

Redistribution

is obvious that the proposed riding, as now set up, will remove from the Rimouski riding many parishes which should remain in it. In the Lower St. Lawrence and Rimouski region, the people have grown used to moving, economically and socially, depending on where they live, toward the towns of Rivière-du-Loup or Rimouski.

All the parishes, as well as the town of Trois-Pistoles, mentioned in the objection filed by the member for Rimouski, do business directly with the Rimouski area. Their removal from the area and the Rimouski riding, to join them with another riding would upset completely the topography of the area. This could be detrimental to its particular activities and this is why this objection has been filed by the persons concerned so that the parishes mentioned in the notice of objection remain in the Rimouski area and riding.

I trust that the commissioners will take into consideration the special situation and circumstances prevailing in this area and that this objection will be given the consideration it deserves.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The hon. member's remarks conclude the consideration of objection No. 25, concerning the electoral riding of Rimouski. Now that the house has studied the objection, it is my duty according to the act, to send back the report to the elections boundary commission with a copy of the objection and a copy of the debates of the house, so that it may reconsider the matter. We will now continue our consideration of objection No. 26 appearing on pages 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the pamphlet.

Proposed Electoral Districts of Beauharnois, Chambly, Laprairie, Longueuil and St. Jean:

That, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (chapter 31, statutes of Canada 1964-65), and for the reasons hereinafter specified, consideration be given by this house to the matter of an objection to the provisions of the report of the electoral boundaries commission for the province of Quebec, laid before this house by Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 19, 1966.

Whereas the town of St. Lambert of the riding of Longueuil has filed an objection before the commission to being included in the proposed constituency of Laprairie, because it shares a larger community of interests with the constituency of Longueuil.

Whereas the cities of Châteauguay, Châteauguay Center and Châteauguay Heights of the riding of Beauharnois-Salaberry have filed an objection before the commission to being included in the proposed constituency of Laprairie, because it shares a larger community of interests with the constituency of Beauharnois.

[Mr. Duquet.]

Whereas the municipalities of St. Philomene, St. Urbain, St. Clothilde, St. Chrysostome, County of Châteauguay; the townships of Havelock and Hemmingford, the village of Hemmingford, county of Huntingdon; the village of Lacolle, Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, county of St. Jean, have filed an objection before the commission to being included in the proposed constituency of St. Jean, because they share a larger community of interests with the other municipalities of the counties of Châteauguay, Huntingdon and Laprairie.

Whereas the municipalities of St. Martine, St-Paul-de-Châteauguay, Howick, Très-St-Sacrement de Howick, Ormstown, St. Malachie d'Ormstown, St. Antoine Abbé, county of Châteauguay; the townships of Elgin, Franklin, Hinchinbrook, Godmanchester, the town of Huntingdon, Huntingdon county, have filed an objection before the commission to being included in the proposed constituency of Beauharnois, because they share a greater community of interests with the other municipalities of the counties of Châteauguay, Huntingdon and Laprairie.

Whereas the geographical factor of the five proposed ridings of Beauharnois, Chambly, Laprairie, Longueuil and St. Jean, situated between the St. Lawrence river, the Richelieu river and the United States border, allows a distribution of the electoral district boundaries without prejudice to the interests of the other ridings.

Whereas the population standards, established by the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (13—Elizabeth II—chapter 31) allows a slight change to be made in the boundaries of the ridings of Beauharnois-Salaberry, Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie, Chambly-Rouville, Longueuil, St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville.

Whereas the commission has not taken into account the objections, suggestions and the alternative plan proposed by the above-mentioned municipalities.

Whereas the readjustment of the boundaries of the ridings of Beauharnois, Chambly, Laprairie, Longueuil and St. Jean, as proposed by the commission, is, according to the representations of the 25 above-mentioned municipalities, against the interests of the population of the area.

And whereas the municipalities in the present electoral districts of Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie and of Beauharnois-Salaberry have objected to the disappearance of the historical names of Salaberry, Châteauguay and Huntingdon.

It is proposed:

(a) that the commission should take into consideration the arguments and suggestions of the above-mentioned municipalities and carry on its mandate according to section 13, paragraph C (i) and (ii) of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.

(b) that the boundary readjustment of the proposed electoral district of Beauharnois be revised in accordance with the present boundary of the electoral district of Beauharnois-Salaberry, and that the proposed name of Beauharnois be changed to that of Beauharnois-Salaberry. (See annex A).

(c) that the boundaries of the proposed electoral district of Laprairie be revised to conform to the present boundaries of the existing district of Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie, that is to say, by including all the municipalities of Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie and by excluding the towns of Châteauguay, Châteauguay Centre, Châteauguay Heights, Lemoyne, Lery and St-Lambert from the proposed riding of Laprairie, and by adding to the