

Redistribution

I suggest that all these circumstances should be considered by the commission. I realize that it had a difficult task to perform in British Columbia but I think it failed to be sufficiently flexible in drafting the boundaries of some constituencies. I trust the commission will read today's *Hansard* and will reconsider and redraft several boundaries of constituencies as set forth in the present report, in order to meet the wishes of the great majority of the people as expressed to members of parliament, and in turn by them in this house today.

I look upon this whole question as a somewhat experimental one. I think we have made some mistakes, but I believe it was a good idea to have redistribution undertaken by independent commissions. In the future when we are perhaps considering amendments to this act, members should consider that it might be appropriate to have one person on each commission in each province who has had some active political experience and understands something about organization and the problems that face not only political parties but the members of parliament who serve the constituencies. This individual should have some understanding of the problems faced by members who represent ridings that have a conflict of interest because of local problems and situations. All these things could be considered by an individual on the commission who has had active political experience, and in that connection I suggest such a man could be a retired senator or retired member of parliament.

Mr. Hamilton: Mr. Speaker I rise today to take part in the discussion of these recommendations to the commissioners, not only as the member for Qu'Appelle but in an effort to direct my thoughts to the province of Saskatchewan as a whole.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but perhaps I should point out that we are now discussing objection No. 16 which applies to the province of British Columbia.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, I intended to rise on that very point. I do not wish to speak to the objection but I thought you would follow the pattern set with respect to other objections and call attention to the fact that the objection dealing with British Columbia is now completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Have we now completed the discussion on objection No. 16 in relation to the province of British Columbia?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The house having considered these objections, it is the Speaker's duty, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, to refer the report of the Boundaries Commission together with a copy of the objection and also a copy of the debates of the house back to the commission for consideration thereof.

The house will now proceed to a consideration of objection No. 10 in relation to the province of Saskatchewan, the text of which can be found at pages 20 and 21 of the pamphlet.

On February 15 last a notice of objection in the form of a motion was filed with Mr. Speaker in the following terms:

Proposed Electoral Districts for the Province of Saskatchewan:

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 of the matter of an objection to the following provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Saskatchewan, laid before the house by Mr. Speaker on Wednesday, January 19, 1966.

The principal objections to the provisions of the Saskatchewan report are:

1. The commission attempt to provide each constituency with somewhat comparable size and population has resulted in unrealistic boundaries for most of the ridings. The South Saskatchewan River is a natural boundary for three proposed constituencies—(Battleford-Kindersley, Swift Current-Maple Creek, and Moose Jaw). The proposed redistribution map fails to provide for this geographic division.

2. Natural trading areas have been ignored and communities having common means to travel and communication have been separated. The riding boundaries proposed by the commission would result in unnecessary obstacles to adequate representation in parliament for people with common interests. As one example, the proposed constituency for Moose Jaw does not take into consideration the area covered by the local newspaper and by the local radio and television station. Community of interest is developed to a large degree by these communication media.

Also following the same argument of community interests, the proposed redistribution removes the area west of Prince Albert including Parkside, Shellbrook, Canwood and, Debden through to Big River, and the area north of Prince Albert including the townsite of La Ronge. People in all of this area do business with Prince Albert and should be included in the Prince Albert constituency.