

*Redistribution*

intend to be present at the court house in Fredericton on June 21, at 10 a.m. when the first of a series of sittings will take place to hear representations on the proposed electoral revisions.

I may say that some of us did appear at that meeting. We made certain recommendations to the commission at that time and they were listened to with respect. I believe they were largely adopted. These representations were more concerned with the upper two parishes of Carleton which had been left out in drawing the proposed boundaries than they were with the partnership of Victoria and Carleton.

A few minutes ago I referred to the fact that we have a very large food processing plant in Carleton county. Having mentioned to Mr. McCain, the president of the company, the other day that this matter was likely to come up, I received a telegram from him yesterday which I should like to put on the record. I feel it is a most important document. It is addressed to me and reads as follows:

I support retaining Carleton and Victoria counties together with small parts of Madawaska and York counties as one constituency and feel that the proposed combination of Carleton and Charlotte counties with altogether different problems and widely separated would make it most difficult for any member to effectively represent such a proposed combination.

This telegram is from McCain Foods Limited. I come back now to the objections which were submitted in general terms. As briefly as possible I should like to make a few observations in connection with them. Paragraph 2 on page 22 of the document entitled, "Objections Filed with Mr. Speaker Pursuant To The Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act," in part uses these words: "the accessibility of such regions, or the size or shape thereof, and ignored or overlooked the special problems of transportation and communication when establishing ten electoral districts in the said province."

May I say that if the representative lived in Charlotte county he would have to go through three different constituencies before he could reach Carleton provided the majority report were adopted. The same situation would apply if the representative lived in Carleton, because this is the way the highways run in that province.

I should like now to refer briefly to paragraph 3 of the objections which deals with the matter of physical, social and economic cohesion of some districts. In my opinion, this is an important feature. The fact that people

[Mr. Fleming.]

in various communities gather together for various reasons, some social, some recreational and for various other reasons, really should be considered. This brings in the question of community interest which I think is important.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Another matter relative to the minority report is that generally speaking—and I speak in general terms only—the people in the three parishes in the northern part of York county regard the town of Woodstock as their shopping centre, the town to which they go for their doctoring, hospitalization, and to consult a lawyer if they are unfortunate enough to get into trouble.

In the lower part of Madawaska there is the same state of affairs with regard to the town of Grand Falls and the lower two parishes of the county of Madawaska. Therefore I put this forward as another reason for the minority report appealing to me in its proposal with regard to Victoria-Carleton.

I also wish to refer to paragraph 4 of the objections which relates to the inconvenience to any member of parliament. I consider that our time should certainly be at the disposal of our constituents because that is the reason we are here. But there is a limited amount of time available to meet with one's constituents. If you spend too much time on the highway you have that much less time to consult them.

That pretty well takes care of the matters I want to raise, Mr. Speaker, on the objections we have filed. I think it is fair to say that in the southern and western part of the province there is more variation in the boundaries than there is elsewhere. While the odd one elsewhere has some variation, I believe that in broad general terms it is fair to say it is really the southwestern part of the province which is more affected by any variation which can be found in the two reports.

Under the minority report the proposed constituency of Victoria-Carleton would have a population of 52,938, which is not much below that of the proposed Carleton-Charlotte constituency in the majority report.

For the reasons which I have to the best of my ability outlined, in view of the information received from the municipal councils including the resolution they have passed reflecting the interests in a way of that particular part of the province, and bearing in mind that some of the arguments I