

And, this is the case at the present time, because we are dealing with the census of 1961.

—in the case of the census taken in the year 1961 forthwith after the coming into force of this Act, the Dominion Statistician shall prepare and send to the Secretary of State and to the Representation Commissioner a return certified by him showing the population of Canada and of each of the provinces and the population of Canada by electoral districts...

As soon as possible thereafter the commission is set up. It is composed of four members, one of whom, in the case of each of the ten commissions, is the Representation Commissioner. The other commissioners are appointed in the following manner: one, the chairman, by the chief justice of the province from among the judges of the court over which he presides; and the other two by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Therefore, of the four commissioners, one is the Representation Commissioner *ex officio*, so to speak, on every commission, two are persons residing in the province concerned, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and one is a judge appointed by the chief justice of the province concerned.

Then, the commission having been set up, the Representation Commissioner computes or calculates the number of members of the House of Commons to be assigned to his province under the provisions of section 51 of the British North America Act; and the commission thereupon proceeds to do the work allocated to it.

Under the provisions of this bill each commission is to receive instructions as to the matters which it must take into consideration in dealing with the redistribution of ridings. First of all, they

...shall proceed on the basis that the population of each electoral district in the province... shall correspond as nearly as may be to the electoral quota for the province, that is to say, the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the province as ascertained by the census by the number of members of the House of Commons to be assigned to the province as calculated by the Representation Commissioner under section 12.

That is the first and essential principle.

Each commission may depart from the strict application of the rules by taking into consideration certain factors, such as, geographic considerations, including in particular the sparsity, density or relative rate of growth of population of various regions, the accessibility of such regions, and any special

community or diversity of interests of the inhabitants of various regions of the province. It goes on to say:

...but in no case...shall the population of any electoral district in the province as a result thereof depart from the electoral quota for that province to a greater extent than twenty-five per cent more or twenty-five per cent less.

So, the tolerance established by this act is 25 per cent.

While I am on that point, perhaps it has not been generally understood by the public and, I think, by people connected with Parliament, that while discrepancy exists at the present time between rural and urban districts with respect to population and the number of voters on the lists, a discrepancy also exists to a certain extent as between urban divisions themselves.

I have noted here, in order to show this, that in the Province of Ontario you have Bruce with an electoral population—that is to say, number of electors on the list—of 17,382, according to the 1963 general election. You have Wellington-Huron with 18,440 electors on the list. Then, as against that, in the same province, in the urban constituency of York-Scarborough you have 162,950 and in York Centre 106,741. Then we have Renfrew South with 19,760. However, at the moment I am looking for some of the Toronto ridings. There we have one riding, Trinity, with 26,543 as against York-Scarborough with 162,950. The point I wish to make is that there are vast discrepancies even between two urban constituencies.

In the Province of Quebec there are of course some very small rural constituencies, including Îles-de-la-Madeleine with a voting population of 5,684, and Kamouraska with 17,000. We have Lotbinière with 18,000 and then, even in the City of Quebec or the surrounding district we have the constituency of Quebec West with 33,000 and Quebec South with 36,000. Then we have Quebec-Montmorency, which is a suburban constituency with double the number of either of the two previous constituencies, namely 76,000. On the Island of Montreal, in the city—and I am not sure whether these are suburban or city constituencies—we have Cartier in the centre with 19,944, and Laval, which is more or less suburban rather than entirely urban with 112,822.

Hon. Mr. Denis: Are you speaking now of population or the number of electors?

Hon. Mr. Power: Voting population. We have St. Ann in the city with 19,601 and we have Mercier with 120,083.

So, honourable senators, you will see that the discrepancy is not entirely as between urban and rural constituencies. Even within