

Redistribution

Mr. McIlraith: One can judge what he knows from his conduct in the house. That is the way we ought to judge him, and it is the way he must be judged.

It is interesting to note that the population of the constituency of Brant-Wentworth that is in Brant county is less than half the population of the constituency. Not only that, but I would point out that the suburbs of the city of Brantford, the irregularly described piece of the suburbs, are added to Brantford. Had the hon. member lived in that area I presume he would seek nomination in the constituency of Brantford, though that again is entirely his business and certainly not mine. But I do point that out in order to illustrate the wrong impression that is being created by the arguments of the opposition.

Mr. Hees: Will the hon. member permit a question? Can he explain to us what difference it makes where a man lives, and where he seeks nomination? That is a perfectly proper question.

Mr. McIlraith: I shall be very glad to answer the question. I think it will help hon. members in assessing the nature of the question if I point out that the whole case of the opposition in respect to the addition of a part of Brant-Wentworth constituency to the second smallest constituency, Haldimand, in the province has been based on the fact that two constituencies represented by members of the opposition were amalgamated. That was the whole case made by every member of the opposition on this question, and I thank the hon. member for asking me the question, because it enables me to clarify the point.

Mr. Hees: What I asked the parliamentary assistant was, what bearing has the fact that a man lives in a certain place, on his seeking nomination in some other riding? The parliamentary assistant seems to be making a case out of that.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes; that is another good question. Legally it has none, but it is usually considered advantageous if you live within the constituency in which you seek nomination.

Mr. Hees: Since when did members of the Liberal party begin to worry about our public relations?

Mr. McIlraith: In this case—

Mr. Hees: Don't bother about us.

Mr. McIlraith: The whole argument of the official opposition has been that two constituencies represented by members of the opposition party are going to be combined into one. Nothing of the sort has happened.

Mr. Hees: Well, of all the nonsense!

Mr. McIlraith: Perhaps we will have something to say about Toronto and the Yorks when we come to them. The hon. member may well have his opportunity to argue this afternoon.

The second important point about the remarks made by the hon. member for Eglinton who I must say, unlike his colleague from Broadview, did address himself specifically to the point, is that he did not deal with the problem of what constituency he proposed to eliminate from the schedule but he made quite clear—and I think properly so—what he would do in the immediate area of Haldimand. The effect of that is to add one member to the schedule. He did not say which constituency in the province he proposed to eliminate from the schedule, and of course that follows as a necessary action from what he is now arguing.

Mr. Lennard: Just to correct the impression that has been fostered in the last few minutes, I wish to say that when the last redistribution took place and four townships were removed from the county of Wentworth and put into the riding of Brant-Wentworth I was gerrymandered out of Wentworth county, because I have lived since the last election in the constituency of Brant-Wentworth. I do not live in Wentworth constituency, and I might add that I have never raised any argument about that; I have never complained about it.

Mr. McIlraith: I noticed that.

Mr. Lennard: Furthermore it might interest the hon. member to know that in the new redistribution scheme the hon. member for Hamilton East, as it is still called, does not live in his riding; he lives in the proposed riding of Hamilton South East.

Mr. McIlraith: That is right.

Mr. Lennard: I do not think it is any argument at all, especially from the opposition standpoint. I never raised the question at any time during the past few years that I had been gerrymandered out of my own riding. I never gave it a thought.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): May I interrupt at this point—I hardly thought this question would arise—just to keep the record straight. My hon. friend will agree that at that time, before the change was made, he was informed that apparently the change would in fact move him out of his constituency and he agreed to do what he has now said he did, namely say nothing about it.