

Representation Act

so deliberately, but if we agreed to the change, we would be responsible to a certain degree towards our fellow citizens for insinuations to the effect that we do not show enough regard and respect for the memory of a man who has played such an important role in Canadian politics, Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe. But, personally, I think that changing the name of a riding, as was so well said by the hon. member for Lafontaine, is somewhat like changing the name of an individual. It must be done only if the reasons for such a change are sufficient.

I am sorry to tell the hon. member for Lapointe that I think the reasons he put forward are not important. I like to see the whole people of a riding pay homage to one of our compatriots who gave the best of his life, in saying that they live in the riding named after one of our great Canadians, namely Ernest Lapointe.

Mr. Speaker, I have other reasons to oppose the change of name—reasons that I would rather keep to myself—and I believe that as a representative in this house, I do not have to grant any consideration to the hon. member requesting such a change. For all those reasons, I shall oppose the adoption of this bill.

[Text]

Mr. John Mullally (Kings): Mr. Speaker, the bill sponsored by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) reads in part:

Paragraph 25 of that part of the schedule to the Representation Act, dealing with the description of the electoral districts in the province of Quebec, which describes the electoral district of Lapointe, is amended by substituting for the word: "Lapointe", the word: "Jonquière" at the beginning of the said description.

In essence its purpose is to change the name of the riding. Like the other two hon. members who preceded me I regret I have to oppose this request by our good friend from Lapointe.

I should start out by saying that the constituency of Lapointe arose out of a report by a committee that was appointed following the census of 1941 to change the representation of the various constituencies. That committee reported in 1947, and the substance of the report can be summarised in these few words: "The committee recommends a new constituency, known as Lapointe, to be created out of the western half of Chicoutimi."

When the report of that committee was incorporated in the Representation Act of

[Mr. Ricard.]

1952, which the hon. member seeks to amend, it said, speaking of Lapointe:

The Representation Act, 1947, chapter 71, 11 George VI, states:

Lapointe, consisting of the city of Arvida and the towns of Kénogami and Jonquière, together with that part of the county of Chicoutimi situated west of the western limits of the townships of Gagné, Tremblay, Chicoutimi, Laterrière, the western part of the townships of Lartigue and Lapointe situated west of the Boisvert river (Cyrac) together with the whole territory situated north of the townships of Falardeau, Bégin, Labrecque, and west of a meridian line passing through the northeast angle of the township of Falardeau.

That is the description of the hon. member's riding.

It might be interesting for the house to know—and this relates to an observation made a few moments ago by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis)—that this is not the first effort to have the name of the hon. member's riding changed.

On January 15, 1957 the then hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Girard), who was an independent member, introduced Bill C-11 for the purpose of changing the name of the electoral district of Lapointe to that of Jonquière-Kénogami-Arvida. The bill was read for the first time and did not come up for debate subsequently that session. I believe, Mr. Speaker, this indicates that the suggestion made by the Minister without Portfolio has some merit because, as I understand it, the three largest localities or cities in the hon. member's riding, according to the 1961 census, are Jonquière, with a population of 28,000 odd, Arvida, with a population of 14,000 odd and Kénogami with a population of 11,000 odd.

I would like very briefly to relate the history of various efforts made during the past 12 years, since the Representation Act of 1952, by members representing different constituencies to have the names of their constituencies changed. From the very quick bit of research I did I find there were 20 bills introduced during those 12 years to have the names of constituencies changed. This is probably not a correct figure because in some instances they were repetitions of previous efforts that were unsuccessful, or which did not come up for debate in the house.

Of these 20 attempts that were made only five were successful. I shall review them quickly and indicate which were successful, but in most cases it will be found that rather than changing the name of a constituency there was merely added another word to make