Redistribution

That is in reference to the formula of 25 per cent up or down.

-in any case where

(i) special geographic considerations, including in particular the sparsity, density or relative rate of growth of population of various regions of the province...appear...necessary or desirable.

Some lawyers have interpreted this to mean -of course, law is not an exact science-that the commission had to take these matters into consideration and this was the reason for their creating Rocky Mountain. Perhaps Mr. Justice Porter, a distinguished jurist, took the opposite view, namely that he could use it as a guide when he ran into these problems. But whatever interpretation was accepted by the commission, our main objection has been that creating this constituency has also created problems with reference to other electoral boundaries.

The creation of these problems is the main reason for raising our objection today and for setting out the eight objections to be found on page 2 of the document distributed to Members of Parliament in reference to this matter. I need not be repetitious in this regard because our objections are very clear. They were not drawn up by one or two members; they were drawn up by all the members who signed the objection. Knowing the commission, I am satisfied that they will review our objections carefully.

In order that the two population tables may be read together, namely, the one covering the 17 constituencies which were made 19 on the basis of the 1961 census, I would ask that the table I have in my hand be made part of Hansard. This table enumerates the 19 constituencies starting with Athabasca and finishing with Wetaskiwin. These constituencies are outlined in schedule A annexed to the report of the commission.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): I would ask hon. members whether they give unanimous consent to the hon. member for Bow River having printed in Hansard as part of his speech the table to which he has referred.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's note: The table referred to above is as follows:]

Population of Alberta Constituencies Before and After Redistribution

(a) These figures are based on the 1961 census.

(b) Redistribution boundary names are used. The Indiana Things

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	Before	After	
1. Athabasca	59,184	54,336	
2. Battle River	58,655	61,553	
[Mr. Woolliams.]			

3. Calgary Centre		81,724
4. Calgary North	134,783	82,611
5. Calgary South	124,248	82,671
6. Crowfoot (Acadia)	47,724	59,100
7. Edmonton Centre		82,836
8. Edmonton East	82,246	82,727
9. Edmonton Strathcona	121,124	82,145
10. Edmonton West	150,257	82,420
11. Lethbridge	69,175	70,786
12. Medicine Hat	63,450	65,288
13. Palliser (Bow River)	62,806	65,652
14. Peace River	75,811	54,169
15. Pembina (Macleod)	50,966	67,306
16. Red Deer	63,205	68,737
17. Rocky Mountain	70,088	57,810
(Jasper-Edson)		65,012
18. Vegreville	42,798	
19. Wetaskiwin	55,424	65,061
Total	1.331.944	1,331,944

Mr. Woolliams: The main objection to Rocky Mountain, therefore, is its inaccessibility, and in our opinion the commission failed to take into consideration section 13 (c) of the act in this regard. They may have looked at the geography but they did not consider the accessibility of the area. It is impossible to cover this constituency travelling by road from one area to another. Members of the commission will know that this is a mountainous area and the streams, roads and railways run east and west. Therefore in the former map, in which Rocky Mountain was part of the constituencies of Macleod, Bow River and Red Deer, there was greater accessibility and it was certainly better from an administrative point of view.

There is also the question of people with common interests. Perhaps the commission took the view-I can imagine them doing so-that one member of parliament could represent the parks better than four. I would ask the commission to reconsider this philosophy, because if you want a change in policy with regard to our national parks and have three or four members of parliament, that number of members adds weight to any submission or argument. For example, when dealing with the question of the Olympics the other day the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) supported my submission with reference to the Olympics being a good thing for Banff national park, the city of Calgary, the province of Alberta and Canada as a whole, because it would make Canada known as a winter tourist resort and would attract a great deal of revenue to this nation. I would ask the commission to consider whether three