

Electoral Boundaries Commissions

I am not making a special plea just because I come from that province, and I was not in the house in 1952 and 1953 when that change was made; but I think all the arguments used at that time for the change would be valid now. I do know there are not now any Liberal members for Saskatchewan, and there were at that time. But surely that is not the criterion that the minister who is now piloting this bill, with his broad considerations of the national good, has in mind. Surely the minister is not applying the rule as to whether you are Conservative or Liberal with respect to fair treatment in this connection.

I suggest that the minister would be well advised to hold this clause over so that the government might consider the one, two, three or four suggestions that must be considered as to adjustments that could be made, in order to allow this bill through.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I am quite prepared to have the clause stand; but I would like to say a word about what the hon. member for Qu'Appelle has said. One thing that I do not think I could ever bring myself to do is consider any suggestion that would have the effect of giving more members to a province with a smaller population than another province. As the hon. member for Qu'Appelle knows, the population of Manitoba and Saskatchewan is now almost identical. The population of Manitoba is slightly larger, and even in 1961, when the last census took place, the difference was only 5,000.

I think it would appear to anyone that it would be a very grave injustice to have a different representation for those two provinces, and indeed the amendment of 1951 provided precisely for that situation by providing that a province having a smaller population than another province should not have a larger membership in the house. I think the observations I made to the hon. member for Lapointe apply equally to what the hon. member for Qu'Appelle has said, namely that if there is to be any consideration in any way of these changes to the rules laid down in the British North America Act, I think that would have to be the subject of separate legislation. I do not think it would be within the scope of this bill to purport to amend the constitution by an amendment to a clause in this bill. Of course I am quite prepared, as I said to the hon. member for Lapointe—and this applies to what the hon. member for Qu'Appelle has said—to bring the points he has raised to the attention of

[Mr. Hamilton.]

my colleagues. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we could agree to let the clause stand and proceed to clause 14. We might make a little more progress in the few minutes that remain, if this is done.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, we are ready to have clause 12 stand in order to consider it further.

However, I should like to make a correction to the statement made a few minutes ago by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill), because I think he did not quite understand my remarks. I did not suggest at all to set a number for the members of the province of Quebec but rather to guarantee a proportion—whatever the number might be—equal to the one existing today, as far as the number of members from the province of Quebec in this house is concerned.

[Text]

The Chairman: Shall clause 12 stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Clause 12 stands.

The Chairman: Shall we go on to clause 14?

Mr. Churchill: No, Mr. Chairman. I think we should rise and report progress. It is now 10.30, and we have done fairly well.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, in view of the announcement of the business made by the Prime Minister today, could the house leader let us know what business will be taken up during the course of this week, including the estimates for Thursday and Friday, if he is in a position to tell us tonight?

Mr. Favreau: Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, we will proceed with second reading and the committee stage of the Farm Improvement Loans Act, after which we will take up the resolution on the Crop Insurance Act, after which we will discuss the resolution preceding a bill with respect to farm machinery syndicates. Then if there is time we will carry on with the committee stage of the redistribution bill.

On Thursday and Friday we will be taking estimates in the following order: first, the Department of Transport; after that, northern affairs; to be followed by the estimates of the Department of Public Works. I intend tomorrow, if possible, to announce the addition