

Electoral Boundaries Commission

REDISTRIBUTION

[Text]

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF BILINGUAL
INSCRIPTIONS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Cote (Chicoutimi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Public Works. Since the government is in favour of a bi-national confederation, has the Department of Public Works started to put bilingual inscriptions on federal buildings throughout Canada?

Mr. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's question deals with the national policy on public buildings throughout Canada. After I have secured the proper information I will be glad to answer him in a few days, or as soon as possible.

[Text]

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPRESENTATION ON COM-
MITTEE TO ADMINISTER DISASTER FUND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Has the government received a request to name a representative to a committee to administer the Alberni valley and west coast disaster fund? If so, what action has the government taken on this request?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is quite true that I received a wire from Mayor Hammer of Port Alberni asking us to make such an appointment. This request was supported in a telephone conversation I had with Mr. Lawrence Wallace, deputy minister of welfare for the province. I told them I would hesitate to make an appointment to a committee to disburse a fund to which at this moment we were not contributors.

I think I should tell the house that, very commendably, the member for the riding returned to his riding and remained there for several days. I believe he will agree with me that in general the immediacy of the situation has been taken care of and that the opinion is firmly held and there is every confidence that full reconstruction will take place. As I have already reported to the house, we are awaiting the report of the Earle firm of adjusters, at which time we expect the provincial government to advise us of their intentions.

PROVISION FOR BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS AND
READJUSTMENT OF REPRESENTATION

The house resumed, from Wednesday, April 15, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-72, 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—Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Pearson)—Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

On clause 1—*Short title.*

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Chairman, I have a few brief remarks I should like to make.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. member for Medicine Hat had the floor.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. member for Medicine Hat had the floor yesterday.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): I am perfectly happy to defer to the hon. member.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, I had spoken for about 30 or 40 seconds yesterday before five o'clock, and I will take about the same amount of time now on the first clause of the bill. I simply want to say that our party stated its position at the resolution stage. There are a number of questions we want to ask. We will seek a number of clarifications, particularly with regard to clauses 12 and 13. There are other clauses, of course, such as clause 17 with regard to which we will want a more detailed explanation. However, we are prepared now to proceed with the clause by clause study and to raise these matters as they come up. That is all we have to say at this point.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Chairman, I have a few remarks I should like to make on this bill, which is being piloted through the house by the Minister of Transport. I am grateful to the minister for the open-minded view he is taking of the problems involved for the purpose of having as fair an assessment of the situation as possible made, with the hope that a solution can be arrived at which will have the general support of all parties in the house. I think this should be our objective. Some members are a bit mystified as to why the Minister of Transport should be piloting this bill, and someone has facetiously suggested that it has something to do with telegraphing votes. But having said that may I say I do not subscribe to that view at all.