

Redistribution

Mr. Catherwood: Mr. Chairman, following my remarks of Monday I am going to make only one or two brief observations at this stage of the debate. After listening to the remarks of the hon. member for Lincoln I think perhaps that had I been in his position I would have been tempted to express myself in a similar vein.

However, I do feel that the report of the committee has very considerable merit, and I still trust that even at this late stage in debate the committee will reconsider and possibly give support to the amendment. The hon. member for Lincoln referred to the lake shore erosion problem faced in his constituency. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that additional representations from the county of Lincoln would give greatly needed support to the people of that county in connection with that grave problem.

While this matter of erosion is of great importance on lake Erie, we realize that as it also affects lake Ontario shore line vitally every part of that section of the Niagara peninsula is being greatly affected, and I feel this matter is one of great and serious concern. Every possible added representation that can be secured from that section along lake Ontario should be made available and should be considered by the committee, because it is very definitely a matter of great importance to the people in that section of Ontario.

The suggestion that part of that area be associated with the county of Haldimand would result in its becoming an excellent joint rural constituency. As hon. members are aware, I have represented a rural constituency and know something about rural problems. While I am home during the summer months I find that my time is taken up with matters that affect agriculture. I have no doubt that the hon. member for Lincoln, who represents his riding well, must have terrific responsibilities when he is called upon to represent almost 90,000 people in that constituency. My view is that it just cannot possibly be done properly, because there are only 24 hours in a day and, with all due respect to the hon. member for Lincoln, I feel he cannot represent that riding with its large rural area as well as its large industrial population in the manner in which it should be represented.

I have said that I represent a rural riding. If I were fortunate enough to win the nomination and fortunate enough to be elected as candidate, upon contesting the constituency, I do feel that I could give to that rural section of Lincoln county very good service, because it is very similar to the situation with which I have been dealing in Haldimand. If, as I

said before, I am given the privilege of representing that county, I believe I could do so properly, and could give the greater time that the representation of a rural constituency should have.

I cannot say a great deal more at this time, nor can I add greatly to the very able remarks of my colleague the hon. member for Eglinton, who has set this situation out so excellently. I would also refer gratefully to the remarks of the hon. member for Lambton West and every hon. member who has spoken so favourably with respect to this proposed amendment. I believe this representation could be equally divided, that it is ideally located and ideally situated, and that for that reason it could become an ideal riding. I commend the report of the subcommittee to hon. members, in the hope that they will support the amendment.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Lincoln must take the responsibility for my being on my feet. In what I shall say I shall be very brief. I am sure that whatever else may have been said in this chamber during the last two or three days, we do feel that the committees had a very difficult task. In some of the cases which have come before us we realize the difficulties have been so great as to have been almost overwhelming.

Here, however, it seems to me we have a case where the alternative was so simple and so easy, so obvious and so fair, that I believe we should pause and have another look at it. If I had had any doubts about it, certainly my doubts would have been removed entirely by the speech of the hon. member for Lincoln. I thought he was a good lawyer with a very, very bad case. I listened to the reasons he gave for not doing this obvious thing, and I became more and more convinced that his reasons were quite worthless.

Let me remind hon. members that the situation is one in which we have, right next door to Haldimand, the constituency of Lincoln with a great excess of population. The hon. member for Lincoln suggested that at the next redistribution his constituency may be cut into two. Well, we will leave that for the future. At any rate there is no disputing the fact that there is in Lincoln, next door, additional population which could have been added to Haldimand and which then would have justified fully the continuation of this historic constituency.

What are the reasons given by the hon. member for Lincoln against doing the fair and obvious thing? Well, I find it difficult to follow his argument. First of all one would