

*Redistribution*

Mr. Speaker, I should like to pay some tribute to Mr. Justice Pottier and his commission, including Mr. Muggah, Mr. Grant, and their secretary Mr. Donald D. Anderson. Their job was a very difficult one I know, because I have been through much of the work they have done, for other purposes and on other occasions. During the course of the hearings in Halifax there were 11 presentations to the commission made up substantially of the political interests as they now exist. These representations were in some general accord. There were no sharp divisions of opinion and they centered around largely, as has been pointed out here earlier this afternoon, the necessity of maintaining identity and common purpose. When you are taken away and removed from those areas whose traditional motivation is in one direction, it is a little difficult to remove them, as in the case of Bedford Basin, from the natural Halifax orientation to the Dartmouth orientation. There is no logical or geographical reason, nor has there been any historic reason.

Mr. Speaker, the time is getting on today and I know that my colleague from Halifax (Mr. McCleave) will deal in depth with many of these points I have raised. In the few remaining moments left I wish to deal with the suggestion that the Halifax-East Hants riding as proposed by the commission be renamed and that it be renamed in honour of a great Nova Scotian, one of the untiring champions of constitutional rights in the province of Nova Scotia and perhaps truly one of the fathers of responsible government in Canada. I refer to that famous attorney general of the province, Mr. Uniacke.

Mr. Uniacke's whole history, his whole life in Nova Scotia, was one of merit and reward, both to himself personally and to the people with whom he worked and lived in his time, as well as the people who have followed in that great province since then. Mr. Uniacke was an Irishman born in Cork in 1753. He came to Canada in 1774, was admitted to the Nova Scotia bar on April 3, 1781, and in 1782 was appointed solicitor general of that province. In 1783 there ensued a period of 25 years of devotion and service as a member of the house of assembly. Mr. Uniacke was first elected to represent the township of Sackville. While that is not immediately in the riding, the latter years of his life were spent in the heart of what, if the changes are to go through, will be known as Halifax-East Hants.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

Not only because of his 25 years of service as a member of the legislative assembly, but also because of the many other warm human traits that he brought to light in our province in those years, the dying years of the 1700's, we wish to give him recognition in this manner. He spent the last 15 years of his life at Uniacke House, and the area subsequently has been named Mount Uniacke. We find historical reference to him in many ways and in many centres within the new riding and within the adjoining area of the city of Halifax.

If the commission could consider the changing of the name from Halifax-East Hants to that of Uniacke, I am sure they would encourage the good will of the many thousands of residents in the suburban areas surrounding Halifax and through the area of Hants East.

● (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I have one other brief thought I should like to put forth this afternoon regarding this question of redistribution of the boundaries in Halifax, and it involves in a very minor way the absolute numbers or quotas that would be affected by two of the changes that have been mentioned, particularly with regard to Halifax-East Hants.

In reference to the change of the Dartmouth riding from the area known as Bedford, back to the western riding, which I hope will come to be known very favourably as "Uniacke", in all a total of 2,100 voters will be involved. This falls well within the allowable percentage of deviation above or below the quota and should impose no difficulty from that point of view.

On the other side of the ledger, the removal of this number of people from the Dartmouth riding will in no way impair it. In fact, the growth on the Dartmouth side of the harbour is such that the removal of 2,100 votes will not make much difference, because during the five year period since these figures were accumulated I am sure the growth has been such as to bring it within the allowable limits.

Out in the extreme western end of this new riding to the Hubbards and St. Margarets bay area, along the shore line of St. Margarets bay to Peggy's Cove, we find people whose natural orientation and business pursuits are best accommodated in Halifax. As I say, their natural orientation is in this direction, and it would be useful to these people and the maintenance of order in the new constituency