

Redistribution Commission

Teillet	Watson (Assiniboia)
Temple	Watson (Chateauguay- Huntingdon-Laprairie)
Thomas	Webster
Thompson	Weichel
Tremblay	Whelan
Tucker	Willoughby
Valade	Winkler
Vincent	Woolliams—188.
Wahn	

NAYS

Messrs:

Beaule	Gregoire
Belanger	Langlois
Boutin	Latulippe
Caouette	Perron
Dionne	Plourde
Gauthier	Rondeau—12.

And the house having resumed in committee:

The Chairman: It being six o'clock, shall I rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

REDISTRIBUTION

PROVISION FOR OFFICE OF REPRESENTATION
COMMISSIONER AND READJUSTMENT OF
REPRESENTATION

The house resumed, from Wednesday, November 27, consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Pickersgill—Mr. Lamoureux in the chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting the office of representation commissioner and to define the duties of the commissioner under the said measure, in addition to those assigned to him under the Canada Elections Act and under a measure to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith; to provide for the salary and expenses of the commissioner; to provide for the appointment of a substitute commissioner and for the payment of his salary and expenses; to authorize the commissioner to appoint such officers and employees as are necessary for the conduct of his office and to engage on a temporary basis persons having technical or specialized knowledge of matters relating to the work of the commissioner; to increase the salary of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada and to effect certain other changes in the Canada Elections Act consequential upon the said measure; and to provide for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund under the authority of the said measure of all amounts required for the payment of salary and other expenses under the said measure and under the measure to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions, including expenses of administration thereunder.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, as I proceed this evening with the consideration of the resolution in regard to redistribution I should like to tell the committee that initially the matter now before us was not one with regard to which I intended raising any objection. However, when sitting on the other side of the house for a few minutes on the last day of discussion I spoke to several hon. members, particularly the hon. member for York-Scarborough and, I believe, the Secretary of State. I expressed my view that possibly the matter could be disposed of rather quickly, provided we had the co-operation of the members of the Liberal party. Then, of course, the hon. member for York-Scarborough intervened in the debate and used my constituency of Grey-Bruce for comparative purposes. Although he told me before he spoke that his reference to my constituency would probably be in complimentary terms, I have failed to find this agreeable sentiment in that particular portion of his speech. This is probably one of the reasons I have risen to intervene in the debate this evening.

Let me say immediately, Mr. Chairman, that in other respects, as the terms of the resolution are fairly general, one does not find many of the specifics contained therein to be objectionable, with the exception of the suggestion made by the Secretary of State as to the way we should proceed. As I went back into the previous debates on redistribution, particularly those in 1932-33 and up to 1936-37, I came across some words that I thought were rather applicable at this time, particularly having listened to the Secretary of State in most affable terms appeal to the members of the opposition in such a way that would lead one to expect there would be absolutely nothing objectionable in the bill when placed before the house. Indeed, this may be so: I hope it will be so. But I think these words spoken by Mr. Brunelle, the then Liberal member from Champlain, as reported in *Hansard* of January 21, 1937, indicate some of our reasons for being concerned about this measure, even after listening to the affable words of the Secretary of State when he appealed for co-operation, and so on. We think these words apply equally today, in the year 1963:

Everyone will admit that in framing a representation act the party in power, whichever it may be, will be naturally inclined to abstain from favouring the opposite party and to adopt the course most favourable to its cause. But to be normally interested and anxious to help a party is one thing, and to be so unreasonably ambitious as to adopt a system utterly subversive to the spirit of representative institutions is quite another.

Therefore I do not think too many of us on this side of the chamber anticipate that