

*Redistribution**Proposed Electoral Districts of the Province of British Columbia:*

Resolved that, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter 31, Statutes of Canada 1964-65) consideration be given by this house to the matter of certain objections to the following provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia, laid before the house by Mr. Speaker on Wednesday, January 19th, 1966, and to the reasons appearing in the said objections, hereinafter set forth.

The objections to the provisions of the report are as follows:

1. Throughout British Columbia the commission failed to give due regard to special geographic considerations, including the sparsity and density of population of various regions of the province, when they set the boundaries in dividing the province into twenty-three (23) new electoral districts.

2. The commission failed to give proper appreciation and consideration to the accessibility of one region to another region and to the size and shape thereof, in several of the rural electoral districts, when determining the boundaries of the same.

3. The commission failed to take into account, and erred in holding that it could not take into account, population trends as established since the census of 1961; such trends should have been taken into account by virtue of section 13 (c) (i) of the Act, and would have resulted in substantial variations from the boundaries laid down in the Commission's report.

4. The commission failed to give due effect, and erred in not giving due effect, to special community of diversity of interests of the inhabitants of various regions of the province as set forth in section 13 (c) (ii) of the said Act, with the result that areas with a community of interests with each other have been separated as a result of the commissioner's report, and areas formerly included in constituencies or with areas with which they had a community of interests are included in constituencies or with areas with which they have no community of interest.

5. The commission failed, in addition, to give or pay proper attention to the principle of practical feasibility of a representative keeping in physical contact with his constituents and the constituent's ability to make physical contacts with their representative, thereby rendering adequate representation of the people in parliament a virtually impossible task.

6. Examples of the results of the foregoing and of the effects of the report to which particular objection is taken are the following:

(a) The exclusion of the Williams Lake and adjacent area from the interior riding of Kamloops, with which it has a complete community of interest, and its inclusion with a coastal area in a new riding, including the Queen Charlotte Islands, the inland and coastal areas of the new riding having virtually no interests in common, contrary to the expressed wish of the community of Williams Lake.

(b) The virtual merging of the former riding of Okanagan-Revelstoke with the former riding

of Kootenay East, with the result that the communities of Vernon and of Fernie are included in one riding, creating an area not only without community of interest, but quite impossible physically to serve properly.

(c) The exclusion of the Merritt-Nicola area from the Kamloops riding, with which it has a historic and complete community of interests, contrary to the expressed wish of the community of Merritt.

(d) The exclusion of Quesnel from the former Cariboo riding and its severance from Prince George, with which it has a community of interests and commerce, and its inclusion with Kamloops, with which it has minimal interests and commerce in common, contrary to the expressed wish of the community of Quesnel.

(e) The exclusion of the Queen Charlotte Islands from the coastal riding of Skeena, with which they have a community of interests, and their inclusion in a new riding containing Williams Lake and a vast interior ranching and dry belt area, with which they have nothing in common.

(f) The creation of a situation whereby the Williams Lake area is excluded from the Kamloops-Cariboo riding, while Quesnel is added in on the north, although it is impossible for the member for the riding to get from the southern area of the constituency to Quesnel in any practical sense without going through about seventy miles of the Williams Lake area, in the new riding of Coast-Chilcotin.

(g) The concomitant situation whereby the member for Coast-Chilcotin, in order to get from the coastal areas of his riding (which themselves extend over some 480 miles) to the Williams Lake and interior area, will, in practice, have to drive or fly another 250 miles from the coast, through three other constituencies, including the Kamloops riding, to get from the one part to the other of his riding.

(h) With respect to distances, it is essential not only that it be practically possible for members to cover their constituencies, it is also a principle to be followed that constituents should be able physically to gain access to the member to discuss business with him. In three constituencies newly-created, the constituent who wishes to go to do business with his M.P., from Powell River to Williams Lake, from Fernie to Vernon, or from Quesnel to Kamloops—or vice versa—will face a return journey in the order of 820 miles, 800 miles, and 540 miles respectively. In other words, given any time at all for the transaction of business itself, a visit to their M.P. for these constituents would involve a two- or three-day undertaking.

(i) The failure of the commission to take into account the relative rate of growth of the areas of Vancouver ordinarily called the West End and Kitsilano since the 1961 census, resulting in the new riding of Vancouver Centre having a presently estimated population well in excess of the applicable limit.

(j) The commission failed to give due effect and weight to the representations made and, in particular, failed to give effect to the quite reasonable representations that if large areas of the former ridings of Vancouver Centre and Vancouver-Burrard were to be combined into a new riding, that the new riding be called Vancouver-Granville.