

Redistribution

Mr. McCusker: I said 66,500.

Mr. Coldwell: That is the city proper?

Mr. McCusker: No, it is the old city.

Mr. Coldwell: That is right. We have constituencies in other parts of Canada with populations in excess of 90,000. So to put these voters in the city to which they belong, even if they happen to be living in an area which has been outside the city for election purposes before, I think is the logical thing to do. After all, there is a community of interest on the part of the people who live in the city, and I think they should have the opportunity of being represented by a member who represents the interests of the citizens of that city as a whole. That is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. Dewar: Before the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Eglinton passes, I think probably he should go back in the other direction. He asks that all the townships from 16 to 21 inclusive in ranges 18 and 19, west of the second meridian, be removed from Moose Jaw-Lake Centre, and added to Qu'Appelle. If the hon. member will refer to paragraph 11 in the Saskatchewan schedule, which deals with Regina city, he will notice that already the city of Regina boundaries contain a portion of section 9 in township 17. If we were to follow through on the suggestion of the hon. member I would have between 12,000 and 15,000 people from the city of Regina. I realize that this would be quite in keeping with the consistent inconsistencies of the opposition. At the same time I must say they should go back and get their directions straight.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I feel sure we are indebted to some members supporting the government in the carving job they are doing for the advice they are giving us so freely. Indeed, there have been a couple of useful contributions this evening. One of them was by the occasionally independent member for Comox-Alberni, who gave us his definition of the procedure we are following when he said that it would be appropriate, in connection with the schedule, if he were to remind us of the saying, "Tis music to the gambler's ears to hear the suckers howl." He will recall, of course, that that was a saying applied to what some hon. members will describe as a crap game, and it was applied specifically to a game with loaded dice. That is a very accurate description of what is taking place here. Apparently the only objection on the part of the hon. member who gave us this definition is that those whom he regards as suckers are howling.

The fact of the matter is that what he said indicates the attitude of a number of members supporting the government with respect to what is taking place. This is a game with loaded dice; and if any attempt is made to put the game on a sound level, then immediately there is objection on the ground that really those who are raising the questions about it do not know these particular constituencies.

No one needs to be personally acquainted with the details of any of these constituencies to know—and again I refer to what was said by the hon. member—that in the opinion of those who have done this job it has been done in accordance with the principle he enunciated, that a little carving now and then is relished by the best of men.

Here we have the carving done in the case of Regina. As has been pointed out, the whole city is well within the population limits of a number of other cities which are retaining their city boundaries. The marriage of Regina and Moose Jaw in this instance undoubtedly will be of interest to those who take part in that unusual ceremony. But the fact remains that, no matter what affinity of interest there may be in that area, it does seem to represent a strange combination of rural areas, and of one whole city and part of another city in a new constituency which has as its purpose the obvious desire to create as many favourable political opportunities for the carver as possible, and to limit as much as possible the opportunity of the present member for Lake Centre to return to the House of Commons.

When the hon. member who spoke a short time ago suggested that members of the Progressive Conservative party were depreciating their position, if I may use his expression, may I say that not one of us is depreciating in any way the ability of the hon. member for Lake Centre to win his way back into this house, no matter what racket is tried by the party in power in the house at this time.

But the fact that we are confident of his ability to deal with a situation of this kind should not in any way silence criticism of a method which is so utterly out of harmony with the lofty sentiments expressed in the house by the Prime Minister at the beginning of the discussion of this subject, and again in the house this afternoon. Those lofty sentiments fit very badly with the way in which his followers have carried out the task they have set themselves. And it is regrettable indeed that the Prime Minister has not seen fit to answer the repeated suggestion that he should indicate his own