

*Redistribution*

I was not a member of the redistribution committee, nor did I follow very closely its deliberations from day to day. I am not in a position where my own constituency is affected by redistribution changes. What I am attempting to do this evening, if I may, is to assess, on the basis of what I have learned from the discussions to date, what the situation actually is, and then try to apply what little common sense I may have at my command—

**Mr. Knowles:** Don't be so modest.

**Mr. Graydon:** —in an attempt to make some constructive suggestions as to what might be done.

Speaking neither as a cartographer nor as an expert in the matter of redistribution, but only as a layman, it seems to me that the system under which we are now operating is an open invitation to injustice. I have been greatly impressed by the arguments used by hon. members on this side of the house in favour of some different system of redistributing the representation through our various constituencies in Canada. Try as it may, a parliament without a plan, without a principle and without a program, no matter how conscientious members on all sides may be, is travelling on a road bristling with all kinds of dangers to our democratic system.

Having in mind the difficulties that must face those who serve on redistribution committees, let me say that I would not be an applicant for a position on any future redistribution committee. In addition to that it seems to me that we must begin early to review the situation, and perhaps as good a time as any to start would be now, when we have reached an impasse in this committee of the whole house.

I am not one who believes we ought to take out of the hands of parliament the whole question of redistribution, in its final analysis, or so far as any final decision would be concerned; but I do think there is a stage which was well and properly described by the leader of the opposition in another debate where we ought to set up a commission to deal with this vexed problem. I feel that a commission with a proper reference would, first, set up a plan, set out principles and be a guide for the ordinary member of the House of Commons to follow. I have been listening to this debate most intently and I have not been able to find anything in the nature of a general over-all plan set out. I am quite sure that members of the committee were unable to find any plan that would be applicable right across Canada in working out the problems with which they were engaged. Even though we have gone through all the years redistributing in the

[Mr. Graydon.]

wrong way, that is no reason why we should continue redistributing in the wrong way during the years that lie ahead.

I am satisfied in my own mind that there has to be some pattern which will be applicable right across the dominion. It may be that there will have to be some alterations here, some changes there, some differences in the pattern to meet varying conditions that may arise, but it does not seem right to me that we should be working on a patchwork quilt basis or something which resembles a jigsaw puzzle. When you look at the redistribution map you can think of nothing else. That does not seem to me good enough for an enlightened parliament such as we think this is.

I should like to suggest that this commission be set up at an early date. I think there are enough people in this parliament who are disgusted at the way in which redistribution has been carried on, not just in this parliament but in the parliaments that have gone ahead, to buttress any argument put forward that there should be some type of commission to at least lay down general principles and set up plans and patterns so members of parliament may be able to work in some concerted and unified way in an effort to arrive at proper representation in this house.

In addition, it seems to me there is a need for consultation with other bodies, legislative and otherwise, in order to get their views and opinions. I know it is not possible to work these things out on a completely scientific basis because to do that would mean that the whole nature of parliamentary representation would be lost. We should not intrude the scientific too far into our deliberations, but it should come in a certain distance. Somewhere between the pole where everything is done in a hit and miss way and the pole where everything is done in a scientific way it should be possible to arrive at a reasonably accurate and reasonably satisfactory method that would apply to all seats in the house.

It is not satisfactory to have ridings so split and divided and cut up that the federal riding is not anything like the same pattern as the provincial riding, and the municipal pattern is also different. The result is all kinds of confusion from time to time as between the municipal, provincial and federal set-ups. That causes great concern and difficulty, not only for the members of this parliament but for the members of the provincial and municipal legislative bodies. I am the first to admit that this could not