

*Electoral Boundaries Commission*

we have a census, and as a result we find there has been an increase in the population of our country and we must therefore adjust our constituencies. We have all agreed on that. We have always tried to get some form of representation by population.

I believe the population of Canada at the present time is 18,238,247 and, irrespective of the method being used, it has always been the endeavour to follow some rule of representation by population. Of course we have never had a perfect formula, the reason being that we are put together as a rather complex country and we have some very complex problems; but I think any political science student or student of history would agree that we have tried to achieve, with some equity, representation by population.

Other problems have been mentioned. Sometimes the cartoonists in various newspapers have referred to the agriculturists of the country as wanting to have greater representation in the House of Commons than other groups. I think I can speak for that group in this regard, not only because I represent, as I said previously, a partly agricultural riding but because my early career was connected with agriculture. I do not think the farmers or agriculturists have ever asked for greater representation than other groups. This is just one of those things which grew up in the course of the development of the country itself.

Years ago, before western Canada became industrialized, it was primarily an agricultural area covering Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and even some parts of British Columbia, and because it was such a vast area there was a large tolerance factor given to it. One has only to look at a map of the prairies and see the constituency boundaries as they presently exist to realize how large some of the ridings are. I believe these will be subject to some real revolutionary change if some of the rumours we hear are true.

A number of these constituencies are 300 miles long. The boundary of the riding of Bow River extends west to the British Columbia border, and proceeds east of Calgary for about 100 miles. The constituency is about 70 miles deep; therefore it measures roughly 250 miles long and 60 or 70 miles wide. Like many other constituencies in Canada it surrounds a large city, the city of Calgary, whose suburban areas have moved out into former rural areas, with the result that for the last ten years one third of the riding's population has been formed by city people living in such areas as Thorncliff and Forest Lawn.

This might be a good time, when we are considering the equity that must be put in the bill with regard to the problem of tolerance,

[Mr. Woolliams.]

to place on record the fact that it is not unusual for a candidate to put anywhere from 12,000 to 20,000 miles on his car if he is to cover his constituency. This is the basic reason why the agriculturists, over the years, have had greater representation than the cities in the House of Commons, and as an analogy to that I should like to refer to the provinces themselves.

When we look at the composition of the provincial legislatures such as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and even the eastern provinces, we find that the agricultural areas probably have greater representation in them than students of political science would like to see. The reason for this is the very one I have just outlined, and it is the reason we should consider this bill very carefully when we come to decide how much tolerance is to be given. It is because the primary industry of the country was, for many years, agriculture.

We all, even those members from western Canada, realize the tremendous industrial development that has taken place in eastern Canada; and we all know, including the minister himself, who I understand is a western raised boy from Manitoba, that the west also is becoming heavily industrialized and in the next ten or 20 years may become almost as industrialized as Ontario and Quebec.

Toronto at large has about 17 or 18 constituencies and some people feel that, because there has been pressure for closer representation by population, cities like it will get more representation. However, I am sure even the minister will agree that constituencies in the centres of cities, be they Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver or Winnipeg, do not measure up now to the average quotient figure of 70,000 electors. Therefore they will be cut down and the suburban representation increased, with the result that the city of Toronto will probably gain only one constituency. I do not have the experts' figures here, but I believe that cities like Toronto and Montreal have not had representation by population for some time.

I have some figures here to show the discrepancies that exist in certain of the provinces. Alberta has a constituency with a population as low as 42,000 while the hon. member for Calgary North, who I am glad to see is in his seat, has the largest riding, holding some 134,000 people. The lowest population constituency in New Brunswick has about 23,000 people, while Saint John has 101,000. Ontario has one constituency, I believe Bruce, with a population of 29,000, while York-Scarborough has a population of 267,000. Quebec has one constituency with a population as low as 12,000, while the