

*Representation Act*

the name more meaningful, and representative of all the area covered by the riding.

The first effort to have a name changed was in the 1952-53 session when Mr. Studer attempted to have the riding Swift Current changed to Swift Current-Maple Creek. That was not successful but in the following session a successful attempt was made by Mr. Harrison to have the name changed to Swift Current-Maple Creek.

In 1955 the present hon. member for the riding of Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. McWilliam) was successful in having the name Miramichi added to the riding of Northumberland in New Brunswick. In 1957 Mr. Girard, in the instance I have just mentioned, attempted to have the name Lapointe changed to Jonquière-Chicoutimi. This did not come up for debate and, of course, no change was made. In 1959, Mr. Fréchette attempted to have the name Témiscouata changed to Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata. The bill lapsed. In the same session the hon. member now representing Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) attempted to have the name of the territory of Keewatin-Franklin changed to Northwest Territories. He made a number of attempts before he was finally successful. In 1960 there was an effort by the hon. member for the constituency then known as Humboldt-Melfort (Mr. Rapp) to add the word "Tisdale" to the name of the constituency, and the hon. member was unsuccessful. Again in the same session the hon. member for Yukon was unsuccessful in having the name Keewatin-Franklin changed to its present title.

In the session 1960-61 there were at least four attempts to have the names of ridings changed. This time the hon. member for the constituency then known as Humboldt-Melfort was successful in having the name "Tisdale" added to the other two names of his riding. An attempt was made by Mr. Asselin to have the name Montmorency added to Charlevoix. It was unsuccessful. Mr. Valade sought to have the name of his riding, St. Mary's, changed to Camilien Houde. He was unsuccessful.

In 1962, the hon. member for Yukon was successful at last in having the name of the riding of Keewatin-Franklin changed to the Northwest Territories as it is now, and the representative for the constituency then known as Nanaimo, Mr. Matthews, was successful in having the name of that riding changed to Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. The then hon. member representing Inverness-Richmond, Mr. MacLellan, attempted to have the name of that riding changed to Inverness-Richmond-Cape Breton West. He was

unsuccessful. The then hon. member for Halifax, Mr. Morris, sought to have the name of that riding changed to Halifax, Dartmouth and County, but he was unsuccessful.

In the more recent sessions of 1962-63 and 1963 the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Bélanger) attempted to have the name Montmorency added to that of his riding but he was not successful. Now in 1964 we have before us the bill brought up by the hon. member for Lapointe asking the house that the name of the constituency of Lapointe be changed to Jonquière.

My hon. friend from Lafontaine (Mr. Lachance) supported by an hon. member opposite gave proper reasons, in my view, why the name of Lapointe should be retained. Despite what the sponsor of the bill had to say, I believe this riding was named after a great Canadian statesman, the Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe. The hon. member in introducing this bill told us, as far as I can gather, that the main reason for seeking a change was that all the other candidates and party leaders except himself had promised the name would be changed. In view of what happened in that riding during the election I would imagine that the hon. member, who of course was successful, would be superstitious enough to be reluctant to have the name altered in any way.

I am opposing a change in name for three reasons. First, as I said, I believe this riding was named for a great French Canadian, Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe, a statesman who made an outstanding contribution to the public life of this country. I am sure this view will be shared by those of my colleagues, and others, who come from the province of Quebec and who would, I am sure, be unhappy to see the name of this gentleman taken from its present place. I could speak at length about the contribution made to Canadian public life by Mr. Lapointe but I do not think this is the occasion on which to do so. But I think it would be wrong for us to make any effort to change the name of a riding which was, I am sure, called after this great French Canadian statesman.

My second reason for opposing this bill is the fact that we recently set up a redistribution commission to bring about necessary changes in the constituencies of this country. In these circumstances I think it would be premature to make any effort to change even the name of a constituency. I do not think there is any good reason for the request contained in this bill. From rumours most of us have heard it seems every riding in the