

Redistribution

has served his constituency and parliament well, but he now finds himself in difficulty with respect to his riding.

Mr. McIlraith: He is not in difficulty.

Mr. Graydon: Then we go a little farther west into Manitoba.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Are you not going to shed a tear over Glengarry?

Mr. Graydon: If I were the Minister of Agriculture I would say I was just coming to that, but I am not. In Manitoba the riding of Souris has been represented by a man who has served Canada well in peace and war. He now finds himself in difficulty. He is one of the leading men in our party. I raise my voice in complaint with regard to the situation in which he finds himself. I do so on a purely personal basis, because frankly I do not want to see him in a position of difficulty after the long and faithful service he has given to the House of Commons. The situation in Calgary has been described by some hon. members during the course of today's debate. I shall not go into it because my knowledge of the geography of Calgary is somewhat limited. I know it is one of the finest places in Canada to visit. I want to come now to the constituency of Lake Centre. I do so because I feel that one of the finest and most outstanding of all parliamentarians in the last quarter century has represented that constituency well and favourably in the House of Commons.

Mr. McIlraith: Why did you not make him your leader if he was so outstanding?

Mr. Graydon: In plain and simple terms, I do not think he should be pushed around. The only other redistribution of which I have any knowledge occurred in 1947, and at that time there was also difficulty over his riding. There is difficulty now, and I think he deserves better treatment than to be given a seat that looks like a combination between a jigsaw puzzle and a patchwork quilt. I am looking into the faces of many experts on redistribution, but I am not an expert on the matter. However, I have looked at the situation carefully and I think it is going a little too far to create a new riding for the hon. member for Lake Centre to contest which contains two cities and a large portion of rural territory.

Of course it may be said that the city of Regina is not included, but as far as I can make out from looking at the map the new constituency takes in a rather substantial area right in the city of Regina. It also includes the city of Moose Jaw, forty miles from Regina, with most of the suburban territory around Regina, and in addition there are

[Mr. Graydon.]

180 miles of shore line in the middle of the constituency which makes matters worse. It may be quite all right for the Minister of Agriculture to say today that of course the Liberals have no chance in that riding, the implication being that the hon. member for Lake Centre has an easy task ahead of him. I have some knowledge of the task that faced him in the last federal election, and I know that nobody in Canada worked harder than he did to try to overcome the difficulties and obstacles placed in his way by virtue of the last redistribution. It was an onerous task, and one that kept him in the constituency almost full time. I hope that behind the move now being made there is no motive to try to keep him continuously in that constituency during another federal election, because he is a valuable man not only to our party but also to Canada. I do not think any move should be made to keep him full-time in the constituency so he will not be able to move around and do his part in other sections of the dominion.

I must confess that in that respect he is a lot different from me. It does not make much difference whether I happen to be at home or elsewhere in an election campaign, except it sometimes helps my opponents. I want in lighter vein to make a confession to the house. During the last federal election campaign I made 34 speeches starting at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and ending at Vernon, British Columbia. Before the election we had 66 members, and by the time I had finished we were down to 39. What would have happened if I had made any more speeches I leave to conjecture.

Mr. Winters: You are invited to come to Nova Scotia.

Mr. Graydon: There are a lot of government supporters in the house who in their own hearts really must be thanking me for some of the success they had instead of giving all the credit to themselves. As a matter of fact I might say to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration that in 1940 I went to Flesherton and made a speech there, and he was immediately elected. He has been trying to get me to come back ever since but I have refused, and that will hold true when the next federal election takes place.

Seriously speaking, so far as redistribution is concerned it seems to me that we should not have to come to such an impasse as we are facing at the present time. Frankly I do not like to see it. I have felt great concern over the debate of the last couple of days in the house. It has not been simply a debate staged for the purpose of delaying