

bring up its population and to preserve it, placing some of the new suburbs in the west end of Saskatoon into the adjoining riding of Kindersley, and that riding would have then been adequate in terms of numbers as well.

These are some specific examples of where the Commission did not listen to the people, where the Commission did not follow the history, precedent and practice of other Boundary Commissions, federal and provincial, over the years. I mentioned Assiniboia. This historical riding will disappear. There is also a boundary change in Swift Current-Maple Creek but, again, I think that this is going in the wrong way. A boundary change for Swift Current-Maple Creek could have been reached north of the South Saskatchewan River, as has occurred in the past—and I want to underline that—rather than moving the boundary substantially toward the east, which means eliminating Assiniboia in the process and creating all kinds of contortions in southeastern Saskatchewan as well. If it would have moved the boundary north, the boundary would have been where it has been in the past, and that would have been much less confusing for the citizens of that part of the country.

In my own constituency of Yorkton-Melville, I believe the Commission erred in both the northern and southern boundaries of the riding. Our part of the Province is one which has two natural boundaries. We have the Qu'Appelle River, the Qu'Appelle River Valley to the south. As Saskatchewan Members like the Hon. Member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil) and others know, that is a natural boundary. There are school board divisions where, in the south, people are in a different school board than those in the north. Wheat pools are divided by the river, municipalities are divided by the river, and all kinds of community activities, church groups and so on are divided by the river. Instead, the Commission ignores the fact that this is a natural geographical, community, social, cultural and historical boundary and tries to put people on both sides of it into the same constituency.

Mr. Pepin: Is that wrong?

Mr. Nystrom: In fact, there are people from communities in the southwest part of the new proposed Yorkton-Melville riding who never go to Yorkton and Melville to shop. They go into Regina to shop because it is much closer. That is where they always go for their social activities, or else they go into the eastern towns of Indian Head, Wolseley, Moosomin, Whitewood, or down toward Weyburn. Their sense of community is in that direction or in the direction of the City of Regina, and not north and east a long, long ways into the City of Yorkton.

I would like to mention the second natural boundary. Again, the Commission ignored the advice of ordinary citizens and folk, I suggest from all political Parties. I say this in response to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) who asks "Is it bad?" The Minister can check with Mr. Ralph Goodale, if he wishes.

Electoral Boundaries

In the north, we have a forest reserve. It is a natural boundary. It is natural because it is a big forest. People very seldom go through the forest reserve because all their organizations, communities and so on are to the south or, north of the reserve, to the north and to the west. It is a forest reserve where there are bears and other animals. However, people see that as being a natural boundary and that was said time and time again to the Commission. In fact, two members of the Commission on their way to Yorkton for the hearings drove through the forest reserve. They said they understood that this was a natural boundary because of the fact that they had just driven through it and they had seen what a forest reserve is really like; yet the map ignores this very natural boundary in northeastern Saskatchewan.

I do not know why these Commissions do not listen to ordinary folk. There is much more common sense in the minds of ordinary citizens of this country, it seems at times, than there is in the minds of people who are appointed to high positions by various Governments across the land.

I mention the constituency of Humboldt-Lake Centre, represented by my friend who is here in the House today. In the new map, this constituency disappears altogether. It is going, I believe, into five different constituencies. Right now that constituency which, I suppose, was historically called the old Lake Centre riding, represented by a former Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker, is one which was basically carved out of central Saskatchewan, the great grain producing area. There is commonness of interest, I suppose among those people who live between Prince Albert and Regina and Saskatoon, those who live in the central part of the Province. That riding, too, will disappear, going off into five different constituencies.

One way of saving the riding would have been to add some of the new suburbs of the City of Saskatoon, from the south eastern part of the City of Saskatoon, to Humboldt-Lake Centre. That would have raised its population very well.

Mr. Pepin: Would that be natural?

Mr. Nystrom: I think it is more natural.

Mr. Althouse: It never was natural, never.

Mr. Nystrom: It is a riding which is in the centre of everything. I think it is more natural to have two totally urban constituencies in the City of Saskatoon and to place the new suburbs into adjacent rural ridings than it is to create three ridings which are partially urban and partially rural.

Mr. Pepin: The point is that you always trade off something.

Mr. Nystrom: One always trades off something. The populations are not large enough to create three fully urban ridings, but they can create 2.5 urban ridings. Instead of creating six urban ridings between the two cities, this way there would be four which were urban and two which were urban and rural. That would give a greater sense of community. In any event, that was the feeling of so many people in the Province from all the different political Parties.