

*Redistribution*

others to deal with other problems, problems relevant to the lower mainland and the Vancouver island areas. But I hope that what I have said in outlining the general principles, and the specific illustrations which I have given, will be enough to convince any reasonable person that the B.C. redistribution commission—and certainly I include its own members in that definition—should scrap its proposal and, as I humbly and respectfully suggest, start all over again.

**Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard):** Mr. Speaker, I must first apologize for not having the speech prepared I ought to have prepared for this occasion. This is not my normal practice. But being vice chairman of the broadcasting committee, which has been sitting three times a day in respect of the "Seven Days" impasse, I have not been paying much attention to redistribution. I should like to indicate, as did the member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), that this notice of objection is signed by representatives of all parties. I concur in the objections set forth in the notice and with all the remarks of the hon. member for Kamloops.

It is in a way unfortunate that this act did not require the commissioners, when they brought in their final reports, to deal with representations and objections made at public hearings because there were, it seems to me, some very important objections made at the public hearings held throughout the province. At the moment it is inexplicable to me why some of these representations were not taken into account. Possibly the commissioners had very good reasons for not doing so, but I certainly cannot understand their reasoning at this moment. It is unfortunate that, unlike a judge, they have not had to say why they did certain things.

● (2:10 p.m.)

I should like to deal briefly with my own riding. I hesitate to say anything about it, Mr. Speaker, because, as you know, under the commissioner's report my riding is eliminated and I am therefore speaking in something of the capacity of a lame duck member. I know that anything I may say will in the minds of many be taken as sour grapes, but it is not sour grapes because I am not too worried about my political future.

While the province of British Columbia gains one seat under redistribution, going from 22 to 23, the city of Vancouver goes down from 6 seats to 5. In coming to this conclusion the commissioners have not made

proper use of section 13 of the act. This section was put in the act for very special reasons, and the commissioners have not taken into account what has happened in Vancouver. The details of our objection are contained in subparagraph (i) of paragraph 6 of the notice of objection. They have not taken into account the shifts of population that are occurring and have occurred in parts of Vancouver since the 1961 census.

You will not be familiar, Mr. Speaker, but the commissioners certainly are or should be, with the fantastic rate of growth that has occurred over the last two or three years in what is commonly called the west end of Vancouver and the Kitsilano region of that city—this area is within my riding—where every month a new high-rise apartment block is opened. This development has occurred since 1961, and I do not think the commissioners have properly taken into account, as they should have under section 13 of the act, the growth of population in these two areas of Vancouver. As a result of not having taken into account the rate of growth and shift of population into high-rise apartment blocks, the proposed riding of Vancouver Centre will be the largest population-wise in the province of British Columbia. I suggest that if one were to take a census right now the population figure would be away above that allowed for any riding. I suggest to the commissioners that the riding they have created is away above the legal limit they were to apply.

I have one other remark to make about my own riding, Mr. Speaker. Representations were made to the commissioners quite sincerely by Liberal spokesmen that the name of the proposed riding that encompasses the old Vancouver Centre and Vancouver-Burrard ridings should be Vancouver-Granville. Spokesmen for the Conservative party agreed with that submission and indicated to the commissioners that they thought it was a good idea. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to understand why the commissioners did not accept that simple suggestion. There were good reasons for putting forward the suggestion and it would not have hurt anyone to accept it. Therefore I cannot understand why it was not accepted. The request was made because Vancouver-Burrard and Vancouver Centre are very historic ridings and have within them political organizations which have existed for a great many years.