

*Electoral Boundaries Commission*

in each province appointed by persons who, though they can be named as Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition are, in fact, the heads of two of the political parties in this country.

We have paid some attention to the debates on this matter in the past. As I recall, the present Minister of Transport when he was on the opposition side of the house took a stand for the naming of the commissioners in the former legislation in a way which seemed to call for the naming of these persons by parliament either by their actual names or by the offices they held. We feel this is what should be done. Instead of having these two commissioners named by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition they should be named in a manner which would involve the setting up of categories or positions from which they would be chosen. We have drawn attention on several occasions to the situation in Manitoba where for a number of years we have had an independent commission. That commission consists of the chief justice of the province, the president of the University of Manitoba and the chief electoral officer. My thinking with regard to what might be done in terms of setting up a commission of four members stems from the experience of Manitoba. We have a provincial boundaries commission of three in Manitoba consisting of those I have named. I think a desirable commission for redistributing the federal constituencies in Manitoba would be the chief justice, the president of the university, the chief electoral officer and the representation commissioner.

I suggested earlier that this might be a pattern to be followed across Canada. However, several difficulties were raised when we were considering second reading. One was that there was not a president of a provincial university, just one person holding such a position, in all the provinces. That does present a difficulty and one we have to meet. There was also the question of whether or not persons outside the employ of the federal government would accept a position on the commission. How, it was asked, could we by legislation name the chief electoral officer of a province or a president of a provincial university to a commission which comes under the federal parliament. These objections were raised in the debate and they were real objections which had to be met.

As a result, my colleagues and I did a little thinking about it. We did some work on it and I produced, a few weeks ago, an amendment to this clause—an amendment which was actually in two parts. One was an amendment to the clause itself and the other was a

schedule to the act. The gist of this amendment was that these two commissioners should be named by the chief justice of the province, if there was someone in that position, from among persons in categories set out in the schedule. And in the schedule which I drafted I submitted several categories such as chief electoral officer, surveyor-general, registrar of vital statistics, president of the university, and so on. At one time I had quite a lengthy schedule. I might say I showed this amendment to colleagues in my own party and to members of other parties and it got around that I had this proposal. I was very pleased and complimented when I learned it had come to the attention of the representation commissioner himself. He discussed the matter with me and he asked me if I would like to show him my proposed amendment. I was happy to do so. He then rendered me a service which I think we all welcome when it is done. He had a law officer look at it and come up with an alternative draft of the proposal I had made. So the amendment I am now about to offer is an amendment incorporating an idea produced in this corner of the house, though the language which, as hon. members will recognize in a moment as somewhat legalistic, is the language of the law officers of the crown. I may say I am hopeful that this amendment may be acceptable. Indeed, I am so hopeful that I have had it mimeographed, and it can be distributed among the hon. members in the chamber. I must apologize for the fact that my French is not good enough to enable me to translate this lengthy document, but that will be done.

As I say, the purpose of this amendment is to alter the way in which these other two commissioners are to be appointed. My proposal is that one of them should be chosen from among the chief electoral officer, the surveyor-general or the registrar of vital statistics of the province or the holder of any similar office in the province, and that the other one be chosen from among the president or other similar officer of, or a member of the faculty of, a university, college or other educational institution providing courses at a post-secondary school level in the province. If hon. members will reflect for a moment they will see that the net result of the sub-amendment would be that we would have for each province a commission of four, consisting of a person appointed to be chairman by the chief justice from the court over which he presides; the representation commissioner, and two others, one of them a person such as the chief electoral officer and the other the president of the university or someone in a comparable position.

When one sets out to make a provision of this kind he also makes arrangements for