

Redistribution

the commission, who based himself on the premise that all of the national parks should be in one constituency in spite of the fact that the people living in the three national parks make up only 12 per cent of the people in the new riding. In other words, some 57,000 odd will be living in the new riding of Rocky Mountain, only 8,000 of whom live and work in the national parks. So in effect there is discrimination against the other 49,000 people who have been dragged into this tremendously long riding, which is inaccessible within itself, to satisfy the obsession of the chairman of the commission.

He is discriminating primarily against people who are now residing in my constituency and living in major towns in the western section, towns like Hinton, Edson, Whitecourt, Evansburg, Entwistle. The people in these towns will not get proper representation because they will be overshadowed by the dramatic and emotional appeal of the national parks.

I hope that the commission will take into consideration this important fact. It is absurd to set up a constituency based on the community of interest of 12 per cent of its population as is the case here. It would be just absurd to hook up three pulp and paper towns across northern Ontario and say that because these three towns all have pulp and paper industries we will create a constituency stretching around them without any regard for the people living outside the area encompassed by these particular industries.

● (6:20 p.m.)

The commission has taken the constituency of Jasper-Edson and split it into three parts in spite of the fact that at the present time the constituency of Jasper-Edson has well over 70,000 people, which is above the average set for rural constituencies, and also in spite of the fact that the present constituency, being one of the largest in the province of Alberta, still has some community of interest owing to the transportation and communication systems present in the area. Our roads run east and west, not north and south. Our communications run directly from Edmonton to the west and southwest and serve our constituency very well.

There is absolutely no need for the establishment of this new Rocky Mountain trench constituency. It does not serve a good purpose. I hope the commissioners will look seriously at this matter and take a sensible approach to redistribution in the province of Alberta.

In spite of what my hon. friend from Medicine Hat had to say, the creation of Rocky Mountain has upset the constituencies of Peace River and Athabasca and has made the new constituencies of Peace River and Athabasca intolerable in that they do not represent those areas any more. The town of Peace River no longer remains in Peace River; the town of Athabasca no longer remains in Athabasca. I suggest to the commission, as somebody has already suggested before, that they get in their cars and drive from Whitecourt in the north down through the mountains, if they can, to Waterton in the south. Rocky Mountain is an absolutely impossible constituency to campaign in and to service. It is impossible to remain in contact with the people in it.

I am convinced that the people who are going to be discriminated against are the people who live in the west end of Jasper-Edson. It is they who have been tacked on to Rocky Mountain to make that constituency big enough to have a large enough population.

I think that the commission will have to look at this seriously because there is discrimination against the majority of the people in this new riding of Rocky Mountain.

Mr. Speaker: The house having considered this objection, it is the Speaker's duty, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, to refer the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission together with a copy of the objection and also a copy of the debates of the house back to the commission for consideration thereof.

The next is British Columbia, being objection No. 13, the text of which is to be found at page 24 of the pamphlet.

On February 16 last notice of objection in the form of a motion was filed with the Speaker in the following terms:

Proposed Electoral District of Coast-Chilcotin:

That, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter 31, Statutes of Canada 1964-65), consideration be given by this house to the matter of an objection to the provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia, laid before this house by Mr. Speaker on Wednesday, January 19, 1966, for the reasons hereinafter specified.

(1) The commission failed to give full and proper attention to the geographic, social, and economic connections which the people of the Queen Charlotte Islands have with the mainland area of the province contiguous to, and including, the city of Prince Rupert.