

boundaries of the major cities . . . so as to follow municipal boundaries wherever possible."

This principle was ignored in the case of Lincoln by bringing together sections of the Regional Municipality of Niagara and of Hamilton-Wentworth—which in terms of historic, social, service, commercial and general interests, are diverse and represent and reflect very different community ties and concerns.

Urban encroachment is already a serious problem and especially so in the Niagara Peninsula. The problem would be further augmented by tying together rural areas with highly industrialized centres such as Hamilton. In the fifth Report and Review by the Canadian Council on Rural Development (1973), it is stated:

"The problems which develop in rural areas, particularly in the vicinity of large urban centres are such as to jeopardize not only the traditional but also the new roles of rural areas. The process of uncontrolled urban sprawl . . . results in the alienation of good farming land and the destruction of the rural nature of an area much greater than the land directly lost to urban uses."

(pg. 15—footnote: "Urban Shadow, Urban Theory and Regional Planning"—L. O. Gertler)

The Report goes on to say that the urban shadow results also in the inefficient use of farmland: there is no incentive to maintain its agricultural use because there are not agricultural support services in these areas. (pg. 16)

It is the opinion and view of most people that there has to be a definite and strong commitment to the development and vitalization of the rural economy—the benefits of which would be for all Canadians. Such development and support must come through effective policy lines and programs through the participation of unified political representation. A great deal of agricultural policy is found in the areas of stabilization programs, import and export controls, trade and tariffs, etc.—all federal responsibilities and concerns.

The fruit industry as found in the rural constituency of Lincoln containing Niagara-on-the-Lake, Lincoln, Grimsby, West Lincoln and Pelham, represents an important and viable industry in the Canadian economy and because it is unique and found in a small designated region of the Peninsula, it is my strong position that the fruit lands should remain within one federal constituency and have the support of one federal member of Parliament.

"Agricultural Statistics for Ontario" estimates for 1973, a total fruit acreage of 76,371 and total farm values at \$46,852.4 (\$'000). Besides the commercial fruit production, the industry must also be taken in the wider perspective to include processing, the wine industry, agricultural services, other secondary industries related and the employment generated in all of these. If agriculture is a primary industry in a region, the majority interests and concerns of the constituents relate directly or are indirectly connected with the industry, through direct revenue, employment, secondary industry and the supply of products and services.

Therefore, the fruit-growing industry as presently located in the riding of Lincoln, is of importance and consequence to all its constituents and has a direct bearing upon the region as a federally defined riding.

The interests of the inhabitants will not be served well if part of the rural sector of the Lincoln riding is suddenly linked to a highly industrialized area such as Hamilton. Nor would Hamilton serve as the service centre for Lincoln—for it has always been St. Catharines, as the centre of the fruit growing lands, which has assumed that all-important role.

If the Commission's 1976 changes for Lincoln are effected, the economic unity of the riding would be fragmented and would result in the insignificance and decline in consideration given to the fruit industry. The interests of the fruit industry would be over-shadowed and lost among the various industrial concerns and interests. The decline in effective representation of the fruit producing area would drastically accentuate the difficulties already experienced by the agronomy located here and the consequent loss would be unreconcilable.

There is no doubt that this area with its historic and rural roots firmly anchored, represents a definite community of interest and, as such, should be considered as a special community with the electoral boundaries relegated accordingly.

Finally, many objections to the Commission's Report description of Lincoln have been filed and noted. Twenty-four representations from the Peninsula were made at the public sitting held in Welland on October 28, 1975. However, except for changes to Erie to include Dunnville and for changing the name Niagara to Niagara Falls, no modifications were made to the Peninsula ridings and none whatsoever in the case of Lincoln. (see Schedule C)

It is, therefore, important to note the points made by various parties. The Lincoln Federal Association emphasized the following points:

- inadequate consideration was given to the community of interests or social and political ties of the inhabitants of the Niagara region
- there is a long political association first as Lincoln County and then as the Regional Municipality of Niagara
- all federal, provincial, municipal and regional services are located in St. Catharines, *not* Hamilton
- the fruit growing area would be split among five ridings
- the fruit industry requires strong representation to retain its viability
- the majority interest is rural and agricultural

The Town of Grimsby pointed out that regional boundaries would not correspond, Grimsby is in the provincial riding of Lincoln, Lincoln is fruit-growing while Hamilton is industrialized and the two have little in common and that Grimsby has a long history as part of Lincoln and this relationship should be preserved.