

I am not one who uses the past tense when speaking of the development of this country. I think we have an enormous range of potential ahead, and practical steps should be taken to put the immigration situation in a better light. That practical step would be to give incentives to newcomers who are coming to this country and want to stay to go to the rural, depopulated areas of the country. That kind of step would not only help to meet the demands of our country but would also help Canadians generally to understand that we are going to help to integrate newcomers into Canadian society at the very point where Canadian society is most vulnerable and needs them most. I am thinking in terms of the mid-Canada belt and the development of a new string of cities. Far more wide ranging plans are needed and should be related to the white paper the minister is contemplating. Surely, progressive steps must be taken in this area. There must be input from many groups across Canada who are capable of responding to the needs of newcomers to this country. I say to the minister, do not make that white paper a unilateral government presentation before you implement it—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I believe the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River seeks the floor on a point of order.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among all parties with a view to interrupting the proceedings at this time and considering until six o'clock the notice of objection with respect to the electoral boundaries commission for New Brunswick. I think, if Your Honour inquires, you will find that there is unanimous agreement for that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Roche:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, could I be allowed a minute or two to finish my remarks, so that I will not need to continue them on a later occasion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Roche:** I simply want to say how happy I have been, as a member of parliament, to go to the citizenship court in Edmonton when people are getting their citizenship papers, and see the tremendous input into Canada that thousands of new people are making already. I say to the government, do not cut them off but think progressively and positively in the formulation of the new white paper.

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## REDISTRIBUTION

### CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSION REPORT ON NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Speaker:** On May 24, 1973, notice of objection in the form of a motion was filed in the following terms:

That, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter E-2, R.S.C., 1970), 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

### *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment*

of New Brunswick laid before this House by Mr. Speaker on May 9, 1973, on the grounds set forth hereafter:

1. In many regions of New Brunswick the Commission failed to give special emphasis to geographical considerations and ignored or overlooked the problems of communication when they divided the said province into new districts.

2. The Commission failed to give special consideration and proper appreciation to the physical, social and economic cohesion in the new electoral districts created and appeared to ignore and did ignore the question of unity or community of interest and thereby rendering adequate representation of the people in Parliament a virtually impossible task.

3. The Commission failed to take into consideration that the majority of electoral districts of New Brunswick as they existed prior to redistribution, were found acceptable to the vast majority of constituents in those districts.

4. The inconvenience to any Member of Parliament attempting to maintain contact with constituents spread over some electoral districts, difficult as they already are, would be considerably increased.

5. And such other objections that the undersigned Members may consider applicable in order to carry out the spirit and terms and conditions of the Act in question.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotion that I, on behalf of several members of parliament from New Brunswick, take part in this debate. The law is clear and I think the law, if I may say so, was a good one when it was passed in 1967, and therefore we are bound by the terms of the statute. I say that I take part in the debate with mixed emotion because I thought at the time, and think now, that the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act is progressive legislation which gives effect to representation by population, as close as may be within the small percentage points that are allowed. It also keeps the hand, if I may put it this way, of the local politician out of what might be called, to use an American expression, gerrymandering. In that respect, it keeps his hand out of the electoral boundaries mix.

One commissioner on the New Brunswick Electoral Boundaries Commission said—and, certainly from my point of view and the point of view of the constituency the experience was interesting—that the problems in New Brunswick are almost beyond remedy. On another occasion, and perhaps this opinion will not be shared by others who will follow me in this debate, a commissioner reminded me that the problem in my province is that people happen to live in the wrong place for easy, convenient and helpful map making. The then secretary of state, Mr. Pickersgill, had a great deal to do with the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.

**An hon. Member:** A great Canadian.

**Mr. Fairweather:** He is a great and vocal Canadian, and a committed Canadian, and I am glad to pay him that tribute. I am a bit disturbed because of other legislation that has been brought to our notice. It is fair to say that it will have the effect of making the next federal election a fight under a different formula. Others may support this other legislation. I say this so that we will not get off the track and maintain what is a progressive and helpful mood.

Having said that, let me say that I think my province is harder to realign than any other. It is harder in the Atlantic provinces to reconcile people to electoral changes.