

*Electoral Boundaries*

Mr. Speaker, if the commissioners would follow the guideline, they should give to northwestern Quebec what is due to this area, and without delay, and I mean three electoral ridings.

● (2240)

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave):** For the information of the House I can now indicate that there are six members remaining on the Quebec list, and I propose to call them in this order: the hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Pinard), the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy), the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Comtois), the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) and the very patient member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau).

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief and I hope to set an example by the length of my intervention, not for those who will follow me because I think they have rights to indicate and views to express, but when it comes to the reform of parliamentary procedure one can express one's views very shortly without repetition and thus avoid political partisanship.

I just want to commend the members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Quebec for their exceptional work as regards the heart of Quebec, and particularly the constituency of Drummond which I represent. The centre of Drummond is in the middle of the Quebec City-Montreal-Trois-Rivières and Sherbrooke route and has the privilege of having on its territory a very important highway, a vital artery, which is Highway 20, the Trans-Canada Highway. And they have extended the Drummond riding northwest towards the St. Lawrence River, which is very rational since henceforth the Trans-Canada Highway will form a genuine backbone for this riding as it does for neighbouring Lotbinière.

It seems to me that the commissioners have shown practical experience and sound knowledge of the constituency I represent, and I am much obliged for this.

Following this change in the election map, the Drummond riding has now acquired two other municipalities, Saint-Léonard and Saint-Wenceslas, which is a very wise change since those two municipalities have a great deal of natural economic and social affinity with Drummondville, just like smaller municipalities in Bagot have with Saint-Hyacinthe.

I regret however that some municipalities located in the southwestern and eastern limits of the riding had to be cut off to be linked to other nearby ridings. I do understand of course that the commission had to abide by some criteria.

It had become impossible to prevent the municipalities which formerly belonged to Drummond from being integrated in other constituencies because of the changes made necessary by the population criteria, by economic and social affinities.

I simply wanted to stress how sorry I am to lose some municipalities but I understand that the commission, following the criteria established under the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, had no other alternative than cutting them off. On the other hand I am pleased about the

[Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve).]

new municipalities. As far as my area is concerned, the work of the commission as a whole seems to me to be once again logical and practical, and to conclude I congratulate the members of the commission and I also thank the House which allowed me a few minutes to voice my views on these changes.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave):** I indicated that the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) would be recognized next. He, of course, retains his right to speak before the end of this debate, regardless of his temporary absence.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is my duty to speak like my colleagues from Quebec of all parties, at this stage of the debate on the proposals made by the commissioners.

Mr. Speaker, my first comments about the federal constituency of Lotbinière as such are to say how very satisfied I am with the proposals of the commissioners since they recognize as a constituency the same area that I have had the honour to represent since 1968.

It is normal, Mr. Speaker, and this will be my first point, that the commission should respect the historical, the geographical, and especially the economic entity of this part of the country. Indeed, the Bois-Francs are an entity as such, and if I could make a suggestion, to be completely logical concerning the Bois-Francs, this regional entity should truly be respected. The commission should add to the constituency of Lotbinière the city of Plessisville and the five sister cities of Warwick, Arthabaska, Victoriaville, Princeville and Plessisville, which would be united as a whole and form a urban conglomerate which would respect not only our historical past, but also our cultural, social and economic entity. The only change proposed by the commissioners concerning the rural part of Lotbinière, since the riding is half urban and half rural, is that the municipality and parish of Saint-Apollinaire de Lotbinière be added to it.

Mr. Speaker, this is again a good thing that we accept with great pleasure since those who know this part of the country are well aware, as I said previously, that Saint-Apollinaire is a natural part of the rural entity of Lotbinière. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was truly an anomaly for the parish and municipality of Saint-Apollinaire to be part of the Lévis riding since there was no social, cultural or economic community of interest between Saint-Apollinaire and the rest of the Lévis riding, except perhaps Saint-Agapit.

The only point, Mr. Speaker, on which I should like to make very positive comments is about the municipality of Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet, and I very sincerely hope that the commissioners will not only examine but also accept the proposal I make to them. Saint-Octave-de-Dosquet is home to about 650 or 700 electors. So it is not a big number, it is not a parish that might change anything on the quotient of the riding as a whole.

In other words, it is not by giving Dosquet to Lotbinière or by systematically projecting it into the riding of Frontenac, as proposed by the commissioners in their report, that numerically anything is changed as regards the quotient. This only represents 650 more electors in one riding