

*Electoral Boundaries Commission*

means that at that time, the situation will require a new redistribution and that the basis of 33 per cent now suggested will leave room for that, while the 20 per cent basis would not allow any changes, because of the too radical carving up it would require at this time.

To conclude my remarks I should like to underline once again the following points. It is essential not to cut down a rural community—often indirectly governed by regional interests—into a so-called riding just to give a new value to urban ridings. We must guard against setting up extremist procedures but we must strive to solve as many problems as possible while respecting, in our reforms, a certain established order so that politics will finally help us to provide a better direction and definition.

If urban centres seem to have some overpopulated ridings, on the other hand, others are not so heavily populated.

I think that the solution would be to divide urban ridings and maintain rural ones intact.

I agree with several hon. members of the house, especially with those who represent rural ridings, because we have many parishes, and we have to cover extended areas during an election campaign or to inform our constituents.

Incidentally, I could say that when I wish to visit every section of the constituency which I represent, I have to travel almost 1,000 miles by car to visit its 45 parishes. If 25 to 30 other parishes are added to them, well I think no member will be able to visit the whole riding during a one month election campaign.

Therefore, I feel it would be much better not to change anything in rural ridings and if urban constituencies are considered overpopulated, the best thing would be to divide them up.

[Text]

**Mr. Kindt:** Mr. Chairman, the centralization and decentralization aspects of this bill are features which are deserving of some additional consideration. The bill proposes that ten commissions be established, one in each province, and there is the question of whether a centralized authority, under Mr. Castonguay's direction, would be in a better position to work up the figures for each of the constituencies and let them be the final figures. However, the plan in a sense is to decentralize and establish a commission in each province thus giving the appearance of local determination, with the thought that commissions with local people on them would make decisions that would be more fair and equitable to all concerned. It remains to be seen whether this will work out or not.

[Mr. Latulippe.]

I believe with the statistical work that will be required—and there will be a tremendous amount of statistics involved—it will be necessary to have a central agency making an over-all plan, delineating a map, and presenting that map to each provincial commission. When that is done there may be one alternative, two alternatives or three alternatives, but it will be pretty much a question of the individual provincial commission performing the function of a rubber stamp, to say which one of those alternatives will be accepted.

Without going into all the statistics of shifting boundaries and so on, a local commission would not be in a position to do that unless its members had the figures at their elbows and unless they would, shall we say, familiarize themselves to a large extent in dealing with the figures with which they must be familiar in order to bring about these boundary shifts and changes.

What I am trying to say is that the centralized authority will have to do most of the spadework in bringing figures together, and it will be just one step further to have a provincial commission say with which of the plans submitted to it that it agrees. For the life of me I cannot see how, in the province of Alberta where I represent the Macleod riding, it would take a year to decide on the boundaries of constituencies if all of the statistical material were worked out in advance.

I should also like to point out that I have been unable to find any provision in the bill whereby the commissions intend to seek the advice of local members of parliament, or to co-operate with them. There is no one in a constituency who knows more about it than its member of parliament. He also knows equally as much as most other people about the adjoining ridings, with regard to where the boundaries may be changed. For instance, I am thinking of my own riding which contains four Indian reserves, or parts of four Indian reserves, with a fifth Indian reserve close at hand to it. It could be that in considering the adjustment of constituency boundaries, since I already have four Indian reserves, adding one more reserve to my riding might not be a bad change to make, because I have to deal at present with a tremendous number of Indian problems. There is a certain similarity between the problems of these reserves and it might be well to bring them all under one member of parliament.

On matters of this kind I suggest that a member of parliament would be in a good position to discuss them with the people who