

*Redistribution*

Canmore and the Crownsnest Pass than with the hard coal mining areas in the north.

The greatest disadvantage resulting from the establishment of this new constituency is a political one. I am sure the members of the commission did not shut their eyes to the political implications. If you wanted to visit the people of the constituency you would have to travel from Calgary to Edmonton and then wind your way over to Edson and Jasper. If you wanted to go from Calgary to Jasper in the wintertime you would have to travel from Calgary to Edmonton and then to Edson because the road from Calgary through Banff to Jasper is often closed during that season.

During an election campaign candidates of all parties would have to make use of television and radio stations in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. I do not know how many weekly newspapers there are, but someone presented that information to the commission. It would be impossible to campaign effectively and almost impossible from an administrative point of view to work this area. For all these reasons it is our submission that the establishment of this constituency will throw the whole province out of balance.

If that one problem in relation to the proposed constituency of Rocky Mountain were solved there would be few constituency problems in Alberta. I suggest they could all be remedied in a non-political way. The constituencies in Calgary and Edmonton should remain identical except for population. The constituencies of Acadia, Vegreville and Macleod could be adjusted with the adjoining constituencies. A new constituency should be created in Edmonton and in Calgary. This could all be done without disrupting the whole electoral map and would be satisfactory to the people of Alberta.

The newspapers in Alberta have been very critical about the creation of the new constituency of Rocky Mountain and have referred to it by many names. I do not intend to repeat them because, as I pointed out earlier, I want my submission to be factual and logical with the hope that it will merit the consideration of the commission.

At this point I should like to place on record the populations of the new areas based on the 1961 census. This document is dated March 4, 1966. I obtained it from Mr. Castonguay's office. It relates to the population of the new Alberta constituencies after redistribution and is based on figures established by

the 1961 census. Redistribution boundary names are used and it includes 19 constituencies.

Before redistribution the constituency of Athabasca had a population of 59,000. After redistribution the population was reduced to 54,000. The constituency of Bow River had a population of 58,655 which was increased after redistribution to 61,555. Those are two examples of the changes.

I suggest the commission has properly applied the formula in reference to population and the tolerance and has endeavoured to increase the population of rural areas. If you analyse the situation you will find that they have used some care in this regard, because not one constituency after redistribution has a population which comes anywhere near the 25 per cent tolerance figure.

It is interesting to note that the commission has said in its report that certain maps were presented to them by one of the commissioners but that they were not used. Apparently they had their own ideas. I believe the creation of a mountainous constituency is the result of a dream that one or two of the commissioners had. So far as beauty is concerned this is a wonderful idea, but from a practical, administrative or political point of view this idea will not work. I might add that all the Alberta members agree in this regard.

I am sure that if the commission takes a second look at the situation and considers our suggestions it will make the necessary changes and adjustments. I should like to refer to one or two other features of the proposed new Rocky Mountain constituency. The main railway lines and roads in Alberta run east and west or at an angle toward the valleys and passes in the mountains. It is almost impossible to travel north and south in the mountainous areas.

I should like to refer to Section 13 of the act. Perhaps when we were legislating we were a little careless in our interpretation, because I am sure members on all sides of the house thought that under this section the commission had a certain duty and responsibility. This may not be clear from the law because one of the members of the commission in Alberta was a very able lawyer and is a very distinguished judge and he apparently did not make this interpretation.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Section 13 of the act says:

(c) the commission may depart from the strict application of rules (a) and (b)—