

*Electoral Boundaries*

age we must consider the relationship of both those words, "representation" and "population".

A member of parliament cannot properly represent his constituency if he has very little contact with his people. So long as we take the view that rural constituencies can become bigger and bigger, we will only satisfy the aspect of population but we will destroy the more serious question of representation. I think that those two words must not be separated. They must be linked together, and it is folly to think only of population without focusing on whether or not it is possible for a member of parliament to visit his constituents and likewise for his constituents to have access to their member.

Remember the number of issues does not change, only the frequency of issues changes from constituencies with smaller populations to those with larger ones. Let urban members represent large constituencies. They often travel but a few blocks from one end of their riding to the other. If they have a higher rate of responses, they should be provided with larger staffs.

The third issue which I wanted to raise this morning relates to the naming of constituencies. That of course is an issue which relates specifically to the constituency in which I now reside. It has been the tradition in many of the urban centres of this country for the name of the constituency to reflect the name of the city. For example, let us consider Calgary North, Calgary Centre, Edmonton West, Edmonton Strathcona, and so forth. However, in the case of rural constituencies I think it is illogical to pick out the name of one or two centres and use those names when naming the constituency. I put forth this argument with respect to the riding which I now represent.

In my riding there are about five major towns, and when I say major I refer to those with a population of about 9,000. In total, however, I have 76 villages in my riding. In each and every one of those communities there are people with a sense of pride and identity connected very closely with their home towns. Yet in the naming of a constituency the commissioners often pick out one of the centres and claim this to be the new name of the constituency. In many parts of these constituencies there are people who never see or visit that centre whose name was used for the constituency name. I suggest that the approach should be descriptive of the area, a name based on a geographical description of the area, or based on a genuine historical event.

As a member of parliament from the province of Alberta, in the case of a larger rural riding I would like people across Canada first to identify it as being western, and secondly as being a rural area. I would not want them to identify it with any particular town or community, because I think it is important for every farmer and rancher in that area to feel that the name given to their constituency is one which they can accept, and one with which they can easily identify, and not one which only represents a select group of people who for some reason have been favoured by having their home town chosen to represent the name of the constituency.

In the new proposal the recommendation for the area I represent was that the name of the constituency be Acadia-Camrose. The community of Acadia numbers less than 200 people in the south east corner of my constituency, and Camrose in the opposite diagonal has a population of

[Mr. Malone.]

around 9,000. In that area we would have nearly 100 villages, the transportation and communication lines would, in many instances, be southward toward Calgary, and would not even be close to the larger communities within the constituency.

One of the names which was recommended to the commissioners, and which I think would be an excellent name for this constituency was Paintearth, after Paintearth Creek which runs through the centre of the newly proposed constituency. The word Paintearth is derived from the orge pots in which the Indians used the vermilion mud to make their war paint. This has an historical significance which relates to the area. It is tied to the early history of east central Alberta and it has a ring to it which identifies it with the western prairies and the western plains in their early historical development. Other names could also be suggested such as Hand Hills, which is also located in the south eastern portion of the new constituency.

It is not my duty, nor is it my wish, to come up with a definitive name and to propose it here this evening, except to state this principle to the commissioners—and I hope they will consider it seriously—that in respect of every rural constituency in Canada an effort should be made to go to historical societies and to groups with knowledge of the area, to study the background of these areas and find a broad descriptive name for the individual region.

● (0120)

I do not think we need to impose upon any area the name of one or two towns, unless those towns make up the major shopping centre and market centre for virtually all parts of that constituency. For example, the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers) lives in a community where that is the case. Red Deer is the major shopping centre for virtually every part of his constituency, but it also has the major river system, the Red Deer River, running right through the middle of his constituency.

In summary, I think it should be an obligation of the commissioners to make a much more thorough study, and perhaps to make a special request to historical societies, museums, and foundations which study the histories of the various regions across Canada, to recommend names of large rural constituencies which describe them as regions according to some geographical landmark, some major historical event or some portion of their history, and which allow the constituents from each and every community within it to identify with the electoral area.

This would allow the member of parliament to explain in his early speeches how his constituency was named, and he would not be making reference to one or two villages, towns or cities which may or may not be related to the whole market area and the business which transpires within that constituency.

Those are my thoughts on this question. I offer the commissioners my best wishes in what I know is a very difficult task, but I hope they will give due consideration to the three points I have expressed here this morning.

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, at the outset, on behalf of my colleagues from the province of Alberta I should like to offer our thanks to the staff, the Clerks, the *Hansard* reporters, the protective staff, the