

*Redistribution*

reports to be examined carefully, and that is exactly what I have done. I confess that I have examined them with particular reference to the constituency of Victoria-Carleton which I have the honour to represent in parliament and which seems to be especially affected by the variation in the two reports.

May I note also that my hon. friend, the member for Charlotte (Mr. McLean), has signed the objection. His county also is one which is particularly affected.

Before proceeding into the question in some detail I should like to make special reference and pay tribute to the work of the New Brunswick representatives on the commission, Mr. Justice Anglin, Mr. Boudreau and the chief electoral officer for the province, Mr. Lyons. It goes without saying that the representation commissioner, who is an ex-officio member of all commissions, is a man of much general experience and knowledge which was available to every provincial commission.

I appreciate the attention they have given and I pay tribute to them for the way in which they carried out the duties entrusted to them. It is not at all strange that in their report some of the angles from a provincial point of view, and also perhaps from a constituency point of view, may have been overlooked. I shall endeavour to supply some of the local facts in the time at my disposal.

I return now to where I left off in my opening remarks. The relationship between the counties of Victoria and Carleton has existed for over half a century. They have been united for federal representation for that period of time, if not longer, and it is on behalf of the people of these counties and with their interests in mind that I make these remarks today. In general terms may I say that the community of interest which the people of these two counties has is farming and, generally speaking, I believe it is fair to say that these two counties are considered to be part of the potato belt. The farming activity there is specialized to that extent.

We also have in the county of Carleton the largest food processing plant in Canada, I believe, and that processing is confined to a great extent to potatoes. There is also a question involved regarding the fact that these two counties lie along the Saint John river, with traffic up and down the river on both sides and with connecting roads.

Having made those remarks relative to the economic situation, I might also say that in a social way the people of the counties also

have much in common. For the reasons I have just mentioned I think it will be understandable to this house that the citizens of Victoria-Carleton prefer the minority rather than the majority report, since the former recommendation if adopted would leave these two counties together and simply add three parishes from the northern part of York county and two parishes from the southern part of Madawaska county, plus the town of St. Leonard, in order to meet the population requirement. I held that opinion at the time the report was made, and I still hold it.

I could not think of any better way to secure the opinion of the people of Victoria and Carleton counties than to consult with the county councils which usually meet in the early part of the year. I consulted these county councils. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it would be difficult to find a more knowledgeable and non-partisan group than the county councils of those two areas. I think they would have knowledge of the views and needs of the people. Therefore I asked the councils of those two counties for some information concerning their views in connection with this matter, and I wish to place on record some of the replies I received.

The first reply was in connection with a resolution passed in the summer of 1965 prior to the minority and majority reports. I think this resolution is of significance because it sets out the view of one county council prior to there being any report to consider. I should like to put on record this certified resolution which was sent to me by the secretary-treasurer of Victoria county:

The following is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Victoria County Council while in semi-annual session July 6, 1965:

"That this council disapprove of the proposed electoral district and go on record as favouring a constituency made up of Carleton, and Victoria County, and the parishes of St. Andre and St. Leonard Parent of Madawaska County."

A resolution was passed at the last session of the Victoria county council which I should also like to put on record. It reads as follows:

Moved by Councillor Hiscock; seconded by Councillor Theriault:

"That the municipal council of the municipality of Victoria go on record as supporting the minority report of Justice W. A. I. Anglin in the report of the New Brunswick Electoral Boundaries Commission and in particular in support of retaining the expanded proposed constituency of Victoria Carleton which would embrace the potato growing area of the Saint John River Valley." Carried.

I then consulted with various gentlemen in the potato business and want to put on record