

*Redistribution*

the commissioners, work which is very difficult indeed. There are people who say you cannot criticize them unless you can come up with a detailed map of your own or with a better plan. I do not have the machinery to redraw all the boundaries. I do suggest to the commissioners that all the problems that have been created by redistribution in British Columbia could have been avoided by giving the extra seat that British Columbia secures under redistribution to what is called the lower mainland and Fraser Valley area of British Columbia. The other ridings of the north and interior of British Columbia could have been left substantially as they were before redistribution. In this way you would get greater fairness and equity for the people involved. You would avoid creating two ridings which it is impossible for members of parliament to serve properly and, what is more important, in which it is impossible for the people of those areas to be properly represented.

● (2:30 p.m.)

**Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my remarks on this subject will be very brief. First of all, I should like to say that I am not questioning the method of redistribution in Canada, nor am I questioning the impartiality of the representation commissioners for British Columbia. This is not questioned at all in my mind. My main protest is that I represent a Pakistan-like riding and I will continue to do so in the future but the situation will be worse.

The existing constituency of Burnaby-Richmond consists of two parts, Burnaby and Richmond, which are quite separate. In order to go to Richmond from Burnaby I must travel several miles through the city of Vancouver or alternatively go through the city of New Westminster. There is no direct connection between the two parts of the riding because a river separates them.

This constituency will be further complicated geographically by adding another area, roughly the municipality of Delta, which again is across another river. I realize that I am speaking of an urban area here and the problems are certainly not those faced by members representing rural areas, particularly in our province.

The proposed riding of Coast-Chilcotin which has been mentioned, or the new riding of Okanagan-Kootenay, do not have difficulties of that nature. I am speaking of an urban area out of which I think the representation

[Mr. Basford.]

commissioners could have made more compact ridings than they have.

The situation at the present time is that I have a riding with two sections which are quite separate. I must travel through other cities to get from one part to the other. The new Burnaby-Richmond riding will be further complicated by the change I mentioned a moment ago.

There is to be a new riding called Burnaby-Seymour which takes in part of the existing riding of Burnaby-Richmond and part of the existing riding of Burnaby-Coquitlam. The part of that riding called Seymour is across an inlet and quite separate from the Burnaby part of the riding. In order to reach it one must enter the city of Vancouver by crossing a bridge. Again we have the same Pakistan-like situation with the two parts of the riding quite far apart. This does not seem to me to make very much sense on any basis at all.

I have had the impression, Mr. Speaker, that when the representation commissioners were dealing with the lower mainland of British Columbia they took the city of Vancouver by itself and started there by drawing the boundaries of the ridings to be contained within the city limits of Vancouver. When they had done that they then went out to the suburban areas of the city and tried to do the best they could after completing their work within the city. I say that because none of the new proposed constituencies in the city of Vancouver extends beyond the city boundaries.

For example, Richmond in my riding is much closer to the existing constituency of Vancouver South. It would have made just as much sense to have taken the existing constituency of Vancouver Centre and added it to part of north Vancouver if you must cross an inlet. That has not been done with the city of Vancouver at all. They have been kept intact. The commissioners did their carving up when they got outside the city into the suburban areas. I think that is rather unfortunate because we could have had more compact ridings had they not dealt with the city of Vancouver by itself as I rather think they did.

I also feel that the commissioners have not taken into account the population growth since 1916 in the lower mainland area of British Columbia. I think that if they check the figures they will find that the municipality of Richmond and the municipality of Delta at this date are very close to the figure