

urban constituencies there are discrepancies, but not perhaps to the same extent. Nevertheless there are large discrepancies.

The commission may hold as many sittings as they deem desirable, but they must have at least one public hearing at which persons who have objections may attend and set them forth. This hearing must be advertised in the *Canada Gazette* and in the press. A person wishing to make a complaint must give a certain number of days' notice to the commission that he or she will appear and make representations.

Each commission shall complete its report not later than a year after the receipt by the chairman of the copy of the return of the last census. When the report has been completed a draft representation order is forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and if 10 members of that house, irrespective of the provinces from which they come, file objections with the Speaker the matter is then debated in that house and the representations, objections, and the discussions in the House of Commons are forwarded to the representation commission in question. That representation commission deals with these representations and objections and in due course, when they have been dealt with, a final representation order is made by the commission in question and forwarded to the Secretary of State, who issues the proclamation bringing the representation order into effect. As I said, this is to take effect after dissolution of the Parliament during which the work has been done.

Those are the essential points of this bill which I commend to your consideration.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: May I ask a question of honourable Senator Power? First, with regard to the appointment of the commissions, in clause 6 it is stated that the chairman shall be appointed by the chief justice of the province. I am not entirely clear on that. For instance, in Quebec should it be the Chief Justice of the Appeal Court or the Chief Justice of the Superior Court?

Hon. Mr. Power: I am not clear on that either.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: My second question is with reference to paragraph (b) of clause 13. I would have liked the honourable senator to comment upon the principle or the rule which is inserted there and which would indicate that dual ridings may be continued in the existing two cases, but not otherwise. I was wondering whether this is a sound principle. If it is good it should be extended to other places and if it is not good it should be abolished.

Hon. Mr. Power: I wonder if my honourable friend thinks it is for us to declare

whether a principle contained in the bill, after an amendment had been proposed at the last moment, is good or bad. Does my honourable friend think it is part of my function as sponsor of the bill to comment on that? An amendment was made to the bill in the other place at the very last moment, whereby dual constituencies were permitted. I remember on one occasion when I was chairman of a redistribution committee of the other house we brought in a report doing away with dual constituencies. However, if I am not mistaken, it was my honourable friend Senator Isnor in the House of Commons who insisted that dual constituencies should be retained, and there was not very much objection to that. I think there are only two such ridings left, Halifax and Queens. Apparently the persons who are interested in these constituencies have reasons to believe that dual constituencies should continue.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I see no mention in the bill of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Hon. Mr. Power: He is the Representation Commissioner.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Will he play a role in this?

Hon. Mr. Power: Actually, Mr. Castonguay is both. As far as I know there is no reference in the bill to the Chief Electoral Officer as such.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: He is the Representation Commissioner.

Hon. Mr. Power: Actually, he is the Representation Commissioner, and if I remember correctly the act which constituted the Representation Commissioner made the Chief Electoral Officer, as such, the Representation Commissioner. I do not think it specifically named Mr. Castonguay. I think it stated that the person who was Chief Electoral Officer should automatically be the Representation Commissioner.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, it is not my intention to comment to any great extent on this bill. There is not much to be said regarding Bill C-72. By that I do not mean that it is not important. Very much to the contrary, I consider this is one of the most important bills that we have had before Parliament in quite a number of years. It is important because it concerns everyone in Canada, dealing as it does with the matter of voting and the election of members of Parliament, which is a most important subject.

When I say there is not much to be said about this bill, I mean there is not much left to be said because it has been studied very carefully for a long time in the other place by the people who are most concerned, namely, the members of the House of Com-