

Inquiries of the Ministry

a consequence of his visit, will now be reduced?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): It will be reduced by about one quarter.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Associate Minister of National Defence. In his answer he referred to a reduction of about a quarter. Does that mean that only one quarter of the land originally intended for expropriation will not now be expropriated and is the department now going to expropriate three quarters the original?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): I was referring to one quarter of the Shannon area, Mr. Speaker. The land to be expropriated will be one quarter less than that originally projected.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is to be a 25 per cent reduction.

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—
REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister although I realize he may refer it to one of his colleagues. In view of the fact that the government has on the order paper a notice of intention to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act, including the making of amendments of a general character, may I ask whether this will include an amendment to increase the pensions of civil servants already retired?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: Will the government reconsider this matter, Mr. Speaker? If I cannot obtain an answer now I guess I shall have to try at ten o'clock.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this matter is being brought to our attention, as my hon. friend knows, not only by him but by those directly concerned, and it is under continuous consideration. There is no intention to change the position at this time.

Mr. Knowles: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

• (3:30 p.m.)

REDISTRIBUTION**CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO
COMMISSION REPORTS**

Mr. Speaker: On February 15 last a notice of objection in the form of a motion was filed with me in the following terms:

That, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Chapter 31, Statutes of Canada 1964-65) and for the reasons hereinafter specified, consideration be given by this house to the matter of an objection to the following provisions of the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of New Brunswick, laid before the house by Mr. Speaker on Wednesday, January 19th, 1966 for the reasons herein after specified.

1. The fact of a majority and minority report having been presented by the commission suggests the existence of a difference of opinion in the commission itself which invites discussion by interested members of parliament.

2. In determining the boundaries of some of the electoral districts of the province of New Brunswick, the commission failed to give special emphasis to geographical considerations, including in particular the sparsity, density or relative rate of growth of population of various regions of the province, the accessibility of such regions, or the size or shape thereof, and ignored or overlooked the special problems of transportation and communication when establishing ten electoral districts in the said province.

3. In determining the boundaries of some of the electoral districts of the province of New Brunswick, as indicated by the majority report, the commission failed to give and pay proper attention to the physical, social and economic cohesion of some districts thus created and overlooked the question of unity and community of interest and thereby rendered satisfactory and comprehensive representation a most difficult task.

4. The inconvenience to any member of parliament attempting to maintain contact with constituents spread over some electoral districts would be considerable. The expense of travel might well be considered exorbitant in attempting to maintain such contact.

5. And such other objections that the undersigned members may consider applicable in order to carry out the spirit and terms and conditions of the act in question.

This is objection No. 11 and can be found at page 22 of the pamphlet distributed to hon. members.

Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the attention of the house to the first item in our objections. It relates to the fact that a majority and a minority report were presented by the commission with respect to the province of New Brunswick electoral boundaries, which suggests the existence of a difference of opinion in the commission itself and invites discussion.

It would appear to me to be the most natural thing in the world for these two