

Redistribution

you, I say is worse. I am specifically asking each of the members of that commission to examine his conscience and to deal specifically with the objection on this basis.

Let me illustrate the problem by showing, from population figures taken from the municipal assessment rolls of 1964, the significant changes in four eastern Ontario ridings as proposed, Renfrew-Lanark, Leeds, Stormont-Dundas and Grenville-Carleton. Mr. Speaker, if I may have the unanimous consent of the house I would ask to have placed upon the record a very brief table in this respect.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Does the house give unanimous consent to the hon. member to have printed in *Hansard* the table to which he has referred?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: The table above referred to is as follows:*]

Total and Percentage Changes from 1961 Census to 1964 Estimate in Population of Ridings as Proposed by Electoral Boundaries Commission

	1961	1964	Net Change	Percentage Change
Renfrew-Lanark	55,418	55,671	+ 253	+ 0.46%
Leeds	62,656	60,587	- 2,069	- 3.3 %
Stormont-Dundas	68,233	67,980	- 253	- 0.37%
Grenville-Carleton	63,715	79,694	+15,979	+25.08%

Mr. Bell (Carleton): As will be seen from this table, the proposed riding of Grenville-Carleton increased in population by 25 per cent in just three years, whereas the neighbouring ridings remained virtually stationary. I think it is a matter of common knowledge that since the year 1964, for which I have given figures, there has been little or no change in the populations of Renfrew, Lanark, Leeds or Stormont-Dundas.

● (7:10 p.m.)

On the other hand, there has been an explosive growth in Grenville-Carleton, particularly in the township of Nepean, as the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith) very well knows. The best estimate I can make at this time is that the population of Grenville-Carleton as proposed by the commission, as of this date in April, 1966, is 88,000 people, or already in excess of the allowable deviation of 25 per cent from quotient. I put it to the commission in this way: Is it sensible at this time to establish a new electoral district in an area already too populous according to the law passed by parliament?

[**Mr. Bell (Carleton).**]

At the present rate of growth, as projected to June, 1967, the next census, it is likely that Grenville-Carleton as proposed by the commission would have a population of at least 120,000. Perhaps it may even reach double the quotient. On the other hand, the neighbouring ridings are likely to remain reasonably stable. Of the Grenville-Carleton population, over 60 per cent would be in one suburban township, Nepean, lying immediately south and west of this city of Ottawa. I urge the commission to look at the facts of life and re-examine the boundaries on the basis of the actual figures of September, 1965, which they may take from the assessment rolls which can now be secured by them.

Now, sir, the final general objection to the Ontario report reads as follows:

4. The commission has ignored serious and thoughtful representations made to it by municipal councils, community associations, political representatives and many other persons having special knowledge.

I ask the commission in Ontario to take this very seriously, and to examine, re-assess, and re-appraise these thoughtful representations. I want to say to the commission just exactly what I would say if I were standing face to face with Mr. Justice Richardson and his colleagues. I have never heard so many complaints about the attitude of a public tribunal as I have about the manner in which they conducted their hearings.

Mr. Winkler: Agreed.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I am glad to hear that the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler) agrees with me. I can truthfully say that each and every day we talk to our colleagues in the house, these complaints are heard from every part of Ontario. I do believe that they have some validity. The commission should seek now, at this late stage, to remove the feelings that they have been arrogant and arbitrary, that they have ignored many of the representations.

I ask the commission to take a very hard look at the brief submitted by Mr. George Inrig, a very highly qualified person whose qualities are not depreciated, at least in my view, by the fact he is the partner of Hon. Leslie M. Frost, a man who probably knows more about Ontario than any other living person. If the members of the commission want to have some appraisal of what they have done, want to have their ears