

Electoral Boundaries

ly 18,000 people. If you look at the electoral quotient of 81,000 and at the new ridings, you can see that the average population for a rural and partially urban area is between 66,000 and 70,000. Therefore I am a little concerned that I will not be able to maintain close relationship with the constituents in my riding with this substantial increase to 85,000.

It is important to note that in a lot of federal ridings, and this goes for all members but particularly in Ontario, we cover almost two provincial ridings. In my case I have approximately 30,000 people more than each of my provincial counterparts. It is important to note in the provinces where they are reducing areas to maintain a closer relationship with constituents, that federally with respect to rural areas the responsibility is getting greater. The Electoral Boundaries Commission must take this into consideration when making its final decision.

Primarily, I am very happy with the decisions taken by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to make this short intervention.

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I listened very closely to the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas (Mr. Lumley). He expressed happiness with the decision of the commissioners with regard to the two great townships and one incorporated village in the county of Dundas, Mountain, Matilda, and the village of Iroquois which I now have the honour to represent in this parliament. His happiness was expressed in terms of those areas coming to him. I say to him that we will be watching very carefully to ensure that the good people in that area are properly represented. I would not want the amity of this situation to be changed in any way.

I want the hon. member to know they are fine people. They have problems in terms of representation here, in terms of agriculture, the drainage problems of the South Nation River and many other things requiring a great amount of attention and, more important co-operation between the three levels of government. I do not happily look forward to relinquishing representation in that area. I will be closely looking at the representation they receive in the future, whether from the present incumbent for Stormont-Dundas or someone else.

As the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas said, these redistributions are not completely happy. Certain areas may be included in a constituency for a long period of time and, as a result of progress, they change. I have a double wrench in terms of this redistribution. One was mentioned by my friend for Stormont-Dundas, the fact that that part of Dundas County that I represent will go elsewhere. More than that, I am losing the Village of Cardinal. My home town is the Village of Cardinal. I know no one in this House would hold it against me if I were to admit that I am from the great village of Cardinal which has contributed in so many ways to the well-being of eastern Ontario.

In this mobile age in which we live I suppose I am among a minority, perhaps a sizeable minority, of members of parliament who represent the place where they grew up and where their parents lived, at least one of my parents still lives there and I can still call it home. The only problem with representing your home town is that many people in the town remember when you ran around in

shorts and were perhaps more annoying than constructive to many of the neighbours, their gardens and chicken-houses. They sometimes cannot quite understand that there may be some hope in the progress of young people of their own town and that they can finally represent them in the parliament of Canada.

I do not think there is a greater honour that can come to any person than to represent the people among whom he grew up, and who were his friends as a youth as well as the friends and acquaintances of his family. Therefore this is quite a wrench for me in another way. However, I suppose we are all in one way or another the victim of change.

While there has not been a noticeable population growth in the southern part of Grenville County and the part of Dundas County which forms part of Grenville-Carleton, there has occurred in the northern part of that riding, that part of the township of Gloucester on Long Island, the new township of Rideau, the township of Nepean, the township of Osgoode, and the new township of Goulburn, a tremendous growth. This is as a result of the growth of public servants in this country and the attraction to the area of those employed in industry and business who, in one way or another, are dependent upon or related to the public service of this country. As a result, these changes have taken place.

I tried mightily to find some way within the criteria established by the statute to resist the change in boundaries, but regretfully that was not possible. Whether one represents an area for a long or a short time, he becomes used to balancing the various problems that exist. In the circumstances the report of the commissioners, which is the subject of this debate tonight and which was finally tabled as a result of the submissions that were made to the commission after it had originally reported, was the best possible job that could be done, not only with regard to my constituency but all constituencies on the Ontario side of the national capital.

Regretting as we must the change that occurs, I think it is the best possible balance and I commend the commissioners for doing an extremely difficult job so well. I know they lingered over the job a long time. I know they were concerned about it. However, what they did in terms of the national capital area, an area I can speak of with some authority, was a good job.

● (2130)

There was some feeling among members of parliament, and I heard it expressed on all sides of the House and in all the parties represented here, that there was not much point in making a submission to the commission, that their minds were made up and that they would not listen anyway. But I must say that this was not the case with respect to the ridings of which I speak and which were the subject of a lengthy submission dated October 29, 1975, prepared under the leadership of my friend, the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick). As I say, it was a lengthy submission and it argued the case for a change from the first findings of the commission with respect to its original distribution to those which were ultimately found in the ridings which were covered by it.

There was a conscious canvas of opinion by all the members in the area of the municipal councils, the school