

*Redistribution*

They should have added "Conservative" so it would read: "shall return two Conservative members." Again I want to thank the chairman of the main committee and the chairman of the subcommittee for the way in which they dealt with my representations on behalf of the dual constituency of Queens.

It has been proposed in the past and again during this session that some other method be adopted to carry out redistribution. I think if people would get together we could get clear of all these disputes about boundaries and so on. I know that in the little conversation I had with the chairman of the maritimes subcommittee we were able to iron out our difficulties, and I am better pleased with what has happened than if the constituency had been divided.

**Mr. Harrison:** Mr. Chairman, I have been interested in the arguments presented by the Conservative party during the last couple of days, and have tried to follow them to understand what they want done.

With regard to Saskatchewan, I gathered that the leader of the opposition would like to have the boundaries of Lake Centre set by his party; then the rest of the constituencies could be arranged by other members of the committee, as has been done. May I point out to the leader of the opposition that any change made in the boundaries of Lake Centre is not going to materially help the fortunes of the Progressive Conservative party in Saskatchewan. The state of their fortunes lies with their own party, not with this committee. If they would make the hon. member for Lake Centre the leader of their party they would do far more for their party in Saskatchewan than could be done by any change in the boundaries of Lake Centre. I leave that for their consideration. I say it with all respect, but it is a matter of record in the province of Saskatchewan and is just one of the plain facts of life out there.

I felt some amusement following the remarks yesterday of the hon. member for Eglinton when he referred to the changes made in Saskatchewan. Usually he talks with considerable logic, but when he got out on the prairies of Saskatchewan he got himself more or less lost. He had been talking about the riding of Kingston-Frontenac, which he said was an empire of 46 townships.

**An hon. Member:** You are lost.

**Mr. Harrison:** Is it not Kingston-Frontenac?

**An hon. Member:** Get the right riding.

**Mr. Harrison:** Out in our country 46 townships is not a large empire. As a matter of fact a slight change was made in my own

[Mr. McLure.]

riding when they added some 60,000 square miles. The hon. member referred to Lake Centre as being one of the largest ridings in Saskatchewan. It may be in point of population, but in point of area it does not compare with my own.

**Mr. Low:** Does the hon. member mean 60,000 square miles?

**Mr. Harrison:** Sixty thousand square miles were added to Meadow Lake. Previously it had an area of 45,000 square miles, and it now consists of 105,000 square miles. There are 250,000 square miles in the province of Saskatchewan and I now have 105,000 square miles of it. That might be a basis for complaint. As far as I am concerned I think it is a tremendous area. A lot of it is sparsely populated, but there is population in all parts and it requires covering at least once a year. The commitment I made when I came down here in 1949 in connection with the 45,000 square miles—

**Mr. Fulton:** I do not like to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but will he check the figures he has given?

**Mr. Harrison:** I can show the hon. gentleman a map of Saskatchewan with Meadow Lake in its proper perspective, if a page boy will take it over to the hon. member.

**Mr. Fulton:** From what the hon. member has said he has about half the province.

**Mr. Harrison:** I have close to half the province. When you talk about the addition of a few townships you are not talking of anything in that part of the country. When I came down here in 1949 I made the commitment that the people even in the sparsely settled areas would see me and be able to bring their problems to me personally at least once a year. That had never been done before. I have been able to accomplish that even though we have been sitting on an average of eight months a year here in Ottawa. It has meant the use of pontoon-equipped planes to cover that area, and the new area that is being added will complicate the situation, as it will mean that double the mileage will have to be flown. I want to state publicly for the information of the people in my riding, and especially those who live in the north, that the parts where there is any population whatsoever will see me at least once a year, and I include the portion that has been added.

This means considerable flying and some expense. I am sure some hon. members have no conception of what it means to cover a northern riding with an area such as I have mentioned. If some hon. members could come with me for two or three weeks when