

Adjournment Motion

election are announced, the federal riding boundary can move with the municipal boundary? I know this is pretty far fetched, and I know it raises all sorts of problems, but you can see the problem that will occur at the time of the next election, if we have one let us say around 1978, and the riding boundaries go to the existing eastern boundary of Cobourg while in the meantime Cobourg expands to the east. Then you would obviously have people within Cobourg and within the new riding who will reside and vote in the riding to the east.

My proposal is simply this. Where it is obvious there will be a change in boundaries so far as the municipality is concerned which forms part of the constituency or riding boundary, the commission should leave the matter flexible enough so that in a fairly easy way the boundaries can be changed when the municipal boundary changes. As I say, this requires some complicated manoeuvring perhaps, but in any event, as the new boundaries which we are discussing today will not become operable until writs for the new election are issued, presumably anything this parliament does can be changed before the effective date of the issuance of the writs.

I hasten to add that this is not a problem that is so earth-shaking that it will affect too much the electoral pattern in that part of the country, but I point out that in southern Ontario, especially with the great mobility of population that we now have, with the trend taking place of more and more people being resident in the urban or semi-urban area surrounding towns and cities, and with more and more of these annexations taking place whereby a municipality expands and gobbles up huge areas around it, it is a problem which I am sure will recur more and more often. I think there should be some way under our electoral laws of adjusting these matters fairly simply and quickly when the municipalities change their geographic shape.

Other than that, I think the report is a good one. As I said, I have been involved in one way or another in many of these redistributions. I must say that it is almost unbelievable to me that the same commissioners can come up with such a poor report as they did last year and a much better one this year. I do not know why they could not have come up with a good one last year; it would have saved a lot of heartache and effort. However, they must be congratulated for what they have done in southern Ontario.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Social Security—Suggested inquiry into public and private pension schemes; the hon.

[Mr. Lawrence.]

member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Transport—Request flour and grain rail subsidies be removed only after Seaway tolls increased; the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser)—Airports—Runway extension at Vancouver—reason for minister's support of new runway within dyked portion of Sea Island.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It may not have been drawn to your attention, but I believe that at the request of the government my question which was posted for tonight has been postponed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSION REPORT RESPECTING ONTARIO

The House resumed consideration of objections to reports of Electoral Boundaries Commissions for various provinces.

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I notice that the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence) indicated that in his new riding of Cobourg-Newcastle he would be inheriting the area of Scugog, as it is now known, which consists of reach township, Scugog township and Port Perry. I must admit that he is a man of good judgment if he looks forward to inheriting that particular area. However, the people of that area have made very strong representations to me that they would prefer to stay in the area to which they presently belong, namely, Ontario riding.

I have indicated, not only today but previously in the presentations I made at public hearings and to the commissioners, that I should like to ensure that the Scugog area of my present riding remains part of the new riding which is presently called Durham West. I think it is important for that particular area that it remain associated with the new riding of Durham West because of its long-standing historic relationship with the Pickering area and with the old riding of Ontario.

The area of Reach and Scugog has been part of the Ontario riding for as long as I can remember, I think right back from the beginning of the riding. These people have a long-standing association with the area. The community of interest and the natural lines of communication are toward the south and to the west, as opposed to the east and southward. I believe that the commissioners really failed to adequately take into account the general disposition of the people in that area to remain associated more with the Pickering-Uxbridge area as opposed to the Cobourg-Newcastle area with which they have little, if any, association.

The second point I would like to make is in respect of the township of Georgina which is in the north end of the