

*Redistribution*

established by the act is a sound one and my own view is that the commission in British Columbia had a difficult task to perform because of the geography of our province. Indeed, I feel that one of its most difficult tasks was the development of a constituency, within the tolerances set out by law, in the area embraced by the proposed Coast-Chilcotin constituency.

● (6:40 p.m.)

From the point of view of some future member trying to serve this constituency even with the changes proposed by the hon. member for Skeena, it certainly will be one of the most difficult ridings in Canada to serve. One of the factors involved now is that between the eastern portions of it, the ranching country surrounding Williams Lake and westward into the Chilcotin and the coastal areas, lies the quite formidable mountain barrier of the British Columbia coast range including a large section of some of the highest and most precipitous mountains in British Columbia.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that even without the inclusion of the Queen Charlotte Islands this constituency will be a difficult one for any member to represent. I should like to say simply that I believe the hon. member for Skeena has put forward some quite sound grounds for the changes he has suggested, and I believe they are put forward without any sort of prejudice. I feel sure he has spoken correctly when he has indicated the views held by the residents of the islands who are of course in a rather peculiar position of geographic isolation. I believe that if the redistribution commission in British Columbia will take a further look at the problem in connection with this constituency they can improve upon the work they have done up until this point.

**Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, it became known to members of the various parties in British Columbia that individual members from all parties had certain objections they would like to raise in respect of this act. However, it was agreed between members from British Columbia that they would file one objection worded in such a manner that any individual member could use the over-all objection as a basis for argument with regard to his own area. Unfortunately, because of the change in the schedule announced a day previously when we had understood that British Columbia members would be heard on Monday, we

[Mr. Barnett.]

learned today that we would be heard today. The hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) was to have spoken with regard to the interior of British Columbia. I believe the arguments he would wish to advance would coincide, for instance, with the ideas of the members for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) and Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge). Unfortunately we were not able to get in touch with the hon. member for Kamloops.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich is now addressing himself to objection No. 13 filed by the hon. member for Skeena, or whether he is at this time referring to the more general objection. If he is not addressing himself to the specific objection to which I referred previously and which we have been discussing, I would point out that this one should be disposed of first.

**Mr. Chatterton:** I was addressing myself to the general objection.

**Mr. Speaker:** In that case, as we have done in respect of the others we will make a note that the house has considered this objection.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If I understood the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich correctly, he said there had been an agreement among the members from British Columbia that they would file only one motion and that all objections or arguments could be made under that one motion. I should like to point out that this statement is incorrect. There had been some preliminary discussion in an effort to see whether or not we could develop one motion which would be acceptable to all members from British Columbia but that objective did not come to fruition.

**Mr. Chatterton:** I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** In any event, we now have disposed of objection No. 13. The house having considered objection No. 13, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, it is the Speaker's duty to refer the report of the Boundaries Commission together with a copy of the objection and also a copy of the debates of the house back to the commission for consideration thereof.

We will now proceed with consideration of objection No. 16, the text of which is to be found at pages 27 to 29 of the pamphlet which has been distributed to members.