

*Redistribution*

reduced in size at an early redistribution, probably after the next census.

The same situation occurs in the proposed constituency of Egmont, which is about 3,000 below the maximum allowable and contains the rapidly growing town of Summerside. It follows, of course, that the proposed constituencies of Cardigan and Malpeque are well below the electoral quota for the province. We contend that in order for this redistribution to last for a reasonable period of years, the population of the constituencies should be as close to the electoral quota as possible. If they depart from it, then those constituencies with the greatest growth potential should be below the quota.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Our second objection was that the commission failed to take into consideration the fact that the boundaries of the electoral districts as they existed prior to redistribution were in accordance with the common interests of the people living therein, thereby making it possible to have adequate representation in the parliament of Canada.

I should like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that ever since confederation the constituency boundaries of Prince Edward Island have coincided with the county boundaries, with the exception of a short period around the turn of the century. Much of the administration of the activities of the federal government in Prince Edward Island is organized by counties. The National Employment Service and the federal Department of Public Works are two examples, and I am sure there are many others. There are many governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations as well, that are organized by counties and thereby coincide with the boundaries of federal constituencies.

On examining the proposed federal electoral districts I am at a loss to think of a single community of interest that coincides with the boundaries of any of them. The community of interest criterion has little or no application to the proposed districts. While it is recognized that county boundaries could not be retained under the terms of the act, it is believed that some partial satisfaction of the community of interest principle could have been achieved.

Our third objection was that in assigning names to the districts the commission failed to select names with sufficient significant application to the areas which they are intended to designate. The names appear to

have been taken from four bays along the shoreline of Prince Edward Island. None of them has any general application to the districts to which they are attached. As a matter of fact, the greater part of Malpeque bay lies in the proposed district of Egmont, whilst Hillsborough bay is surrounded, not by the proposed constituency of Hillsborough, but by the constituencies of Cardigan and Malpeque.

In a brief presented to the commission other carefully thought out suggestions have been made, and I should like to cite some of them. It was suggested that historical Indian names might have a more apt application to the proposed new constituencies. It was formally proposed to the commission that the names they suggest be replaced by four Indian names—Malpeque, Bedeque, Tracadie and Pisquid.

It was further suggested that the names should be those of personages who have had a very special claim to fame in the history of our province, and the names suggested, reading from east to west, were those of Whelan, who was one of the Fathers of Confederation, MacDonald, Holland and Gallant. I am not going to go into the reasons cited for claiming that these would be more suitable names. In any case none of these suggestions found sufficient favour with the commissioners for them to change their original suggestions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances I would strongly recommend that the commission reconsider the naming of the constituencies and revert to variations of the present names, which have been used continuously since confederation. I should mention the exception, that when Prince Edward Island had five seats there were slight variations in these names of Kings, Queens and Prince, used to designate those five ridings. I believe that this could again be done.

Our fourth objection, Mr. Speaker, was that in failing to retain the dual riding of Queens the commission aggravated the relative rate of growth problem and disrupted the long-established and quite satisfactory pattern of representation. I feel that the commissioners, or the ones who are natives of Prince Edward Island, would probably have had some considerable hesitation departing from this old historic custom of having the dual constituency of Queens. They may have been overawed by the bureaucratic administrative mind which looks upon people as so many ciphers to be put into neat bundles, with even less regard for the traditions and