

Redistribution

become part of the Meadow Lake riding. That shows there has not been that degree of care taken that should have been taken.

One hon. member when speaking today mentioned that he hoped these maps were not drawn in Ottawa and simply handed to the provincial commissions. This map could not have been drawn anywhere else than in Ottawa, by somebody that does not know anything about Saskatchewan. This same thing has happened in respect of the proposed maps of other provinces, and I cannot understand why this is the situation.

I wanted to see non-political, non-partisan maps providing for proper representations, based not on political but on sensible foundations. This proposed map of Saskatchewan does not qualify on the basis of that criterion.

As a result of a competition which took place in the United States, the Supreme Court of that great nation ruled in 1957 or 1958 that there should be representation by population, as far as is possible. However, this parliament, as the hon. member for Qu'Appelle said so well, decided in its wisdom on a tolerance formula, but that formula was not utilized as it should have been.

For many years we have heard the suggestion that farming areas have too great a representation, and there was foundation for that suggestion. This map should have been drawn before the last election was held. There never should have been an election pushed on us as it was, with constituencies in Canada having 225,000 population and others having populations of 35,000. We now have time to do something about the situation.

The suggestion has been made over and over again that we are ending what Mr. J. B. McGeachy of the *Financial Post* describes as a "tyranny of yokels", a "yokel" being a rural fellow. I do not like that expression and I think there will be resentment over its use. A rural riding is much more difficult for a member to cover than an urban riding. There are great difficulties facing a member who has to serve a rural area with all its varying features, the pull of attraction or antipathy, as the case may be. Our objective must be to have representation by population as far as possible, but it was never intended that the commissions should be given the power to say: Whatever the tolerance may be that parliament provided, you must take what we give you and like it or lump it, to use a colloquialism.

I urge very strongly that action be taken by the commission in Saskatchewan to give

the fullest possible consideration to the representations that have been made by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle and others. All we are asking is that there be justice—that there be justice for the people living in these areas.

A division such as was made by the commission in certain areas in Saskatchewan is a division that could have been made with a compass and a population list, with no regard whatsoever to the physical features. One of the most impressive portions of the argument advanced by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle was that part relating to the Saskatchewan river dam, which is in the constituencies of Moose Jaw-Lake Centre, Meadow Lake, Kindersley and Rosetown-Biggar. When that project is completed how is a member going to get across into his constituency?

An hon. Member: He will have to swim.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Anybody who tries to swim the Saskatchewan river will only succeed in reducing the population, and it will be reduced by exactly the number who participate in the attempt.

The commission has not given consideration to that situation but I hope it will do so. The brushing aside of representations is not conducive to that co-operative attitude that we have had in this house in our attempt to assure that representation in parliament shall not be determined on a partisan basis, but only having regard to the welfare of this country as a whole.

I conclude by again suggesting that the time has come for a constitutional amendment to add to our membership from the province of Saskatchewan, which today is being reduced to a minimum. There is a maximum of economic development and tremendous hopes for the future in that province, but this is a relegation of that province, by its reduced membership, to a kind of borough, because of its reduction in population as compared with the increases in population in adjoining provinces.

I hope that the commission will not follow the course it has followed, of consulting nobody but itself, or, if it did consult anybody, not listening to them, pushing everything aside that was brought before it. Surely of all the representations and briefs presented to that commission there was something worthy of consideration by this commission. One would think that among all the representations made by the people of Saskatchewan