

Redistribution

not been divided and remains as it always has been over the years. In fact, it has never been divided federally.

Therefore I believe that it would only be fair to the people of the new constituency to call it Norfolk-Haldimand rather than Haldimand-Norfolk. In addition, I should like to point out that the name of the provincial riding is Haldimand-Norfolk. This riding is made up of Haldimand-Norfolk and takes in all of Haldimand but only part of Norfolk. Therefore changing the name of the federal riding to Norfolk-Haldimand would, I am sure, help keep clear in the minds of the people, and goodness knows, the press, which riding is provincial and which is federal. This is just a small matter that I wanted to raise. I am sure the Boundaries Commission will take it into consideration. This is just a little bit of practical thinking.

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank hon. members for allowing me to speak at this time. As you know, I represent the riding of Kenora-Rainy River which is the last Ontario riding and is right up against the Manitoba boundary. Northwestern Ontario is a nightmare in regard to redistribution, not necessarily because of what the commissioners have done but because of the problems the commission had to take into account in trying to make an equitable distribution.

There are some minor changes I should like to see made in my riding. I am putting them forward at this time because when the commission was holding its second series of hearings I had not provided notice of speaking, because the former member was holding the seat at that time, and I was not allowed to make my presentation.

In the southern part of my riding, in the town of Fort Frances, the line comes through the middle of the town. It seems to me that the line should come through the outskirts, which would take in an Indian reserve, the Couchiching reserve, and a few other scattered areas. It would be much more sensible if this line were moved to the other side, to Rainy Lake, which is to the east. This would save a great deal of confusion.

In addition, it might not be a bad idea to move the line about 50 to 60 miles closer to Atikokan, because there are only a few small hamlets there. I do not believe this would disrupt the population of my riding and the new riding of Thunder Bay.

• (5:50 p.m.)

The other point I want to make is that the way the lines are drawn in the northern part of my riding, the town of Dryden is eliminated from it. In order to go to Sioux Lookout, it is necessary for me to travel through Dryden and three other little towns before I can get up there. This is a bit ridiculous, to say the least.

The next point I want to make is that my riding, with the exception perhaps of the town of Atikokan, before redistribution had for its economic, cultural and social centre, the Manitoba town of Winnipeg.

Mr. Knowles: We are a city, please.

Mr. Reid: I am glad to hear that. What they are doing by the drawing of this boundary line is distorting the whole social structure of the constituency. They are taking towns like Fort Frances and Dryden and arbitrarily putting them in an area with which they really do not have that much in common. I believe that in minor, political matters, we do look to the Lakehead. I am one of those who believe that when you have a riding, particularly in a rural area, there should be some sense of community interest.

Kenora-Rainy River has been a particularly difficult riding to represent because it has no one centre, no one town, that stands pre-eminent among the others. This has created a special problem for a member. If one town in a particular area chooses not to print your press releases this means that, for election purposes, you are cut off from communicating with this area. One of the last accomplishments of the former member was to arrange that the whole area of Kenora-Rainy River would be served by a satellite television system beamed out of Winnipeg. For the first time in the history of this riding since 1924, a sense of community was beginning to develop. At least they had one thing that bound them together. The result of this redistribution has been completely to destroy quite a large territory that had been laboriously built up.

There have been many complaints against the commissioners. I think we should be fair and recognize that they had to overcome a great many difficulties in doing the job, particularly in this area of northern and north-western Ontario. However, there have been many incomprehensible decisions, particularly the one creating the riding of Cochrane, as well as the nightmare of Thunder Bay. How these people in Thunder Bay are going to get