

Redistribution

northeast, that is to say from St. Catherine and Windsor streets southward; instead of turning west as the map now indicates, I would like to request that the boundary on Windsor street be extended from the north southward so as to connect with Wellington street. With the fork the map-makers designed on the map, the majority of the parishioners of St. Ann's are eliminated and this is one of the oldest churches in Montreal.

On the west side of Mountain street, we see St. Ann's church, while the residents on the east side of the same street are included in another constituency. This is why I request that the Windsor street line from north to south be drawn as far as Wellington street instead of Notre Dame street.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. At the present time, we are completing the remarks on an objection concerning the Saint-Henri constituency.

The house having considered this objection, it is the Speaker's duty, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, to refer the report of the Boundaries Commission together with a copy of the objection and also a copy of the debates of the house back to the commission for consideration thereof.

We must now proceed with consideration of objection No. 22 appearing on page 37 of the pamphlet concerning the electoral constituency of Maisonneuve.

Proposed Electoral District of Maisonneuve:

That, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter 31, Statutes of Canada 1964-65), consideration be given by this house to the matter of an objection to the provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Quebec, laid before this house by Mr. Speaker on Wednesday, January 19, 1966 for the reasons hereinafter specified:

1. That the commission proposed boundaries which will give rise to administrative problems due to all these detours, thus making it more difficult to contact constituents located near the said boundaries.

2. That it is possible to have straighter limits while abiding by the criterion of 25 per cent, more or less.

3. That the 1961 census showed for Maisonneuve a population of 76,479 and for Hochelaga, adjacent constituency to the west, 76,765.

4. That, in spite of this slight difference for Hochelaga, this constituency had only 222 polls (about 46,000 electors), while Maisonneuve had 305 (1965 Election) for 66,100 electors.

5. That consideration be given by the commission or by the house to the minor suggestion that the limits between the constituencies of Maisonneuve, Hochelaga, Lafontaine, St-Michel and Gamelin may be made straighter while adhering to prescribed standards.

[Mr. Loiseau.]

6. That any other objection of the undersigned members may be considered valid under the provisions of the said Act.

Dated this 18th day of February in the year of the Lord 1966, at the House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada.

Mr. Antonio Thomas (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, I registered an objection to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the riding of Maisonneuve-Rosemont.

This objection is neither against the necessity of new constituencies nor against the population quotient established in order to proceed to a readjustment of boundaries. On the contrary, I realize the merits of this project. Its main object is to ensure more equitable representation of urban ridings.

However, in the light of my experience of more than 35 years as an organizer of electoral campaigns, I want to point out certain topographic anomalies. These may have very little importance for the layman but they give rise to serious problems for the electoral officers as well as for the voters.

The points on which I formulated an objection take into account the homogeneity of the population with regard to its needs, as well as the urban character of that same population with regard to the boundaries of the neighbouring municipalities.

I noticed that the proposed new boundaries for my riding are made of turns and curves which complicate needlessly the electoral organization and the identification of the riding by the elector. And when I speak of curves, Mr. Speaker, I am not thinking of the feminine curves which caused such a stir in the house not so long ago.

It seems to me that the main consideration which presided over the redistribution of the ridings is the population figure at the time of the 1961 census. Well, that is not a valid criteria because the above mentioned census gave for the riding of Hochelaga, the riding next to mine on the west, 76,765 people in 1961, including 46,000 electors divided in 222 polls at the time of the last elections, whereas in my riding it was set at 76,479 people in 1961 including 66,100 electors in 1965 divided in 305 polls.

Therefore, Hochelaga had 286 people more but 20,000 electors less in 1965. If I submit that the population criteria is not valid it is because the percentage of electors in proportion to the population is not the same, as I have just shown with regard to two neighbouring ridings.