

House of Commons Act

because I would like to use the Bill to remind the next speaker that I have had a hobbyhorse in front of him and his Management and Members' Services group for some time. I have just had the good news from some of the Chief Electoral Officer's estimates that my riding has 125,000 to 140,000 voters. We have about 200,000 people living in Mississauga North. This is the third time I have stood in the House and requested some fairness from the people at Management and Members' Services and Internal Economy for big ridings like mine.

Population makes work, just as geography makes work. In our regulations, we have made allowances for geography. We have said that there are remote ridings in this country and those ridings receive extra allowances to permit Members of Parliament to do a better job on behalf of their constituents. Since my riding happens to be the biggest in Canada by population, that is unfair treatment of the people in my district.

Of course, every ten years there is a redistribution which adjusts the situation. I have made a proposal to the Commission that it be a little more flexible in between redistribution so that we could have some allowance and help for the individual voters in big ridings. Our proposals was that we use the number of electors on the electoral list to measure the top 10 per cent of ridings across Canada by population. Those people would then have an extra staff member, or perhaps two staff members, to handle personal and business problems.

We petitioned the group which includes the Hon. Member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. Vankoughnet). The petition included names from every Party and every region in this country. We requested that there at least be consideration, but we have not even received an answer. I would like to receive a little bit of an answer from the committee so that we could home to the electors in our area and give them an answer as to why we are not getting proper representation for them.

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my notes are scrambled and slightly rambling. I admit to not having the eloquence of the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) or perhaps the passion of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington). However, in the next few minutes I hope to answer some of the comments that have been made and make some points with regard to the Bill, which I support. Because I feel it should be made, I would like to put on the record a motion I had hoped the Hon. Member would make.

Let me begin by saying that the Bill is one that has been supported by most of the members of the Management and Members' Services Committee. In fact, a colleague of mine, the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), who has been on the Committee almost since its inception, has placed a similar motion before the House at different times in the past. His perhaps went a little further in that he wanted to make all members of the Commission non-Privy Councillors, but that is a very minor distinction.

Second, the Hon. Member for Dauphin-Swan River (Mr. Lewycky), a Member of the New Democratic Party who also

sits on the Committee, has indicated his support and, through him, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain also supported the Bill.

The fact is that it is the unwillingness of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), as represented here today by his Parliamentary Secretary, to refer the subject matter of the Bill that exemplifies the problem we have had. There is indeed and has been a stranglehold on the Commissioners of Internal Economy and the operations of the House of Commons by the President of the Privy Council. That is the reason we have not progressed. If the Hon. Member for Mississauga North (Mr. Fisher) will listen, I will tell him that that is the reason we have not had an answer to his question.

The fact is that the Members' Services Committee has produced, on behalf of Members, a number of changes, and many more are coming about. Most of those things concerning which we have petitioned the Commissioners have indeed come to pass.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council will be as aware as anyone in the House of the Office Automation System and Information Services now being prepared and under way. The acronym OASIS is the one that we use for the most part. He is aware that that system is under way. He must also be aware that it would have been in place had it not been for the opposition of the President of the Privy Council. That is the sort of thing that has held us up.

You will find, Mr. Speaker, that in the last two days of February, 1984 there will be tremendous change in the telephone service of the House of Commons. It is something we have been looking for over the years. That could have been in place two years ago had we had an Administrator such as we have now in the person of Mr. Silverman. I would go a step further than my friend, the Hon. Member for Capilano, and add some support to his Chief of Support Services, Mr. Desramaux, because the two of them have worked on behalf of the Members of the House of Commons to provide services well above and beyond those we have had in the past.

While I know the Hon. Member for Beauharnois-Salaberry has some problems there, I suggest to him, through Your Honour, that those problems are not the result of the coming into place of a proper Administrator and that the savings of \$22 million in last year's budget alone are not causing the discontent that he finds—"a kettle boiling in risk of explosion", as I believe he said. The discontent that he finds is being fostered because the patronage, the porkbarrelling that was exclusively the premise of the President of the Privy Council to this point, is being slowly eroded away from him.

The Hon. Member for Capilano is absolutely right when he says that the Speaker has done a magnificent job of administration. There are those in the House who may disagree with some of the things that have happened in the House under the Speaker, but when it comes to administration and the implementation of services for the House through an Administrator who is competent, qualified and prepared to show us where the money has been spent, she has been really quite magnificent. The staff that have been put together under the Administrator