

Representation Act

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I did some research in order to find the origin of the name of this constituency.

The hon. member for Lapointe referred to a certain Jean Lapointe, a farmer of that district.

People I met told me that there might be some relationship between the designation of that riding and the name of a great Canadian, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, as well as that of Bishop Lapointe, at one time teacher at the Chicoutimi seminary and also vicar general of the Chicoutimi diocese, who died in 1947.

It should also be noted that the hon. member for Lapointe did mention it a few moments ago.

If we refer to a speech which is probably the first made by the first member of parliament for Lapointe in this house, we can read this, among other things, as reported in *Hansard* for April 4, 1950, page 1559:

The county of Lapointe the name of which recalls both Mgr. Eugène Lapointe and his namesake the former minister of justice, owes to him—at least to a great extent—its existence as a distinct unit.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the first hon. member for Lapointe is apparently recalling—and this was in 1950, shortly after the setting up of the county—that that name has some connection with those of Mgr. Eugène Lapointe and the Hon. Ernest Lapointe. However, he did not mention the name of Mr. Jean Lapointe who was no doubt an honourable gentleman but only referred to Mr. Ernest Lapointe and Mgr. Lapointe.

Now, it could be that that name was chosen to commemorate the name of Mr. Jean Lapointe, but, personally, I think that if the house is of the opinion that Hon. Mr. Ernest Lapointe was a great statesman and if the name of Lapointe should be changed today, I would be very sorry to see that name disappear when it commemorates such important men as the former minister of justice, that great French Canadian statesman.

I also noticed several other things. The citizens of the city of Jonquièrre would certainly be very pleased to see the name of the riding changed to Jonquièrre. The hon. member for Lapointe told us that some people in Arvida and Kénogami were also in agreement.

I said that personally I had never heard of it. I would think that the people of Jonquièrre would not want to be accused of selfishness with regard to the other two large cities of that riding by having the name of the riding changed.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

I congratulate the hon. member on the love he feels for his riding. But I do not think he should let his love strangle and kill it by wanting to give it a new entity through a new name, for instance.

There is no doubt that this matter of redistribution, which is to be carried out soon, is extremely important at this stage. I do not think the house has given adequate consideration to this problem to be able to take a decision today. There is a committee which has been established through legislation passed by the house to study the problem of redistribution. I believe, and the hon. member for Lapointe is quite aware of it, that representations could be made to the commissioners and other people whose function it is to study the problems of the new redistribution.

That is all I have to say. I know that the hon. member for Lapointe is interested in this matter. I commend him for it. But we are interested too in having more details. I should appreciate it very much if the hon. member for Lapointe would send us copies of those resolutions from municipalities or organizations, if any. We must admit that within a municipality or an association, there could be one group in favour of a certain project while the other would not be. I do not know whether the majority of associations within his riding wish the name to be changed. I do not know whether there is a majority of municipalities or cities in favour of that change.

The hon. member for Lapointe said he made no promises. I congratulate him for this. He did not promise to change the name. I suggest he must feel very comfortable, whether a change is made or not. Therefore, if the hon. member for Lapointe made no promises in this regard his electors should not hold anything against him in the event of the name of the Lapointe constituency remaining as it is.

Mr. Grégoire: It is impossible, Mr. Speaker, because my constituents, far from holding a grudge against me, are satisfied with me.

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I submit that before the house decides to change the name of a constituency, particularly when it is a constituency bearing the name of great men whose names went down in history, the matter has to be considered very seriously. Moreover, all those of this riding who are represented by associations or groups of the various political parties, and even those who are not interested in politics, must be heard. Otherwise, it would