

Redistribution

asked to see the map, and be allowed to take part in the discussions during the preparation of that map, was told that he could not see the map? And proposals were offered by the hon. member in the committee.

Mr. Dewar: You cannot honestly state—

Mr. Fulton: Could anything be further removed from the high principles outlined by the Prime Minister this morning, that all members of the house, as representatives of the public, should take part in the discussions, removed entirely from the plane of political considerations, so that the maps of the constituencies of Canada might be drawn in the best interests of the people? It is too bad that the Prime Minister did not get the members of his own party into a conference and lay down the law to them in accordance with the same statements of principle which he gave to the house this morning. It is too bad that, having done that, he did not also insist upon his own followers following the principles he had laid down with the same rigidity with which they have followed instead the principles of political advantage.

Mr. Ferrie: May I ask the hon. member a question? Will he kindly tell us what political advantage could be gained in the province of Saskatchewan by any party?

Mr. Fulton: The matter has been discussed here for the best part of three days now, and if the hon. member has not proven capable of absorbing what he has heard during that time I have no illusions that, within the space of two or three minutes, I could make any improvement on the situation.

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration was obviously misinformed when he made the statement he did this morning concerning the opinions which had been expressed at Westminster about the commission. For that reason, I propose to read into the record what did take place, because it has a bearing on what we are now discussing. Since it will take some minutes to do so, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we now call it one o'clock.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Drew: If the members are impatient, I shall read until one o'clock.

The Chairman: Is it the wish of hon. members that I do call it one o'clock or do hon. members wish to allow the leader of the opposition to continue past one o'clock?

Mr. Drew: I do not propose to read past one o'clock. We have the ordinary hours, and I propose to respect them. If hon. members do not wish it to be called one o'clock, I shall read until one o'clock.

[Mr. Fulton.]

Some hon. Members: One o'clock.

The Chairman: My understanding of the situation is that, since it was one minute to one o'clock and the leader of the opposition indicated that his statement would take several minutes, hon. members were giving him their consent to sit past one o'clock. If it is not the wish of the leader of the opposition to continue making his statement past one o'clock, it being one o'clock I do leave the chair.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I had better say that I am acting as a pinch hitter, Mr. Chairman. It is not often that a pinch hitter has so little to do.

Mr. Croll: And does it so well.

Mr. Drew: One of the things which have been so conspicuous in the discussion of this subject has been the fact that, as we read the records of the discussion in regard to redistribution, we find that on each occasion that this subject is brought up again there is reference back to what has been said on earlier occasions. I am sure that will be true in the future. I hope that while many members may think that more is said than may be necessary, there will be assistance to future members of this house in some of the things that have been said, because this discussion will take place. Perhaps because the government may have been misled by some statements that they may have misapprehended, I do not think I should let pass an extraordinary misinterpretation placed before the committee this morning by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

In fact I question whether there ever has been a case in this committee where a quotation has been used which more clearly gave the opposite effect to what was put upon it by the member who quoted it. This morning, in referring to the different proposals that have been made, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, who has acted as chairman of the redistribution committee, spoke about the views that had been expressed by members on the opposite side of the house from him. He said:

Hon. members opposite have spoken in the most glowing terms about the success of what has been achieved in the United Kingdom and in other commonwealth countries. I am just hesitating to ask whether they read the debates of any of the legislatures to which they referred, for if they had I am sure they would not have made the statements they did make.