

North electoral area. In my opinion, it would have been better if the people had remained in Nipissing because all their interests centre on the city of North Bay. I agree that all the little communities on Highway 64 up to the Quebec border have a greater community of interest with Nipissing than with the riding of Timiskaming.

It is not that I do not want to represent the people of North Bay, Mr. Speaker. It is odd to travel 60 miles through an unpopulated region only to find that your constituency ends in the outer limits of North Bay. You can tell where North Bay begins by the road markers which tell you that you are now entering North Bay. Actually, some markers are 14 or 15 miles out of the city. I submit that people living in the suburbs of North Bay have absolutely no community of interest with the people of Kirkland Lake, Dryden and Moosonee.

In order to represent some of this area, I must learn again to paddle a canoe. That is the only way to reach some of the people of the area. Many are close to the Quebec border and do more of their business on the Quebec side than on the Ontario side. There is also the matter of connecting Timiskaming with the area to the north with the rail line which ultimately runs through Cochrane. We should consider how Temagami has been connected with Timiskaming.

I am not suggesting that members of parliament should redesign their own ridings. I congratulate the commissioners on the job they did. In the final analysis, it is not terribly important who represents West Ferris, River Valley, Temagami, Moosonee or Kirkland Lake. It is far more important to make sure that the people of the region are historically related and enjoy a community of interest. It is difficult for a member to represent both the suburbs of North Bay, and these remote regions as well, and do an adequate job. As most members know, people come to us with municipal, provincial and local problems which have little to do with our work as federal members of parliament. So the relationships of areas should be kept in mind and strengthened. In the case we are considering, that is not being done. There has been an attempt to mix rural and urban populations in one riding.

One encounters different problems in representing vertical as opposed to horizontal ridings. For the sake of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) who is in the House, let me explain that a vertical constituency, so to speak, is one consisting of high rise buildings and of people living in built up city areas. A horizontal constituency is spread out, as are constituencies in rural Canada.

Mr. Whelan: What about roads?

Mr. Peters: Roads are a common problem. Roads run through vertical and horizontal communities. There is a great difference between some rural communities although they are only a few miles apart. If you drive from New Liskeard to Cobalt—there is another small town in between—you will be amazed to note the difference between the two communities. They are proud of their differences. Neither community is large, and their problems are many. However, their community spirit is maintained because they are, and operate as, a community. They are related to other communities around them, sometimes favourably and sometimes not. However, what is the rela-

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tionship to Verner which is on the other side of Sturgeon Falls? Sturgeon Falls will remain in Nipissing, but I will have to go through there and on to the next community. Even though it is closer to Sudbury and Nipissing, it will be part of Timiskaming.

● (1840)

What is their community relationship? I know a number of people in that area; I have been there many times. I know that they have a strong community sense of development. However, they have a larger community development which is in the Nipissing area. It is certainly not connected to Kirkland Lake, Moosonee or some of the other places I will represent.

It would be far better for us to sacrifice equal representation than to sacrifice the community interests of rural Canada. I can see this redistribution not only happening this time, but again in the early eighties after another census. Timiskaming will probably take in all the town of North Bay or all the town of Timmins, possibly both North Bay and Timmins, Sturgeon Falls and possibly even part of the area represented by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling). I can see the population not growing in areas such as northern Ontario, northern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan or any other rural area, and we will end up representing provinces rather than communities. That will not be representation as we know it. I do not think the answer is to provide us with more staff and offices throughout the constituency. It would be much more satisfactory if we could drive around the constituency and have communication through newspapers, radio and other media. In that way we could service the areas we represent.

It is true that people in Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins and Rouyn-Noranda in Quebec have the opportunity of listening to one or two outlets. However, no one in any of those areas has the advantage of listening to all. Some are 300 or 400 miles apart. I suggest the relationship of those communities must be important with regard to our ability to represent.

Let me leave the commission with one thought. Over the years I have listened to and looked at members of parliament. Some I violently disagreed with, some I did not like at all, and some I did. In travelling across this nation I found that those who were terrible members and terrible people represented the same kind of people. The whole riding was very similar to the member. Other members were overly sweet and represented that kind of people.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the hon. member a question. Will he confirm that there are a whole bunch more in Timiskaming just like him? If so, I am not sure any of us will want to go there.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I have overemphasized the point. I am sure I am not one of the favourite sons of members of this House. If the hon. member came to my constituency, he would find that the people there are aggressive. They would welcome him. However, if he wishes to get into an argument, that is the place to visit. It is a mining and lumbering community, with some farming.

Most members are representative of the people in their constituency. I may have overemphasized this, but they are