

Redistribution

53,123. This means we must look at some other area to make up the population figure to come within the prescription of the law.

In this regard I think we should look at the Cariboo area because part of Coast-Chilcotin takes in a section of the Cariboo comprising Williams Lake and an area surrounding it. Williams Lake, it can be argued, is likewise somewhat divorced from other parts of Coast-Chilcotin but I submit it is not so divorced as are the Queen Charlotte Islands because there is at least a road of sorts between Williams Lake and the coastal area of Bella Coola which it is proposed to take from Skeena and put into Coast-Chilcotin. I have no argument about that. On the face of it it makes geographical, economic, social and common sense.

As I say, there is a road connection between Williams Lake and the coastal part of Coast-Chilcotin. There is also between Williams Lake and points south from there in the Littlewood area and they have a certain compatibility, similar interests, the same general economy and social relationship. I suggest that the commission, when it decides to agree with the proposal I am now making and put the Queen Charlotte Islands back into Skeena as is the desire of almost all the people on the islands, should look to another community in the Cariboo area, namely, 100 Mile House and the area comprised, as I understand it, by the census district or sub-district which takes in 100 Mile House and also the community of Exeter, a station on the railway. I am told that the population of this particular district is 1,320. This, if added to the figure of 51,997 which we get after subtracting the population of the Queen Charlotte Islands, would leave Coast-Chilcotin with a population of 53,317, above the minimum required by law and within the bounds prescribed by the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.

Adding a population of 3,014 from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Skeena as proposed would bring the population of Skeena to 58,784, within the bounds prescribed by law. 100 Mile House is currently placed in the constituency of Kamloops-Cariboo according to these proposals. If it were removed from there and placed within the proposed Coast-Chilcotin constituency, Kamloops-Cariboo would be left with a population of 62,581, likewise well within the bounds permitted by law. I submit this is the course the commission should take.

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Let me sum up the reasons I advance in support of this contention. First, there are no geographical, cultural, social or economic ties, compatibilities or connections between the Queen Charlotte Islands and any other area in the proposed constituency of Coast-Chilcotin. In the second place, there are certain geographical, social and economic interests and compatibilities in common between 100 Mile House and certain other areas within the proposed constituency of Coast-Chilcotin.

I would also ask the commission to look at the position of an isolated Indian village called Klemtu. I do not have the exact population figure for Klemtu but it is relatively small. If, having done what I suggest they should do with respect to the Queen Charlotte Islands and 100 Mile House, the commission finds it has come within the population figures prescribed by law, I would appreciate it if they would consider the position of Klemtu and see whether this Indian village could be taken out of the proposed riding of Coast-Chilcotin and placed in the constituency of Skeena with the line of demarcation drawn between Coast Chilcotin and Skeena not particularly at the 53rd parallel of latitude but in such a way that it crosses the centre of Millbank Sound. Millbank Sound is a stretch of water open to Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound and it forms a natural division of the areas to the north and to the south. Klemtu is to the north and would, I think, feel more at home within the constituency of Skeena than within the constituency of Coast-Chilcotin because of Millbank Sound coming between the two areas.

I leave the commission to ponder these words and I ask it sincerely to consider these representations, not my representations particularly because in this instance I am only the voice of those people on the islands who almost unanimously have objected to the proposal as it stands.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, as one of the members who signed the motion presented by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) perhaps I might be permitted to add a few words to what he has said. The proposed Coast-Chilcotin constituency does take in a substantial area of the region which at the present time lies within the boundaries of Comox-Alberni. I am not objecting to the proposal that this particular change should be made. Like the hon. member for Skeena, I feel that the principle