

*Redistribution Commission*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No doubt the weatherman was a Liberal.

**Mr. Winkler:** Certainly I think the weatherman sometimes is too liberal.

Let me point out a couple of other factors in regard to the speech made by the hon. member for York-Scarborough, and I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will not judge me irrelevant when I say this. We would indeed like some of the advantages that have been enjoyed by the hon. member for York-Scarborough, and we in Grey-Bruce would welcome some of the expansion that has taken place in the area he represents, in all the constituencies around us; but we are inhibited by certain other factors.

For instance, there is the designation of depressed areas which receive financial assistance for the attraction of industry. Are we ever considered for that in our part of the country? We are not, but the constituencies of Algoma East, Windsor, and even Stormont are, and I have almost forgotten to mention Brantford. It seems to me there is no possibility of our getting financial assistance to attract industry, and therefore the hon. member for York-Scarborough cannot have it both ways. He cannot have this tremendous development and the advantage of supporting the government without putting up with some disabilities.

In any event, if he has great fears of not coming back to the house maybe the government will cut off part of his constituency and put it in with mine. I do not know, but I will give the Secretary of State good marks for the manner in which he presented this measure. If the words he uttered one week ago in regard to it are followed very closely, and if that degree of affability is carried through in the terms of the bill, and in the mechanics of the redistribution, then I do not think we have too much to fear. On the other hand, to be fair about it we must ask ourselves tonight, if there is any intention on the part of the government to move into the area of an election, whether it is expedient to accept this legislation. If it is not expedient, then I think we should carry this measure over to the next session of parliament for further consideration. Certainly the time and study which will be given to the matter by hon. members, as well as the benefit of discussions which will take place in constituencies, will be worth while in guiding the implementation of the mechanics of this legislation. In that event we would be prepared to be more cooperative.

I disagree, for example, with the method by which it is proposed to set up the commissions. I believe one commission should be sufficient for the whole country. With ten

[Mr. Winkler.]

commissions there will be ten differing views, so how can there be unanimity in the way the measure is to be brought forward? That is another important point. I also disagree with the thinking of the Secretary of State in regard to the quotient to be used and the tolerance on either side; in this regard I also disagree with the hon. member for York-Scarborough. I maintain that one way in which the representation of rural areas can be perpetuated, unless it is proved otherwise, is by a tolerance of 30 per cent on either side of the base figure established. If these two matters alone are brought into line, the effects of which will be apparent to most of rural Canada, I think we would be prepared to go along with the Secretary of State in an affable spirit of co-operation if he were to reintroduce this measure in the next session of this parliament.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Chairman, I have but a few words to say on the resolution now before us and which reads as follows:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting the office of representation commissioner and to define the duties of the commissioner under the said measure, in addition to those assigned to him under the Canada Elections Act and under a measure to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith; to provide for the salary and expenses of the commissioner;—

Mr. Chairman, if one considers the representation as it is now, one is struck by the example provided by New Brunswick. It is generally recognized that this province will always be represented by ten members. Furthermore, at the present time, there is a difference of ten members between the number from Ontario and that from Quebec.

Now, the first duty of the commissioner or substitute commissioners who may be appointed will be to define the boundaries of the constituencies and set the exact representation of each province. They will also be authorized to establish commissions at the constituency level, in the various provinces, so that these commissions will decide upon the boundaries of the constituencies, that is whether a constituency is to be enlarged or reduced in size according to the population of the different areas involved.

Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, the resolution introduced by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) is a mess that is rather difficult to straighten out and, at the same time, it provides for the establishment of an organization which could readily be used to grant political favours or to act upon government