

Redistribution

brought into shape thanks to the help given by the Ontario government. However, it would be almost impossible for a member to cover the riding in one year, as there are many towns and villages throughout the riding. I submit that some consideration should be given to eliminating the Frontenac-Addington section.

There are 7,666 Peterborough people included in this riding, and in drafting the name of this riding no consideration was given to them. If the riding is going to remain as it is set out in the bill, then I suggest that the name should be Hastings-Frontenac-Peterborough, which would recognize those people. They do not want to lose their identity. As things are now they may be represented by a man who lives 90 miles away. I think the minister should consider eliminating some of the townships in the riding, and certainly he should consider adding "Peterborough" to the name so it would be Hastings-Frontenac-Peterborough.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I was under the impression that the name had been agreed to unanimously by the subcommittee, but I could be wrong. It was felt that Hastings-Frontenac represented the situation in the constituency better than any combination. If the hon. member would like us to consider the name, the committee might pass the item subject to the consideration of the name over the dinner hour.

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Chairman, I represent the largest riding in central Ontario and I know the tremendous job it is for one man to represent a large riding such as the one being created here. Perhaps I am a little jealous because this riding will be larger than the one I represent, and I prided myself on having the largest riding.

The area of this riding will be tremendous. This riding is somewhat similar to my own; that is, there are people scattered all over the riding. If the member representing this large riding were to start out on the first day of January to visit his riding he could not be home in time for Christmas. There is no doubt about it, this riding is too large. It could have been carved up differently. For instance, just south of the riding are the two small counties of Northumberland and Durham. These counties operate with one county council. Northumberland could have been carved to help bring up the population in Hastings-Peterborough and also bring up the population in Durham. I can quite see what is contemplated. It is the old procedure to eliminate Progressive Conservative members, because both Northumberland and Durham

[Mr. Fraser.]

are represented by Liberal members and the committee would not consider carving either of those ridings though they are both small.

There are only six townships in Durham. For the benefit of western members may I say that some of the townships in Ontario are as large as thirteen miles by nine, whereas I understand that most of the western townships are only six miles square. In future debates hon. members should consider that fact.

The Chairman: Is it agreed that item 23 shall stand?

Mr. Fleming: There is a qualification; the proposal of the minister was that it should be carried but that it should stand as to the name only.

The Chairman: That could not be done. An item could not be carried subject to a change later on. If it is not the intention of the committee to carry the item, it would have to stand.

Mr. Fleming: I would be happy to have the item stand. I am not convinced that hon. members, knowing what is being done here, will wish to go through with it; and I would urge that this item be allowed to stand. I have proposed two amendments, both of which have been defeated. I asked the Prime Minister a question but he has not answered. He voted against both my amendments, and perhaps I should accept that as an answer to my question.

In view of the fact that the Prime Minister is in his seat and has not chosen to give an express answer to my question I am going to repeat my question. I ask the Prime Minister if in the light of his statement of principle this morning in reference to redistribution he considers it fair, equitable and proper redistribution that the riding of Hastings-Peterborough and the great bulk of Frontenac-Addington be combined in this proposed riding to make it by far the largest riding in southern Ontario with a population of 43,741, while right next door is the riding of Renfrew South represented by the Minister of National Revenue with a population under this schedule of 31,439 and less than half the area of the proposed riding of Hastings-Frontenac?

Mr. Henderson: Before this item stands—

The Chairman: Order. Let us have some indication as to whether this item is to stand or be proceeded with.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I thought there was unanimous agreement that we would pass the item but allow the name to stand. If that is not so, if that is not within the