

and two others—I cannot recall their names—for sitting through the extremely boring debate we have had to inflict on you tonight.

I must say that to wait here until two o'clock in the morning is far beyond the call of duty for anyone, as far as I am concerned. I think your members of parliament should be reprimanded for not being able to organize their time a little better in the House so that the people who have to spend many hours here can do so at a reasonable time.

I also wish to thank the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) who kindly spoke on my behalf in this House on March 11. I think him for representing the concern felt by people in my riding.

One of the main reasons for the inordinate length of this debate is that members from Ontario and Quebec managed to occupy so much of the time. We in the West are used to getting hell from the East and being ignored by the East, but it gets a little much at two o'clock in the morning to sit around and listen to all those boring speeches from Quebec and Ontario and to realize that once again the West has been screwed.

I should like to say that in general the work of the commission in British Columbia has been extremely sound. I think the commission should be congratulated by hon. members. However, there are and always will be, in this very difficult job of trying to draw boundaries on a geographic and community basis, certain things perceived by the community to be errors, and I want to deal with them briefly.

● (0200)

The first area in the province that I want to deal with is Vancouver Island. New ridings of Nanaimo-Alberni and Cowichan-Malahat are proposed. First of all, the residents of both those communities are pleased and delighted that Gabriola Island in the Nanaimo-Alberni riding is included. It is certainly in line with submissions made by various groups to the commission. However, the decision regarding the boundary line, which was to move the line between the constituencies away from the Nanaimo River to the south, is, I submit, a questionable decision.

In 1973 the proposal was to follow the Nanaimo River as the natural boundary, and it seemed in terms of the geographic and population division that this boundary made a lot of good sense. As I have said, the present redistribution moves that boundary south to a line north of Ladysmith. Interested people from both sides of the boundary and both ridings have proposed that the line be restored to the Nanaimo River following the course of the previous boundary, except for the Island of Gabriola. Therefore I ask the commission to give serious reconsideration to that boundary. My information is that this is a non-partisan submission, that it does represent the general community interest.

I turn now to somewhere closer to home in my own area. I am at a bit of a loss to understand why the three communities of Burnaby, New Westminster, and Coquitlam were not more seriously considered as three new ridings, rather than the decision that has been made.

#### *Electoral Boundaries*

Dealing first with the municipality of Burnaby, this municipality is a bit too large to be a single federal riding. Nevertheless what the commission has done is take the Capital Hill region and add it to the riding of North Vancouver. I must say it is very difficult for anyone with a sense of objectivity to understand what the Capital Hill area has in common with the North Shore in an economic way, a geographic way, or from the point of view of community of interest. Certainly there is no connection municipally. There is nothing whatever common between the two areas. It seems clear that there must have been a decision taken on some very special population base that could be easily corrected in attempting to create three ridings, one for Burnaby, one for New Westminster, and one for Coquitlam.

The new riding of New Westminster is limited to the south of New Westminster, and then the area of Coquitlam is expanded to the east. The difficulty with that decision is simply this, that New Westminster, as the central core of the area, the original settled area, has as its first natural suburb Burnaby, particularly the area south of Burnaby Lake. I grew up in that area. All the traditional ties for shopping, cultural activities, etc. were with the city of New Westminster. Therefore, if the municipality of Burnaby is to be chopped up, and I can understand a certain amount of chopping that has to be done, surely it is far more logical that the portion immediately to the north of New Westminster be added to the New Westminster riding rather than taking the Capital Hill area and trying to join it to a completely unrelated area.

Then as we move east to the Coquitlam area we have three communities; Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, and the municipality of Coquitlam. I served for some nine years on the school board there, and as chairman for two years. That is a natural single community. That community cries out to be a single federal riding and has all the qualifications in terms of population, community of interest, and geographical area. It also forms a single provincial riding in its present boundaries.

Incidentally, the Chamber of Commerce of the municipality of Coquitlam, and other chambers of commerce have long supported that community as being ideal for a single federal riding. Why it was not given serious consideration I am not sure, but it does seem to me somewhat illogical that we do not start from that premise with the municipalities themselves forming natural federal boundaries. We could work from that point rather than trying to join a portion of the Coquitlam area to the Fraser Valley area where the natural geographic division is clearly the Pitt River. This certainly makes it much more difficult for people to feel a sense of community in federal matters, particularly in light of this redistribution of the lower mainland.

Having said that, I recognize that the commissioners have listened to a great many submissions on the subject. They have given these submissions serious consideration, but I am asking the commissioners to have one further look at these two areas, one on the island and the other in this area of the lower mainland, with a view to the interest of the community in terms of federal representation.

It is now 2:10 a.m., Mr. Speaker. I see no one else in the Chamber anxious to stand up and make a contribution to