

Redistribution

of this morning, I thought I should put one or two facts on record. I can do so quickly.

An hon. Member: Hurry up!

Mr. McIlraith: The request is now being made by the official opposition to have me hurry up, their own members having taken none of the time this morning.

Mr. Martin: The old steamroller tactics.

Mr. McIlraith: I should like to explain the question that has concerned the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming), namely as to why government members voted against his stupid amendment yesterday; and may I say that he is authority for the correct usage of the word "stupid". Otherwise, I would not have used it.

Mr. Fleming: On the contrary. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Harris) is the source of the observation that it is quite parliamentary to refer to remarks as being stupid.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Oh, no.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I think you will find that it was the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration who offered that observation in the house.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Fleming: In deference to the high opinion I have of him and his views, I adopted his suggestion.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I do not need to quote it to the hon. member, but a ruling on this question was given the other day and it was made clear that it was a proper adjective to use in reference to subject matter but not to persons. I was careful to use it in that way.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that the word should be used as seldom as possible. Might I also express the hope that I will not hear it again.

Mr. McIlraith: Since the hon. member for Eglinton is a little bit sensitive on the subject I will ask permission to withdraw the word "stupid" as applied to his amendment.

Some hon. Members: Oh, no.

Mr. McIlraith: I will use no adjectives at all.

An hon. Member: You said it.

Mr. McIlraith: I shall merely let the facts speak for themselves. If I may, I should like to draw to the attention of the house the adjectives used by the hon. member for Eglinton. He spoke about the constituency of Hastings-Frontenac as a veritable empire, as a huge constituency, and he used many other adjectives.

Mr. Hodgson: Tell us about Renfrew South.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McIlraith: The hon. member for Victoria is a little bit agitated. May I say that it was interesting to note his agitation or lack of it when his own members were taking up so much time to say so little. The point I want to make is quite simple. As to the constituency of Hastings-Frontenac which was referred to as a veritable empire, I ought to tell the house that it is the tenth in size of all the constituencies in Ontario.

Mr. Fleming: We were talking about southern Ontario.

Mr. McIlraith: There are nine larger constituencies in Ontario; and those nine larger constituencies, with one exception, all have more population than has Hastings-Frontenac, and they are all represented in this House of Commons by Liberal members of parliament.

Mr. Fleming: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. McIlraith: Certainly.

Mr. Fleming: How does the proposed riding of Hastings-Frontenac rank in size with all the ridings in what we broadly call southern Ontario as the bill stands?

Mr. McIlraith: I will develop that point if the hon. member wants me to do so. I had hoped not to develop many of the members' questions or arguments. There are two constituencies about the same size, namely, Renfrew North, and Victoria represented by the hon. member who was interjecting earlier. Parry Sound is larger.

Mr. Fleming: Hastings-Frontenac is the largest.

Mr. McIlraith: I have statistics showing the precise number of square miles in all these cases if the hon. member wants that information.

Some hon. Members: Dispense.

Mr. McIlraith: I take it that it is the wish of the house that I should not go into those particulars. Hastings-Frontenac is the tenth in size. Eight of the nine constituencies that are larger in size have more population. All of the nine that are larger in size are represented by Liberal members.

Mr. Fleming: What about South Renfrew?

Mr. McIlraith: We proposed to put part of the constituency of Hastings in South Renfrew, and the opposition members opposed that proposal in committee.

Mr. Fleming: May I ask the hon. gentleman if he will give the population of South Renfrew after the change has been made and