

*Redistribution*

Edward Island, are the lots, in the southern part of Kings county. One constituency could have been made of that.

All those persons in the areas I have mentioned have a community of interest radiating from the service centre, which is the city of Charlottetown. The remainder of Kings county and the remainder of what is now suggested should be the constituency of Hillsborough would of course be in another constituency. With the division I have suggested, I think the community of interest principle would be satisfied to a much greater extent than under the present designations.

Before I sit down, may I make one final point, Mr. Speaker. From a practical point of view, to encourage the interest of the public in the government of its country, both federally and provincially, I think it is desirable that unnecessary complications should not be introduced into the electoral system. With the exception of something what happened at the turn of the century, during the last 60 years there has been no instance in Prince Edward Island where a provincial constituency lay partly in one federal constituency and partly in another.

No attention apparently has been paid, in this redistribution, to where the boundaries of federal constituencies are relative to the boundaries of the provincial constituencies. In several cases, proposed federal boundaries go smack through the middle of a provincial constituency, there being no relationship at all between them.

This is something that I think ought to be considered. In several cases which have already been presented to the commission, by making a very minor change and following the division line between provincial constituencies a more logical division between proposed federal constituencies would have been arrived at. Then we would have had constituencies with a population nearer the desired quota than we have in the present suggestion.

Having summarized these things as briefly as I can, Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks.

● (5:30 p.m.)

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak in support of my colleague the hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean), and make some additional comments in support of the many which he has already made about redistribution as it affects Prince Edward Island. In doing so I should first of all like to deal with something

that is not actually in the report but which pertains I think to the whole spirit, shall I call it, and problem of redistribution.

It is interesting to note on this occasion that when redistribution was brought before us and made an issue in this house, it was decided that that redistribution should be carried out by an independent commission. In many ways I think this was a good concept, although I am not competent to deal in detail with the many supplementary issues. One of the disturbing things about the many reports that will come before us during the next few days will be the fact that, in general, the commission in many instances failed to take into account the particular communities of interest that existed in many different parts of the country.

This most assuredly is true when it pertains to Prince Edward Island because I think, in light of the suggested boundaries being drawn in that tiny province, it is an indication of recognizing only certain factors, almost all of which are tied to population, and not looking closely at other factors that relate to communities, and community of interest, which are of great importance to the people of P.E.I.

This can be readily realized in the fact that for many, many years it has been the custom of the people of P.E.I. to accept the fact of a dual riding for Queens, and a single riding for Prince and Kings. With the disruption of a dual riding it has fixed the commission with trying to establish a new community of interest, and in an agrarian area like P.E.I. this is a most difficult task to achieve. I remember from my own church experience, when we were trying to amalgamate congregations into larger groups, it was always difficult to evaluate all the factors that come into play in establishing a closely knit community.

The commission was not overly aided by the interest and concern of the people of P.E.I. because, according to the report, only three private briefs were presented to it. Why should this be? Surely redistribution is an important matter. But I think in the minds of many people in P.E.I. they saw this as something affecting the rest of Canada and not their province. After all, we have had redistribution come and go in the rest of the country, but it has left inviolate the constituencies of Prince, Queens and Kings.

Now, for the first time in 50 years, we have seen a disruption of this principle, and I think if the commission were to meet again