to heights in the parliament of Canada but to the many who came and gave of their time and devotion, serving to the best of their ability. When the constituency disappears we will have seen the last of the constituency in which responsible government in Canada was born, fostered and nurtured.

Viewpoints raised by myself and my colleague are considered to represent the tripartite views of the existing political interests in Halifax. There is no major conflict involved. Indeed they are shared by municipal, provincial, business and social interests. To cross over these lines and disarrange them to the extent proposed, I suggest will create some undue difficulty in federal, provincial and municipal efforts and interest, and it is not our intention to swerve from that difficulty at this time.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, since it is very close to six o'clock I wonder whether we could call it six o'clock. I can assure the house that within a very few minutes after the commencement of the debate tomorrow afternoon yet another province will be out of the way, because I am sure I can complete my remarks in approximately seven minutes.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that any member who wishes to speak to the objections raised in respect of the changes in Nova Scotia be allowed to speak at this time so that we can complete that part of our job this afternoon? I am sure this would take only about 12 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I think that is a very good suggestion. Perhaps you will not see the clock until we have completed this province.

Redistribution

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McCleave: I promise I will keep my eye on the clock and take not more than seven or eight minutes to complete my remarks.

My colleague has covered much of the ground in his remarks that we compiled for presentation to the commission, and I shall not deal with those areas again. I should like to point out, however, that there was agreement among the political parties regarding the general presentation to the commission when it met in Nova Scotia.

The new boundaries that we propose conform to the municipal lines in the province of Nova Scotia. These are lines which have been in effect for generations and which, of course, determine the set-up of the political organizations. I am advised by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) our colleague from the adjoining riding of Antigonish-Guysborough, that he would have joined us had we asked the commission to take another look at the suggested redistribution of Nova Scotia as it affected the whole province. Unfortunately our efforts were confined to the one county of Halifax, which in the future will have three members and include part of a fourth and fifth riding.

This is perhaps understandable when one realizes that the population served, as of the last census, was 225,723. Halifax, even though a dual riding, is one of the largest in the country. To elaborate on the figures given by my colleague, if the changes were made as have been suggested, creating the Halifax-East Hants riding by adding part of the east shore of St. Margaret's bay and Bedford, the member would represent a population of approximately 77,866, which is within the permissive limitation of 67,000 plus the variation. The riding of Dartmouth-Halifax East, adding the eastern end of Halifax county, would then have a population of 74,950. It should be pointed out that Dartmouth is a growth area so the number would be larger than that. However, we are bound by the figures of the last census.

What effect would these changes have on the adjoining seats from which the proposed areas would be taken? Again we must check the figure for Central Nova and the south shore. We would find that these are still within the acceptable population limits.

The argument has been advanced by my colleague, with the regard to the suggested