

*Redistribution Commission*

confederation because the house is larger. The protection afforded by the Senate floor gives Prince Edward Island as well as New Brunswick greater representation in the House of Commons than they would be entitled to strictly on the basis of representation by population.

This is a recognized principle. Perhaps the most obvious example of it occurs in the United States. The more influential of their two houses is the senate, but every state of the union, regardless of population, is represented by two senators. You have states like New York and California with populations around 16 million represented by two senators, whereas you have a state like Nevada with a population of something like 300,000 also having two senators. This means that the senator from New York represents about 50 times as many people as the senator from Nevada.

**Mr. Macaluso:** You might also include in your comparison the electoral college system for the election of the president, because the two systems are quite different.

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** I am not talking about the election of a president at the moment, but that is true. The president is actually elected by the electoral college which has representation from all the states and, depending on the majority obtained in each state, as I understand it, all the votes from that state go to the candidate in question. It is possible, I believe, for a president of the United States to be elected by a majority of the electoral college but still have a minority of the total popular vote.

However, I was not intending to embark on that question at the moment. I was simply pointing out that, with the protection of the Senate floor, in so far as the representation of certain provinces is concerned it is merely an attempt to guarantee a certain minimum weight of representation in the national parliament from those provinces. As the Secretary of State pointed out, it is generally agreed that this principle will be followed and I do not believe it is contemplated that it should be disturbed.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The senatorial floor?

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Certainly I would oppose disturbing it, very strongly indeed.

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** Yes, I understand that. I am not questioning the views of the Secretary of State on this at all. I was just pointing out that I believe that we are all agreed that should be the case.

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that, so far as this contemplated legislation is concerned, I believe it is an important forward step so far as Canada is concerned, that we should embark on a new method of redistribution. Then I should like to point out that the first redistribution under this new system, if it becomes operative, will be vitally important. I think we should not try to make progress too rapidly with this first redistribution under the new system. Great care should be taken to look carefully at all these various factors, so that we do not disturb some principles that would have to be reinstated at a following redistribution. I think if we make progress without trying to accomplish everything at once then, after the first redistribution, under the new system following redistributions will be relatively easy.

**Mr. Kindt:** Mr. Chairman, the subject dealt with in this resolution, that of redistribution, is an extremely important one to every member of this committee. This evening I should like to speak primarily on the question of tolerance. The Secretary of State has mentioned 20 per cent, someone else has mentioned 30 per cent and still another person has mentioned 40 per cent. I want to point out to the Secretary of State and to the committee that there is a tremendous difference between rural and urban ridings. There is the question of heterogenous conditions in rural ridings as compared with the relative homogenous conditions of urban ridings.

In the rural riding, for example, there are all the various industries and types of production which one can find spread over a large area. I speak from experience with my own constituency of Macleod, which consists of an area about 150 miles from north to south and 150 miles from east to west. There are the Rocky mountains on the west which divide the two provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. In this area one finds oil and natural gas. Fifty per cent of the natural gas which goes to Ontario originates in the Pincher Creek area; another 25 per cent or 50 per cent goes to California, and it also originates in that area. In addition there is the oil in Turner Valley. Then, at Okotoks, Texas-gulf Sulphur has constructed a plant, and if it were working at capacity it would be in a position to ship out one trainload of sulphur per day. Sulphur is also produced at Turner Valley at the Shell plant, and at the B.A. plant south of Pincher Creek.

In addition to these products which come from beneath the surface there are the various lumber products and agricultural products. There are approximately 6,000 farmers producing wheat, cattle and a wide range of products. If a member is to get to all the corners of his constituency he is faced with