

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act

the Chair is quite prepared to accept the argument of the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen).

Accordingly, we will discuss objection No. 8, I believe. Shall I dispense with the reading?

Mr. Nielsen: You might identify the constituencies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The objection to provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Northwest Territories is as follows:

That, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter E-2, R.S.C., 1970), consideration be given by this House to the matter of an objection to the provisions of the Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Northwest Territories, laid before this House by the Speaker on Friday, June 3, 1983, on the grounds set forth hereinafter:

1. The Commission failed to give adequate attention and consideration to geographical, political and demographic factors when planning the redistribution of electoral boundaries within the Territories, factors which are specifically provided for by subsections 13(c)(i) and 13(c)(ii) of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act to be included in the terms of reference of the Commission.

2. In particular the Commission continued to exclude the Municipality of Tuktoyaktuk and the adjoining Beaufort Sea coastal area from the electoral district of Western Arctic although the economic, cultural and transport related ties of this area are with the Mackenzie Delta in the Western Arctic rather than with the main body of the Nunatsiak electoral district.

3. The Commission did not give adequate consideration to all of the representations made to the Commission during the public sittings that were held in the months of March and April, 1983.

4. And such other objections that the undersigned Members may consider applicable in order to carry out the spirit and terms and conditions of the Act in question.

Is it necessary for me to read the names of the Hon. Members who have signed?

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, again I seek clarification. We now have at least three suspended discussions with regard to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. Am I to understand from Your Honour's ruling that these matters are to be dealt with seriatim—according to the information which was conveyed yesterday, although I do not see it in the House order, concerning Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories—that we will conclude debate on Quebec today—

Mr. Nielsen: No.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):—and conclude debate on Ontario?

Mr. Nielsen: No, no.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I am seeking clarification on this matter so that the record will show that we are not concluding the debates on any of them. We are having a ragtag and bobtailed sort of mess created here by not dealing with them conclusively, one at a time, in the order that was—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the Chair can set the Hon. Member straight. There is an item before us. It is open to debate. This afternoon the House will deal with the items listed for debate. The matters that he has raised are not listed

for debate this afternoon. The debate will be adjourned at three o'clock.

Mr. Nickerson: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was of the impression that we were to proceed this morning with objections to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The point of order has been raised, and by the House Leader for the Hon. Member's Party. The Chair has clearly ruled that what is before us are the objections to the Nunatsiak electoral district. That is the item before us. That is the item open to debate.

Mr. Nielsen: That being the report that was first tabled; and we will be taking these in sequence as they were tabled with the Chair. That might help to clarify the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there are no Hon. Members rising to be recognized—the Hon. Member for Western Arctic.

Mr. Nickerson: If the Chair would kindly allow me to continue with my point of order, I was saying that in conversations with my colleagues this morning I was of the understanding that the procedure was to proceed with the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario. As a consequence, I do not have my notes with me and, being the Member for the Northwest Territories, I am most interested in engaging in the debate of this particular objection.

I would therefore request unanimous consent of the House that consideration of the objection to the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Northwest Territories be held over until later this afternoon.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, that is perhaps a suggestion which will lend itself to acceptance by the House, particularly as the Hon. Member on the Government side, the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Ittinuar), who has filed the objection, is not with us today. The House might want to consider what has happened thus far, the commencement of the debate under the law, and consent that this debate now be adjourned to be taken up at some later date.

● (1240)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Accordingly, we will adjourn the debate on the previous item. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now proceed by agreement to the next item, the objections related to the federal districts in the Province of Quebec. If it is the wish of the House I will read the objections, but shall I dispense?

Some Hon. Members: Dispense.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, as long as we are clear that they will be dealt with seriatim. I think the Chair would help us by identifying each of the reports as they were filed with the Table so they will be taken in that order.