

vinced that what he had in mind was to retain at least one seat in the landslide of the Conservative party.

As regards what the honourable senator—

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I do not want to be misunderstood, I stated that in 1937 the line was left as it was—and in 1947 it is still the same.

Hon. Mr. VIEN: Of course it is, because whatever the intention at the time may have been, it has proven to be reasonably correct.

With respect to the discussion in another place, I would simply point out that the work was divided among sub-committees. Each sub-committee looked after the redistribution of one particular province, and a reasonable proposal was reached. Although there was not perfect agreement there was reasonable agreement, the proposal was accepted as being the best possible for each province.

Honourable senators, I think it is proper for us to approve what has been done, and to pass this bill without any amendment.

Hon. JAMES GRAY TURGEON: Honourable senators, until I listened to the debate this afternoon I had not the slightest intention of speaking on this motion. Now I wish to leave with the house three thoughts that came to my mind while the bill was under discussion in another place.

The first has to do with our international relations. Honourable senators know that one of the complaints of most western countries is that the eastern countries do not hold free elections. If I were the representative in Ottawa of one of those eastern countries whose system of election is so often criticized by western countries, and I read the charges that have been made here, in another place, and in our newspapers, with respect to the redistribution bill and its effect upon the coming elections, and then read the counter-charges made against other redistributions, I wonder what would be the nature of my dispatch to my government.

A measure of this nature should be given careful thought. I have little knowledge of the seats under discussion; I know nothing of the Saskatchewan riding of Lake Centre, except, as others have said, that the member from that district is a fine man and a hard-working member of parliament.

I do, however, know something about Cariboo and Kamloops. For many years practically all the western portion of the Kamloops riding, including the town of Kamloops, was part of the Cariboo federal constituency. It was taken out of that constituency by a redistribution previous to the election of

1935, when I first became the member for Cariboo. Most of that part of the Cariboo riding which is now going into Kamloops is in the Lillooet provincial constituency, whose member is a Conservative. He was elected in 1941 and re-elected at the last election. For two terms prior to 1941 he was not in the legislature, but he had been there formerly. In the 1935 election I was the candidate and I did not carry that portion of the present Cariboo riding. I did carry it in 1940 and again in 1945, but in the provincial election of 1941 it went Conservative, as it did again in 1945. That is not all. I think a bit of the present constituency north of that is going into Kamloops. Since 1933 it has been Liberal, although for many years it had been Conservative. I think Mr. Fulton will have just as good an opportunity in the proposed new riding as he has had in the one he now represents.

The constituency of Glengarry has been mentioned. I do not know anything about it, but from what was said in another place I understand that the Prime Minister has confirmed the statement that he has no intention of running in that riding. Therefore, anything done with respect to that constituency could not have been done with an eye to the Prime Minister's chances in the coming election. I am told by people within the sacred precincts of this building that in order to perpetuate the historical tradition which for so many years has permitted a man of Scotch descent to represent the constituency, no change is being made. I am told also that if the constituency is enlarged it will probably have a French speaking majority. There is not much Scotch blood in me, but if the reason given is the real reason for not changing Glengarry, I think it is a good one. We should keep in mind the traditional part of Canadian history, especially in old-settled parts like the Ottawa valley. If anything can be done to keep a member of Scotch descent in the seat of Glengarry, I think it should be done.

I have no desire to argue, but I do think that in view of the present world situation it is disastrous for us, in discussing what is taking place now to be harking back to what took place in elections many years ago. I say this because many representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Canada and other countries have complained that certain eastern European countries in their elections do not permit a free choice of candidates or free expression of opinion by the people, and that there is—if I may use a term that has been used here—gerrymandering in one form or another.