

Electoral Boundaries

the commissioners to re-name the ridings, but I wanted to draw their attention on that matter.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the brief comments I wanted to make, and I thank hon. members for their attention.

Mr. Loiselle (Saint-Henri): Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave): I thank the hon. member who will be recognized later today. I understand there has been a special order of the House that we recess. Accordingly, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At 6.15 p.m. the House took recess.

[*Translation*]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Saint-Henri): Mr. Speaker, I hope the commissioners will be enthusiastic over my recommendations as my colleagues were when I rose to take part in this debate.

I wish first of all to thank the commissioners because during their hearings last summer in Montreal, I appeared along with my colleague from Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) in order to make a few recommendations and I heard representations made by various associations and individuals. I must admit that the commissioners have shown quite a remarkable degree of dedication and understanding and I thank them for the new electoral boundaries changes proposed for our area, following an initial draft.

Last night, the hon. member for Westmount and Minister of Public Works (Mr. Drury) made the following recommendation to the commission:

The area bounded on the east by Peel Street, on the south by Sherbrooke Street, and on the west by Guy Street and Côte Des Neiges, contains many people who have long had a community of interest with those—

This is the sector which now appears on the map representing the new boundaries submitted by the commission. I must advise the commissioners that I have no objection to this area being incorporated in the new constituency of Westmount. The reasons for this annexation or extension have been given, and I am in full agreement on this point.

If the commission does not anticipate major changes, Mr. Speaker, I repeat that I agree with this extension, but as the member for Saint-Henri, I feel I should convey to the commissioners a representation which was made last Friday evening at my office by seven spokesmen for the Saint-Henri district. As you know, the Saint-Henri constituency includes several wards of the city of Montreal. However, the seven people who came to my office Friday evening to explain the changes they required were from Saint-Henri proper, which includes the area extending from the CPR tracks to the Lachine canal, and from the western limits of Montreal as far east as Atwater Street.

Those people suggested that the new constituency of Saint-Henri should have as its northern limit the CPR

[Mr. Guilbault.]

tracks as far as Atwater Street, and that the boundaries should then go north up to Sherbrooke Street, and from there eastwards up to St. Laurent Street.

I have been advised through certain people that at this stage, the commissioners do not generally make major changes in electoral boundaries after completing their work. However, Mr. Speaker, I felt I had to pass on to the commissioners this suggestion which was made in good faith and which was supported by solid arguments.

On the other hand, I would like to strongly suggest to the commissioners who have set up these new boundaries that they realize that it is an addition of the whole Saint-Henri to the new riding of Westmount and I urge them strongly that in future the riding of Westmount should be called Saint-Henri-Westmount.

My proposal is not new, Mr. Speaker, because Westmount-St. Henri existed for many years and I suggest the commissioners read the Parliamentary Guide of 1974, page 443. At the general elections of 1917 and 1921, the following was stated:

● (2010)

Former Division of Westmount-St. Henri (Established under the Redistribution Act of 1914.)

This means that at the time of the electoral redistribution in 1914, the Westmount-St. Henri constituency was established and at the 1924 redistribution, the St-Henri constituency was given the name of St. Henri alone. And to convince further the commissioners, I would urge them to read the book entitled: "Saint-Henri des Tanneries de Montréal". On page 17, the following can be read and I quote:

Before 1874, writes again Mr. Massicotte, Saint-Henri des Tanneries included in the north, part of the city of Westmount today; at the south, it extended up to the St. Lawrence . . .

Therefore, I cannot see why the commissioners could not accept my definition, my proposal that the new constituency of Westmount should be called Saint-Henri-Westmount or Westmount-Saint-Henri, since it existed at the 1914 redistribution and even in 1875 St. Henri included part of Westmount.

Once that recommendation is agreed to, I presume, by the commissioners, we would want to give a new name to the riding of Saint-Henri. And I would like to suggest to the commissioners to call it St. Laurent for many reasons. If the commissioners wanted to honour a former prime minister of Canada, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, the people in the riding would be delighted and would readily accept that name. Moreover, St. Lawrence Street, from Sherbrooke to the river, is located in the present Saint-Henri riding which extends from Nuns Island in Verdun easterly as far as Delorimier Street the southern boundary of the county goes along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River; for all those reasons, Mr. Speaker, the only name I have to suggest to the commissioners for Saint-Henri riding, is St. Laurent, particularly to honour a former prime minister and for the other reasons I mentioned.

And I would like specially to reiterate my recommendation to the commissioners this new riding of Saint-Henri-Westmount, including the whole of the county of St. Henri represents a population which has its roots back till the founding of Montreal. It is an active working population.