

or 650 fewer electors in another. In such case, given the small size of that municipality in terms of electors.

● (2250)

In view on the other hand of the very strong points made by people in Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet, who for decades and decades have had very close historicities with the rest of the rural constituency of Lotbinière, and considering the insignificant number of people involved, logic would have it that commissioners willingly accept to leave Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet in the Lotbinière constituency. We indeed accept Saint-Apollinaire, quite naturally as I said before, but let Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet remain here.

Mr. Speaker, if Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet went to Frontenac, as proposed in the commissioners' report, the people in that municipality would be underrepresented. They would be represented in a totally inadequate way, not for partisan reasons, not because of lack of seriousness on the part of the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Corriveau), but strictly because Dosquet has no contribution whatsoever either cultural, social, nor economic to make to the constituency of Frontenac. Mr. Speaker, Dosquet has no ties whatsoever with the whole of the constituency of Frontenac, which centers around Thetford Mines.

I therefore respectfully express the hope that the commissioners will accept to grant the absolutely unanimous request by the people in Dosquet that they remain as full-fledged citizens in the constituency of Lotbinière.

Mr. Speaker, Dosquet is quite near Saint-Flavien, not even five miles away, and very close also to Laurier Station. It is almost bordering the Trans-Canada Highway, and if it were to remain in Frontenac, it would be the last neighbouring parish in Frontenac, while they are naturally part of the rural basin of Lotbinière.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to bother the commissioners with that, but spontaneously the people in Dosquet, without partisanship signed a petition from which I shall quote, because I know that under our rules I cannot table it. But nevertheless, I want to show it to you, so that you may know how important that is to the citizens of Dosquet. We read this:

We, the undersigned, citizens of Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet, want to signify our objection to the transfer of our parish from the federal riding of Lotbinière to the federal riding of Frontenac.

For historic, geographic, economic and social reasons, we ask to remain citizens in the federal riding of Lotbinière.

In testimony whereof, we have signed:

Follow 571 signatures of citizens, constituents, from the municipality of Dosquet, who share the views I have just stated, indeed only as their humble spokesman to make the commissioners take their proposal into consideration.

In brief, to conclude that first point and introduce the second one to the extent that we respect those famous quotients, since some principle must be the starting point in the redistribution of the electoral map, to the extent that it is materially possible and we comply with the principles of the representation quotient, we must make every effort to attain the highest degree of representativeness possible in Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Canada does not have 1,000 representatives as in other countries. Not even 500; we are only 264 mem-

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bers at present. The proposed formula in the report of the representation commissioners tend to increase that representation very slowly. Because of the quotient principle, the trend is towards rural members representing ever larger and less populated territories as against urban constituencies which become overpopulated but cover very limited areas. All this arises from our assumption that in a country as vast as Canada we cannot enlarge our Parliament since we cannot enlarge or improve our representation. In so far as we are caught in that kind of administrative strait jacket which of course cannot be discarded overnight, I hope that the commissioners, in the course of their review, since the law provides for those debates to reach them through you, Mr. Speaker, will realize the importance Canadians give to their being represented in the House of Commons, regardless of their political affiliations, therefore I believe and most hon. members I am sure will agree with me, that this is the kind of representation the commissioners will make.

It is very important for the people of Canada to identify themselves with their Parliament and with their M.Ps. It is important that their M.Ps. give them the best possible services. It is important that they have access to their M.P.'s door and be able to meet him. It is absolutely essential that the member of parliament have excellent communications not only to make laws public but also to inform his voters so that they avail themselves of this information and do not become victims of a law they were not aware of. When I speak for instance of the municipality of Dosquet, which is very dear to me, I must say it is exactly in the kind of situation I am referring to. Naturally, the people of this municipality are always in Lotbinière, but for the purposes of representation, if the commissioners were not to reconsider their position, they would be included in Frontenac with which Dosquet has no relationship.

Mr. Speaker, and this is how I should conclude, I think we should take advantage of this debate and start putting forward ideas for the future. Amongst others, and some of the members who have spoken before me have expressed the same views, there should be two for quotients representation purposes, one for the rural ridings and one for the urban ridings. Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely essential. We must provide solutions for the next 20, 30 or 40 years, as administrators and legislators. Otherwise, we will end up with an absurd situation where rural Canada will be under-represented and where urban Canada will also be under-represented, because we will then have huge groupings, under the pretence of a unique quota from coast to coast.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is extremely important to have the two quota principle admitted, one for rural areas and one for urban areas, for which legislation should eventually be amended in order for Parliament to have the last say in that respect. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the quality of the commissioners' work. It is not easy, but I recognize—and I think the commissioners will also recognize it—no one is more qualified to forge than a blacksmith. And that Parliament which is the highest institution of Canadian democracy, which is the instrument of representation of the Canadian opinion, that is exactly what we are. The member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) for instance, will never be made the member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau),