

*Redistribution*

but we have all taken the same position as if we had filed independent objections. The spirit and the wording of the objection are such that they will cover both the general and particular arguments referred to by speakers from our province.

I should also like to draw the attention of the commission to the fact that not only has this objection, filed with Mr. Speaker in accordance with the act, been approved by the Conservative members of Parliament but it has been approved by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), the leader of the Social Credit party. Therefore in presenting these arguments we are not doing so on any political basis but rather as representatives from Alberta. I am sure that in its review of the proceedings the commission will note that objection has been taken to the boundaries by all political parties in Alberta.

• (4:20 p.m.)

So there was a general feeling in respect of the objection with which I am now going to deal. I trust that the commission will review the situation. I believe it can be corrected readily to satisfy all political parties, chambers of commerce and the people living in the various areas and engaged in various industries who have certain common interests.

In the case of Alberta, as I said, all political parties have objected strongly to the new boundaries drawn by the commission. The 1961 census showed an increase in population in the province of Alberta. When this increase was taken into consideration, with the changes in population in the remainder of Canada, Alberta became entitled to two additional constituencies. In other words, prior to redistribution there were 17 federal districts and now Alberta is entitled to 19. The increase took place mainly in the two major cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

On the basis of the new population Calgary, even under the decision made by the commission, would get another constituency and so would Edmonton. In accordance with the memorandum and the formula set out in the memorandum there would be approximately 70,000 people in each constituency but with a tolerance of 25 per cent. I mention this at the outset so that it will be appreciated I trust, by the members of the commission when they are reviewing the objections made. These are very serious objections, and we in the province object most strenuously to one particular change which affected the whole

concept, the creation of the elongated constituency running north and south known as Rocky Mountain.

As I said, the formula figure would be 70,000 according to the 1961 census and therefore the lowest figure you could have in any one constituency would be approximately 52,500. The constituencies that existed in Alberta prior to redistribution which would have to have additional population are Acadia, Macleod and Vegreville. The other 17 seats outside the city of Calgary and the city of Edmonton were just below 70,000 or just above the 52,500 and so are within the formula.

The city of Calgary after the 1961 census had 249,641 people, and I am sure the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness) will deal with this because he is the senior member of parliament from Alberta. Edmonton had 281,021 people. If you add one more constituency to Calgary you get an average population of 83,214, and if you add one more constituency to Edmonton you would have 70,254. Therefore both cities have had a considerable growth since 1961, in fact, a terrific growth.

One of the objections which I am sure the hon. member for Calgary North probably will deal with is the fact that in the decision which was made—and it was a difficult decision in the city of Calgary and probably also in Edmonton—allowance was not made for future growth. No consideration was given to this factor by the commission. I say that with great respect for the commission. I appreciate the difficulty they had. In fact the members of the commission are known to me personally, and I know when they read my remarks they will appreciate that I am speaking in a logical way and am not being critical. I am sure my objection and the objections of the various other members will merit the consideration of the commission so that a change will be made which will make up for the deficit in Acadia, Macleod and Vegreville and bring them up to the formula.

With the consent of the house I am going to ask whether I may have placed on *Hansard* the population figures for each of the constituencies of Alberta according to the 1961 census prior to the redistribution. Before doing so, however, I am going to refer to a few of the constituencies that had populations below the formula. Acadia had 47,724, Macleod had 50,966 and Vegreville, 47,798. In respect of the Calgary ridings, Calgary North had 134,783 according to the 1961 census.