

*Electoral Boundaries*

equality being the electoral quotient of 81,085—for any of a number of reasons. First, it refers to special geographic considerations including sparseness or density of population, accessibility of regions and the size or shape of regions. Then it states:

N.B. Because of this amendment, relative rate of growth of population is no longer a factor to be considered.

I will deal specifically with the constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth, suggesting somewhat later that that is no longer a factor which should be left out of consideration. In fact, in a growing province and a growing country it is a factor that should be very much taken into consideration, but which obviously was not taken into consideration when the commission redrew the maps for the city of Hamilton, the county of Wentworth and the Niagara region.

There is the point, brought to my attention by a constituent, as well about the cost of the commission and its hearings. We recognize that this has been a difficult process. It must be an expensive process if it is to be done in the necessary detail. One thing I would question, and I think this should be reconsidered when we next ask the next commission to begin its work, is whether it is really necessary to buy up all that space in every daily newspaper in each province to reproduce the maps, and whether in fact it would not be more economical and more advisable to search out other means of advising interested parties what the constituencies in which they live are to be following redistribution.

There should be other means of informing them that the commission is considering redistribution along certain lines. We should seek out other means through the media which would not always require buying space, and if the media is responsible it would not ask the commission to buy all this advertising. We could make these maps available at the city or town halls or some place convenient without burdening the taxpayer with the extra and unnecessary expense of showing them in black and white in their daily newspapers just what the commission has done to the constituencies.

I want to turn to the particular case of the riding of Hamilton-Wentworth. I will not go through the usual tour of the constituency, talking about the greatness of every part of it. I did that a number of years ago when I first entered this House, in keeping with the custom and practice of a new member. However, I think I should describe what the constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth consists of today and what this commission wishes it to consist of in the future.

The constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth is a very historic one. I am sure no member will disagree with the suggestion that it is one of the finest constituencies in the country. It consists of an area that might roughly be described as a significant section of the city of Hamilton, the east end in which I grew up and, therefore, with which I have natural sentiments and ties. It takes in the new town of Stoney Creek. It takes in some of the rural portion of the old county of Wentworth and part of the township of Glanbrook. It then goes around to complete the horseshoe and takes in the town of Ancaster. This is a riding that has a community of interest. It has a riding that has historic ties in all of these areas, and it is a riding that makes sense.

One might also not take objection on these bases to the new constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth, because what the commission has done is to include part of the city of Hamilton on an extended basis. It then goes further into the old community of Wentworth, and includes the town of Dundas and the township of Flamborough, now being ably represented by my colleague, the hon. member for Halton-Wentworth (Mr. Kempling). These are understandable changes and would be most welcome in the constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth by all the residents there because they have a community of interest and common ties. The city of Hamilton is experiencing tremendous growth, and many of these areas are historically a part of the old county of Wentworth. We take no objection to this fact.

Then we look at the areas of the proposed riding of Hamilton-Wentworth which the commission has lopped off in a way that can only be compared with an attempt by a medical student at surgery using other than the best of instruments. No doubt my colleague, the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) is aware of more than one occasion when people have suffered as a result of this kind of thing and he has had to go in and correct others' errors of inexperience. To carry that analogy further, what all of us on both sides of this House are trying to do is get the commission, with the best intentions, to perform good surgery. They may consider the operation a success, but if the patient dies it really is to no advantage. We want to gently urge them, and we humbly ask them, to reconsider and to think about what they have done. We ask them to go back and reconsider: it is that simple.

They have taken a significant proportion of the city of Hamilton and also the town of Stoney Creek, now in the constituency of Hamilton-Wentworth, and put them into the new riding of Lincoln. If only Conservatives objected to this we might be accused of having partisan motives. The interesting thing to note is that the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Andres), my present neighbour and an hon. member on the government side, has also put in a protest about this move. In addition, his predecessor, Mr. Ken Higson, who served with such distinction as the Progressive Conservative member for that riding, also put in an objection. The town of Grimsby and the riding of Lincoln objected to it as well.

I think it is most significant that a weekly newspaper in the town of Stoney Creek encouraged citizens and individual residents of Stoney Creek to indicate to the commissioners that they did not want to be part of the riding of Lincoln, but that in fact and in heart they were part of Hamilton-Wentworth and wished to remain that way. I think the hon. member for Lincoln in his notice of objection summarized the feelings that people of all parties and from both sides—from the Lincoln side and from the Hamilton-Wentworth side—have when he said:

The boundaries set forth by the Commission in its 1976 Report also digress from the provincial riding boundaries, municipal and regional lines. On page 4 of the report, the commission states the principle that:

"Keeping in mind density of population as well as community interests, the commission has drawn the boundaries of the major cities . . . so as to follow municipal boundaries wherever possible."

● (1920)

This principle was ignored in the case of Lincoln by bringing together sections of the regional municipality of