

Electoral Boundaries Commissions

again. In doing so I will use the words of Robert McKeown, writing in *Weekend Magazine* of November 29, 1963: "The Liberals now draw most of their support from the cities and the Conservatives get theirs from the country." I think I could enlarge on that statement by saying that support for the Conservatives comes to a large extent from the west, and that this might have some influence with regard to the possible loss of four seats there. Mr. McKeown also said a member of parliament had told him that the next election might be won or lost as a result of what happens in this redistribution measure. I wish to point out once again that special consideration should be given to Saskatchewan with regard to this matter of seats in the House of Commons.

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, the few remarks forcefully made a while ago by my hon. friend from Middlesex West (Mr. Thomas) have given rise in my mind to some suspicion.

I think that his remarks are extremely to the point and that the commission which will be responsible for considering the matter will have to give special attention to the boundaries of the constituencies in the province of Quebec as well as in Ontario.

For instance, if I take my own riding I come to the conclusion that the people are satisfied with the proposed requirements for the redistribution. But on the other hand, if my information is accurate, there is no doubt that in the event of a redistribution, my riding would be seriously dislocated.

In my opinion, this would be an error, because the citizens of St. Hyacinthe-Bagot have been used to it for many years, and if the difference between the number of the population and the 25, 20 or 30 per cent to be provided for in the act is observed, then I believe that more would be done to respect the aspirations of my electors and those of electors in the other ridings, and to adjust the situation from top to bottom and from bottom to top in order to have the number of electors required to form an electoral riding. There must be a more equitable way than the one suggested; otherwise, many counties which have existed since confederation could disappear, and this would be against common sense.

I make these remarks so that those points will be taken into consideration by the commissions which will be studying this matter, because I know that a great deal of

[Mr. Pascoe.]

attention is being paid to it in our ridings by the electors and the citizens in general.

[Text]

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

PENSIONS**MOTION TO SET UP JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANADA PLAN**

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved:

That a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons be appointed to consider Bill C-136, to establish a comprehensive program of old age pensions and supplementary benefits in Canada payable to and in respect of contributors;

That twenty four members of the House of Commons, to be designated by the house at a later date, be members of the joint committee, and that standing order 67(1) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said committee have power to call for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; and to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee and that standing order 66 be suspended in relation thereto; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that house to unite with this house for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed joint committee.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, on item No. 17, in connection with the setting up of the joint committee may I ask the house leader this question. I realize the importance of getting the committee set up, but I do not quite see the urgency of it; because as I understand it the other place is not now in session and will not reassemble for some considerable time. Supposing we pass this resolution now and send a message to the Senate; when is that message likely to be dealt with? Is there any likelihood of expedition in promoting the business of parliament?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that I was somewhat concerned about the whole procedure as to when the committee should be set up, either before or after second reading of the bill. On reading the cases I came to the conclusion that it is desirable and the usual practice, although not always followed, to have a committee in existence so that when second reading is given you can immediately refer the bill. But I found in that connection, somewhat to my amazement, that a bill had been referred to a joint committee even although the message had not come back from