

*Redistribution*

mountain ranges, two time zones and from one island which is 100 miles off the coast. I suggest that the president of that riding association is not going to be able to organize a nominating convention. I suggest this condition is not good for the parliamentary democracy we are trying to develop. Had the commissioners had any experience in politics at all, they would have realized this.

As the hon. member for Kamloops has said, British Columbia is a very difficult province indeed in which to try to draw riding boundaries fairly and equitably. We live in a computer age, and I cannot help but get the idea that the electoral boundaries for British Columbia were drawn by computers rather than by human beings. I think there has been too much attention paid simply to the slide rule, simply to the census figures. When the commissioners approach the study of these debates and any other objections, I hope this will lead to a complete revamping or substantial revision of the electoral boundaries of British Columbia.

I should like assurance, Mr. Speaker, that the maps for British Columbia were drawn in British Columbia by the British Columbia commissioners. I cannot believe at the moment that they were because of some of the decisions that were made. I should like assurance, in fact, that the maps were not drawn by some Carleton University students who were hired by the office of the chief commissioner in Ottawa, with the resultant maps being sent to British Columbia and almost rubberstamped by the commissioners. For example, Mr. Speaker, when the report was first published there was a statement issued that the commissioners had followed, where possible, natural boundaries such as rivers. This might seem logical. You have a river and everyone knows where it is, so you make the boundary follow the river.

However, anyone who is familiar with British Columbia knows that communities develop on both sides of a river along a river valley. If you want to draw a boundary you draw it not along the bottom of the valley but along the mountain tops; you use the tops of the mountains or the watersheds as division points. According to their statement, however, the commissioners used the rivers as boundaries wherever possible. Consequently you have a community divided in half. One half on one side of the valley was in one riding and the half on the other side of the valley was in another riding. I know of one case in which a mill owner's mill site was

on one side of the river in one riding and his log storage yard was on the other side of the river in another riding. Perhaps this was all right because he would have two members of parliament to whom to appeal rather than one. I think that sort of approach is somewhat illogical.

When the commissioners are doing their work I should like them to go back to the representations that were made to them by the various public bodies. I suggest, with respect, that they have not paid sufficient attention or given sufficient weight to the representations that were made to them at the public hearings. I make particular reference, for example, to subparagraph (k) of paragraph 6 of the objections, which deals with Esquimalt and Victoria. I mention this particularly because the hon. member for Victoria (B.C.) (Mr. Groos), who has signed these objections, is not here as the result of some obligations to NATO. He would want me to refer specifically to that situation. As I understand it, all of the people concerned, the city council, the aldermen and the mayor, object to what has been done and have made representations to the commissioners that the division between Esquimalt-Saanich and Victoria not be made. I ask, really on behalf of the hon. member for Victoria (B.C.), that the commissioners pay particular attention to the representations that were made with regard to these two ridings.

I want to ask the commissioners, as the hon. member for Kamloops has done, to pay more attention to the application of section 13 of the act which allows the commissioners to take into account in the drawing of these boundaries special geographic considerations and any special community of interest. I feel the commissioners have not given sufficient weight to the provisions of section 13, which were put into the act very deliberately by this parliament because hon. members realized that in drawing boundaries you cannot merely use a computer or a slide rule. You are dealing with people and not with figures. I suggest that the commissioners, at least I got this impression in reviewing their work, dealt with figures and forgot that they were dealing with people. Section 13 is in the act simply because in drawing electoral boundaries you are dealing with people and not just census figures.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, under redistribution British Columbia has gained one seat; the number of members has risen from 22 to 23. I know it is easy for us to criticize the work of