

brought down, generally speaking, a very excellent and very complex report which we are now debating. I think, generally speaking, in southern Ontario attention has been paid to community interests. I think the commissioners have paid attention to traditional boundaries in southern Ontario.

Also, I think they have paid great attention to the mobility of the population which is now taking place right through southern Ontario. They have been saddled with a great burden by this House. I believe they have discharged their responsibility in respect of southern Ontario in a remarkably efficient and good manner in respect of this report. However, one specific area comes to mind. Generally speaking, the commission has chopped off an extremely good Tory area to the northeast of the existing riding of Northumberland-Durham. Instead, it has been put into the new riding which they have called Cobourg-Newcastle. I will have a few words to say about that. They have included in the new riding a Cobourg-Newcastle real fighting ground in respect of the northwestern area of the new riding, the area around the old township of Reach, the town of Port Perry and the area now included in the riding of Ontario.

I would say that from a political point of view, if I had the ambition to run in the new riding of Cobourg-Newcastle, I would probably be here complaining about that as I have noticed the present member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) is complaining in an objection about which I am sure we will be hearing. Generally speaking, however, I think this is a good report. Certainly it is a common sense report. Even from a political point of view, I would have some objection to what they have done to the riding of Northumberland-Durham; but in fairness to the commission I think the addition of the old township of Reach and the old town of Port Perry in the new riding of Cobourg-Newcastle is a common sense approach because that area is now included with the rest of the area municipally which basically is a rural part of central and eastern Ontario.

I think the addition of this area completes the over-all picture of urban representation. Even though the member for Ontario may be sad to see it go, nevertheless, as a taxpayer, resident and citizen of that area I am glad to see it included because I think it adds to the over-all picture.

I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker. I have two very minor—I stress the word “minor”—objections to the constituency marked No. 8 in the report which they have called Cobourg-Newcastle. I think the commission can do something about one objection. The second objection is one which I am not sure the commission can do anything about. Nevertheless, I want to comment on both minor objections in the House this afternoon. The name of riding No. 8 on the Ontario map is currently Cobourg-Newcastle. I object to that name only because of the number of objections I have received in the mail. Presumably, the commissioners chose that name because the new riding does include the new town of Newcastle and the town of Cobourg. That makes sense. However, there are many other communities in this riding. There is the town of Port Hope, for instance, and Port Perry. There are many rural municipalities in that riding.

It is not strange that I have received many objections from the citizens to the name of the riding. They object to

Electoral Boundaries

being included in a riding which refers only to two municipalities within the constituency. If I were a member of the commission picking a new name for the riding, I think I would choose the name Durham-Northumberland, simply because the greater proportion of the new county of Northumberland is, and will be, included in the riding to the east which is currently ably represented in this House by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees). That riding, I quite agree, should be called Northumberland.

However, I point out to the commissioners that because the new riding also includes a good portion of the new county of Northumberland, “Northumberland” should be included in the new name. It is traditionally an historic name in the area and I believe it should be included in the new name of the riding. I should also point out that the new riding includes a very great portion of the regional municipality of Durham, especially the northern and eastern portion. Therefore, I think a name for the new riding that would represent the geographical area and which would calm the ruffled feathers of many people in the area who do not want necessarily to be tacked onto the town of Cobourg or the town of Newcastle, would be the reverse of the existing constituency name.

I suggest to you, sir, and to the commissioners, if they should read this debate, that the name of the new riding shown in the Ontario map as No. 8 should be Durham-Northumberland. I think that would meet the approval of all the communities and municipalities in the area.

● (1650)

My final point is simply that this is an objection to the existing report and it is one that I am not sure the commission can do anything about. It must be an objection that will recur in many areas of southern Ontario between now and when the writs are issued for a new election, and that is the problem of changing municipal boundaries between now and then.

Let me give an example. The new riding envisaged by this report has as its easterly boundary the existing town limits of the town of Cobourg. That is a good boundary to use because it fits in with the municipal boundary and people in that area know whether they are within the town boundary or outside it. I think it is a sensible approach made by the commission in respect of that eastern boundary. However, there is a move afoot to change many of the municipal boundaries in the existing county of Northumberland. One of the proposals that has been made—and I am sure that before long it will land in the lap of the Ontario municipal board—is a move by the town of Cobourg to expand the town boundaries to the north and to the east.

It is an annexation proposal because the area right now to the east of Cobourg is one that has been built up very rapidly over the last few years and is continuing to expand. Quite rightly, the municipal council of Cobourg wants to expand and take that area in to provide the needed municipal services and balanced assessment that the town needs.

My inquiry to you, sir, and my objection in respect of this matter so far as the commission is concerned is that if the town of Cobourg is going to expand, as I am sure it will, then why cannot we make the boundaries flexible so that if it happens between now and when the writs for the