

Redistribution Commission

of Caribou and Skeena. The Northwest Territories and the Yukon, of course, would be treated quite differently. The special provision might take the form of a formula in which the land area could be included along with a minimum population in determining the boundaries of these constituencies. Perhaps this would dispel a great many of the fears the members from those constituencies might have about the difficulty of representing these large ridings. Perhaps we could include the minister from Bonavista-Twillingate amongst those.

Mr. Winkler: You are not going to wipe that one out, too, are you?

Mr. Moreau: I am trying to dispel his fears.

Mr. Pickersgill: You could not wipe that out.

Mr. Moreau: Another factor that should be considered by the commissioners is that of growth. I suggest that the suburban ridings that are experiencing a very rapid growth should contain the minimum population requirement under whatever tolerance is accepted. Some members might ask, who is to determine which are the most rapidly growing suburban ridings? I suggest we could use, at least initially, as a measure the increase in voters between 1962 and 1963 elections. In my riding of York-Scarborough, for instance, we had an increase of over 10,000 voters in that eight month period. Certainly, since the 1961 census the population has risen from 267,000, and by now it must be past the 300,000 mark.

During the debate yesterday, Mr. Chairman, there was some discussion as to whether we should have one or ten commissions to do the job of redistribution. The hon. member for Edmonton West indicated that perhaps we could modify this somewhat and set up sub-commissions of a national commission. Whatever mechanism we use, Mr. Chairman, I suggest the commission should be made up of representatives of the province, whether it be a commission or a subcommission. The hon. member for Edmonton West also indicated problems of communities with diverse interests, the importance of communications, to boundaries of provincial ridings, and so on. I would think that commissioners from a province would be in the best position to assess these factors as they applied to local conditions, and then I think they could more intelligently recommend the riding boundaries that we should have.

It is my opinion that the job could then be done very much more quickly, as the Secretary of State has indicated. Certainly, I can

assure hon. members that the people in my constituency are clamouring for a change in our riding boundaries.

Mr. Knowles: What kind of a change?

Mr. Moreau: I would hope that a change in the riding boundaries would be as far as they would go. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre also indicated that there has been a measure of education in the various parties with regard to redistribution being done by an independent commission.

He went on to say that for the first time the Liberals, when in power, have committed themselves to this principle. I would like to remind him that it was a Liberal government in Manitoba which accepted this principle. I happened to be living there at the time and took part in the debate that went on during that period. It was a Liberal government that initiated the present system, about which the hon. member was so complimentary last night.

Mr. Knowles: Would the hon. member permit me to say I am glad he has drawn attention to that fact, and I confirm what he said. However I am sure he realizes that in what I said last night I was referring to the federal Liberals.

Mr. Moreau: I appreciate that. The hon. member for Lapointe wanted us to write in some sort of constitutional guarantee for the province of Quebec. I find this approach quite repulsive. I do not see how we could write in a constitutional guarantee for a province as large as Quebec when we cannot predict what changes will come about in the distribution of population in this country. I think the other provinces would immediately clamour for similar guarantees, and in effect we would be freezing the present provincial representation in this house.

As a foundation for his argument he indicated the fair treatment the English minority receives in Quebec in other matters, including provincial redistribution, but I want to indicate to him that the French minorities in other parts of the country receive pretty fair treatment by and large, and I can indicate the treatment I received in Toronto with the 22,000 vote majority the electors saw fit to give me.

In conclusion may I say how pleased I am that we are getting on with this most important job. On behalf of my constituents I wish to say how grateful they are that the government initiated the preparation of maps and population statistics immediately upon assuming office, which documents will be considered by the commissioners after the commissions are formed. The Manitoba experience indicated that the compilation of base