

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 21, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTIONS RESPECTING PROPOSED DISTRICTS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to inform the house that seven objections have been filed with me pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, chapter 31, Statutes of Canada, 1964-65 with respect to the reports of the electoral boundaries commissions about the following ridings:

(a) Saint-Henri—signed by the hon. member for Sainte-Anne and other hon. members;

(b) Maisonneuve—signed by the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont and other hon. members;

(c) Ottawa-Carleton—signed by the hon. member for Russell and other hon. members;

(d) Wentworth—signed by the hon. member for Wentworth and other hon. members.

(e) Rimouski—signed by the hon. member for Pontiac-Témiscamingue and other hon. members;

(f) Beauharnois, Chambly, Laprairie, Longueuil and Saint-Jean—signed by the hon. member for Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie and other hon. members;

(g) All ridings in the province of Quebec—signed by the hon. member for Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie and other hon. members.

If the house will agree, I suggest that we again follow the procedure already used during this session so that the text of the objections, together with the names of the members who signed them in each case will be printed as appendices to *Votes and Proceedings* for this day. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[English]

THE LATE HON. PAUL COMTOIS

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF QUEBEC

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all hon. members of the house were deeply grieved this morning to learn of the tragic death of the Queen's

representative in the province of Quebec, Hon. Paul Comtois, made all the more tragic because of the shocking circumstances of his passing. I am sure all hon. members would wish their sympathy to be extended through you, Mr. Speaker, to Madame Comtois and the members of her family.

Many of us here knew Mr. Comtois, particularly during the years when he was a member of this house and Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys in the government of my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker). He was a man of kindness, courtesy and quiet effectiveness in his work, and he was liked and admired by all who knew him.

His public service to his community, to his province and to his country, particularly to the rural population of the province of Quebec, was long and varied; as an agronomist, as mayor for many years of his parish, general manager of the Quebec Farm Credit Union, member of parliament, cabinet minister, and since October 1961 lieutenant governor of his province.

It is always sad, Mr. Speaker, when a distinguished and fruitful career is suddenly ended. It is doubly sad when it ends in such tragic circumstances. So we lament the passing of a good man and an unselfish and devoted public servant.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Paul Comtois was, as the Prime Minister said, a man of unusual courtesy and kindness. He was a man of great dedication, a worthy representative not only as a minister of the crown but also as lieutenant-governor of his province.

I recall very well the first mention to him that his name might be considered. The ministers of the crown and members of the then opposition were on the way back from Quebec following the funeral of Hon. Onésime Gagnon, who had just passed away. When a lieutenant-governor dies the appointment of a successor cannot be delayed. The appointment must be immediate, otherwise the business of government within a province ends, there being no means whereby an administrator or enacting official can be appointed.