

Redistribution

area, could not make their voice heard in the choice of a representative for the area.

So far as the city of Regina is concerned, the division proposed by the commission does not fracture the city. We know that if we are to keep within the tolerance set by the act, the city cannot have two completely urban constituencies. A line has been drawn along the main street, and it continues along a prime highway in Saskatchewan. It is a boundary that leaves no one in any doubt as to which part of the constituency they would be in. The commissioners, however, go beyond community of interest and I think this is important. The boundaries have been set according to the population in the city, and some people have been put in areas in which there is no communication and no community of interest whatever. The people in the northern areas are oriented toward Saskatoon, one of the other large centres. These people, in effect, lose their voice in that constituency to an extent that I am sure would not be satisfactory to them.

If the commission listens to the representations that have been made by my colleague in regard to natural boundaries and community of interest, and gives consideration to the fact that we have presented them with a well prepared map of constituency boundaries, which results from weighing these problems that have been raised in connection with the proposed boundaries for the two seats designated as Regina-Lake Centre and Regina East, they should bear in mind that the division of a city should be a straightforward division. It should be a division that will not fracture the voice of those whose interest are urban. It should be a division that will allow for new growth, expansion and development that will take place before the next census. There is no real cleavage between urban and rural areas in these constituencies. These people are oriented to doing their business in a certain place and this community of interest should be kept in mind in drawing the boundaries.

It is in the interests of urban people that the rural community be successful and prosperous. It is in the interests of the rural community that the urban area should develop. These people have, therefore, a united interest in having the boundaries drawn in such a way that community of interest is dominant, and will leave a happy situation for the member or members who will represent those interests.

[Mr. More.]

This would be my submission. The commissioners should consider the representations that have been made, the new map that has been drawn, as well as have regard for the increasing urban areas. The boundary lines should be set so that the voice of these areas will not be fractured but can be heard, and heard emphatically. The boundaries should be set in such a way as to allow for the growth that will take place before another redistribution occurs.

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): I may be somewhat repetitious, Mr. Speaker, in speaking about the redistribution of Saskatchewan seats. I think the saddest part of this redistribution is the fact that Saskatchewan will lose four seats. This redistribution is based on the 1961 census, but the population of Saskatchewan has increased greatly as a result of some industries moving into the area. I believe that at the moment the population may be well over a million people, and at the last census it was less than a million people.

• (4:50 p.m.)

Another objection I have is the fact that the redistribution commissioners paid absolutely no attention to the agricultural constituencies. Strictly speaking, the majority of our seats are agricultural seats, and the two largest cities in our province, Saskatoon and Regina, have two large rural areas attached to them. Another factor which was not taken into consideration is that we have a number of rivers and these rivers run right through every constituency the new commission has approved. This is a hardship.

It was stated here previously that after the South Saskatchewan River project is completed and comes into operation there will be another big lake right across the centre of Saskatchewan which will also make it very difficult for a member of parliament to serve these constituencies. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) and other members have given their time to speak on this matter and have sketched out the new constituencies basing them on such considerations as making the cities strictly urban constituencies, and the rural areas representing the agricultural people as rural constituencies.

I would ask the commission to give serious thought to our representation and particularly to the very masterly deliberation of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, who was instrumental and helped us to draft these new