

viable industry in the Canadian economy and because it is unique and found in a small designated region of the Peninsula, it is my strong position that the fruit lands should remain within one federal constituency and have the support of one federal member of Parliament.

"Agricultural Statistics for Ontario" estimates for 1973, a total fruit acreage of 76,371 and total farm values at \$46,852.4 (\$'000). Besides the commercial fruit production, the industry must also be taken in the wider perspective to include processing, the wine industry, agricultural services, other secondary industries related and the employment generated in all of these. If agriculture is a primary industry in a region, the majority interests and concerns of the constituents relate directly or are indirectly connected with the industry, through direct revenue, employment, secondary industry and the supply of products and services.

Therefore, the fruit-growing industry as presently located in the riding of Lincoln, is of importance and consequence to all its constituents and has a direct bearing upon the region as a federally defined riding.

The interests of the inhabitants will not be served well if part of the rural sector of the Lincoln riding is suddenly linked to a highly industrialized area such as Hamilton. Nor would Hamilton serve as the service centre for Lincoln—for it has always been St. Catharines, as the centre of the fruit growing lands, which has assumed that all-important role.

If the Commission's 1976 changes for Lincoln are effected, the economic unity of the riding would be fragmented and would result in the insignificance and decline in consideration given to the fruit industry. The interests of the fruit industry would be over-shadowed and lost among the various industrial concerns and interests. The decline in effective representation of the fruit producing area would drastically accentuate the difficulties already experienced by the agronomy located here and the consequent loss would be unreconcilable.

There is no doubt that this area with its historic and rural roots firmly anchored, represents a definite community of interest and, as such, should be considered as a special community with the electoral boundaries relegated accordingly.

Finally, many objections to the Commission's Report description of Lincoln have been filed and noted. Twenty-four representations from the Peninsula were made at the public sitting held in Welland on October 28, 1975. However, except for changes to Erie to include Dunnville and for changing the name Niagara to Niagara Falls, no modifications were made to the Peninsula ridings and none whatsoever in the case of Lincoln. (see Schedule C)

It is, therefore, important to note the points made by various parties. The Lincoln Federal Association emphasized the following points:

—inadequate consideration was given to the community of interests or social and political ties of the inhabitants of the Niagara region

—there is a long political association first as Lincoln County and then as the Regional Municipality of Niagara

—all federal, provincial, municipal and regional services are located in St. Catharines, *not* Hamilton

—the fruit growing area would be split among five ridings

—the fruit industry requires strong representation to retain its viability

—the majority interest is rural and agricultural

The Town of Grimsby pointed out that regional boundaries would not correspond, Grimsby is in the provincial riding of Lincoln, Lincoln is fruit-growing while Hamilton is industrialized and the two have little in common and that Grimsby has a long history as part of Lincoln and this relationship should be preserved.

The Niagara Falls Riding Liberal Association noted that there is no community of interest between Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, that Niagara-on-the-Lake has always had its ties with St. Catharines and that no satisfactory highway system is developed between Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. As a fruit-growing area, Niagara-on-the-Lake has a community identity with Lincoln and is directed towards the services of St. Catharines and not Niagara Falls.

Both the Port Colborne Liberal Association and the Erie Provincial Liberal Association agreed that there are absolutely no ties between West Lincoln and Port Colborne or Erie.

An article on the subject which appeared in the St. Catharines Standard on August 19, 1975, stated that Niagara-on-the-Lake has historically been a part of the County of Lincoln and has always leaned towards St. Catharines. There was puzzlement expressed over the Commission placing Grimsby and Lincoln in a riding with the east end section of the City of Hamilton and it was felt that the realignment went against the traditional methods of redistribution.

In summation, I submit that the Commission failed to give and pay proper attention to the economic, traditional and social cohesion in the new electoral district of Lincoln; and appeared to ignore and did ignore the question of unity and the community of interest and thereby rendering inadequate representation of the people in Parliament.

*Signatures of Members:*

Wm. Andres (Lincoln)  
 U. Appolloni (York South)  
 C. Turner (London East)  
 J. Condon (Middlesex-London-Lambton)  
 R. Daudlin (Kent-Essex)  
 C. Douglas (Bruce-Grey)  
 F. Maine (Wellington)  
 J. Buchanan (London West)  
 J. Munro (Hamilton East)  
 R. Young (Niagara Falls)