

That is the distinction that is made here. Maybe the distinction is out of line. Maybe there should not be that kind of distinction. But how far do we open the gates? Do we say that no longer in the income tax law are we going to distinguish between the individual who is employed and the individual who is the employer, and there is no difference between the forms of income that are earned? The entrepreneur sticks out his neck, gets a business going, spends money on equipment and material, creates jobs and hires people. The people for whom he has created those jobs, in the final analysis, would derive the same benefit as the entrepreneur. This motion loses sight of that.

Recognizing there is some merit in this argument, the government went part of the way with the 3 per cent or \$150 deduction. Speaking personally, I do not think it is enough. I believe it should be higher. If the opposition had not spoken so long, I would have been able to expand on that.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I deeply regret having to interrupt the hon. member, but the hour appointed for private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### REPRESENTATION ACT, 1974

##### MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND ESTABLISH ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp that Bill C-36, to provide for representation in the House of Commons, to establish electoral boundaries commissions and to remove the temporary suspension of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay):** Mr. Speaker, at five o'clock I was referring to our own provincial historian and to some of her comments on the negotiations which brought us into confederation. There is one more interesting reference I wanted to add from her history. She refers to all six of the members of parliament heading down to Ottawa for their first federal parliament. That is all there were at that time. The population was not very large, because Miss Ormsby, my historian, says:

We learned that provincial representatives had endeavoured to enlarge their representation by over-estimating the population of their province.

Things have changed a great deal in that regard since entry into confederation. Yet there are other things which have not changed. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) made an eloquent plea for a non-partisan approach to the bill. Yet this, of course, had everything to do with

#### Electoral Boundaries

politics and one is suspicious of the terms the far western provinces are getting under the proposals for redistribution. He described them at the beginning of his address as new and equitable. New, certainly, but equitable, never. Here I differ from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and his simplistic explanation of the bill. There are not three groups involved, there are five, because the bill in its totality covers the territories.

**Mr. Sharp:** It does not cover the territories.

**Mr. Johnston:** It covers the very small provinces, the small provinces, establishes a category of medium provinces, and goes on to categorize a group of large provinces. All these things must be taken into consideration as one looks at the bill and the table showing representation in the House of Commons, because the public in the west will consider them all when looking at the share allotted to the West, and will ask questions about it which are difficult to explain, particularly in our province of British Columbia where the growth is very rapid.

I should like to read from an article by Nick Hills, writing in the *Vancouver Province* of Wednesday, October 23, in which he speaks of the rapid growth of our population and the concern it brings to the province. He says:

The tide of migration into B.C. from other lands and other regions of this country has become so strong that the province has virtually lost control of its future growth.

Between 1970 and 1974, the province's population shot up by 12.5 per cent, more than double the national increase of 5.4 per cent. But between 70 and 80 per cent of this increase was beyond control of British Columbians.

Regional planners for the Greater Vancouver district now estimate that more than three-quarters of this area's population rise is being caused by migration. They have broken it down this way: 40 per cent immigration, 40 per cent migration, and only 20 per cent births.

Planners now think it is close to 80 per cent and could go even higher unless some very tight controls are clamped on the movement of immigrants both outside and inside this country.

The immigration problem for B.C. is two-fold. Not only has this province become the second most popular landing place in the country, it also seems to have become the most popular second option for immigrants who originally planned to settle permanently in Ontario or Quebec. On top of this, more and more Canadians are moving here from other provinces.

The apparent decision by Ottawa to stabilize the annual national immigrant total at 200,000 dismays government officials at all levels in B.C., because, in their opinion, it simply perpetuates a situation that is already intolerable.

● (2010)

Those are some words in regard to population growth in my province, which is beyond the control of the government and the people of British Columbia because that lies in jurisdictions that are elsewhere; yet there is one area where something could be done about it, and that is in the area of representation in this chamber.

We hear a great deal about western separatism, and one of the reasons is that there is that feeling there is because their voices are not heard sufficiently in this chamber. That feeling arises partially because the people know they do not have as many voices in this chamber as they would have a right to if redistribution in this country was carried out on an equitable basis. This is the cause of great concern for the people of my province.