

But if one starts out only on the basis of a quantitative numerical quota leading to fictitious lines, one ends up with extremely vast, extended territories like the riding of Abitibi which is absolutely extraordinary, in fact an aberration.

On the other hand, a riding in Montreal, for instance, with a population of 80 to 100,000 people, barely covers a few blocks. Mr. Speaker, that is important! Another factor is important and it will be my last point. In a municipality like Saint-Octave de Dosquet, everyone knows everyone else. It is an entity by itself, it constitutes a town. One knows everyone else, people help each other and join forces. People meet on the church steps and take part in the parochial life. In a municipality like Montreal, one does not even know one's next door neighbour in the same apartment building.

Mr. Speaker, many frustrations result when those small factors are not taken into consideration, as they are not actually so unimportant after all because of their human importance.

That is why I shall allow myself to conclude by expressing the wish, humbly and respectfully, that the hon. commissioners will take into account my representations, not so much about the bill to be introduced, since that is the responsibility of the President of the Privy Council, but with regard to the municipality of Saint-Octave de Dosquet, that it might meet the wishes of the people who want to be represented as they now are, within the riding of Lotbinière exactly in the same way, Mr. Speaker, as we are happy to welcome the people of Saint-Apollinaire, the municipality and the parish which naturally are part of Lotbinière.

● (2300)

**Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to acquaint this House and the members of the federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec with the reason why I raised an objection to the recommendations contained in the commission report tabled in this House on Friday, February 27, 1976.

But before doing so, I should like to congratulate and thank the commissioners, more particularly its chairman, Mr. Justice François Chevalier, for the attention they gave to the 17-page brief that I had the privilege to present on Tuesday, August 19, 1975, at the commission hearing in Hull, Quebec.

On the whole, the commission accepted the recommendations I had made for the area north of Montreal which is of particular concern to me, and I think that the members of this area will support my view that most of us are satisfied with the changes introduced by the commission. Now, once more, I wish to thank the commissioners for the understanding they have shown towards our area.

The rationale behind the objection I raised are the following: First, the commission did not earnestly consider the feeling of belonging to a particular area in choosing the name they gave to a specific constituency, namely Deux-Montagnes. In addition, when the commission chose the name of this riding, it did not consider well enough the importance of the number of citizens who are identified with the area for geographical, political and historical reasons, particularly the region of Blainville to which I

### *Electoral Boundaries*

shall refer later. The commission should also consider the importance of the two very distinct territories which make up the new riding.

The first point I should like to raise, Mr. Speaker, is a historical point concerning the area of Blainville. Before telling the story of this region, I should like to thank particularly the hon. Lionel Bertrand, who was a member of the House of Commons for 17 years, a former minister of the Quebec government under Mr. Lesage, a legislative councillor, a journalist and a historian on occasion, who provided me with background for my remarks. In 1683, the king of France granted to the illustrious soldier Sidrac DuGué de Boisbriand the seigniory of The Thousand Islands.

It is the territory presently occupied by the towns of Sainte-Thérèse, Blainville, Boisbriand, Rosemère, Lorraine, Bois-des-Filion and some parts of Saint-Augustin, Sainte-Monique and Saint-Janvier. In 1714, the Thousand Islands fief is enlarged and covers then the area known today as Saint-Eustache added to the original territory. The new fief is divided between the son in law of DuGué de Boisbriand: Jean Petit takes the part of Saint-Eustache and Charles Gaspard de Langloiserie, the part of Sainte-Thérèse, the original territory.

In 1718, Marie-Thérèse DuGué de Boisbriand, widow of Charles Gaspard de Langloiserie takes over the seigniory and she makes the first concessions in 1740. Her daughter, Suzanne de Langloiserie, marries the soldier Jean-Baptiste Céleron de Blainville. The Blainville reside in the seigniory, more precisely in the territory of the present town of Boisbriand. In 1743, the Thousand Islands seigniory becomes the Blainville seigniory.

Their daughter, Thérèse de Blainville who takes over in 1768 develops intensively the seigniory and gives her name to the parish of Sainte-Thérèse de Blainville founded in 1789 and that serves all the territory mentioned above. In 1789, Thérèse de Blainville who became Mrs. Nolan Lamarque places the seigniory in the hands of notary Joseph Hubert Lacroix who became in 1792 the first hon. member for Terrebonne then the county of Effingham. Later, he will become seignior de Blainville in 1806 and his son Janvier Domptail Lacroix succeeds him in 1818.

Briefly, this is the history of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, of Boisbriand, of Saint-Janvier-de-Blainville and of Saint-Janvier-de-Lacroix. The parish of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, incorporated as a municipality in 1845, covers the same territory as in the canonical sense. Thus, the municipality of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, as years went by, gave away parts of its territory to make up the whole or part of other municipalities: Saint-Augustin (1845), Saint-Janvier (1846), the village or town of Sainte-Thérèse (1849), Sainte-Monique (1872), Sainte-Thérèse-Ouest ou Boisbriand in 1946, Rosemère in 1947, Bois-des-Filion in 1949 and Lorraine in 1960. The balance of the territory became in 1968 the town of Blainville. Thus, the towns of Sainte-Thérèse, Boisbriand, Blainville, Rosemère and Lorraine form a homogenous municipal group, united by 293 years of history, of religious and community life.

When reference is made to Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville, people immediately have in mind the area occupied by the above mentioned towns. When one hears Sainte-Thérèse, one thinks immediately of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville.