

*Electoral Boundaries*

ridings in the earlier proposal put forward by the commission last summer.

I would just like to conclude with one short word about the riding of York-Scarborough on behalf of my distinguished colleague who unfortunately is unable to participate in this debate. It seems to us that this particular riding has indeed a long and distinguished record, having for many years in the past had the rather dubious distinction of being the most heavily populated riding in Canada. At the last redistribution it was cut up into almost four complete ridings, indicative of its vast size. The new Scarborough West and East ridings were created at that time as more and more people were tending to settle in this area of Metropolitan Toronto. In this connection the request is simply to retain the name of York-Scarborough and not switch to the proposed name of Scarborough North.

The other point I know my distinguished colleague, the hon. member for York-Scarborough, would like me to put forward, is the request that we maintain the western boundary of that particular riding which extends into the borough of York up along the Woodbine-Don Valley parkway, a very natural boundary line, rather than extending as it does now partly over the Don Mills road.

In concluding my remarks I should like to indicate my sympathy with the problems encountered by members from northern Ontario. I hope the matters they have placed before you will be resolved in some way in order that we will indeed know where we are going in connection with the over-all redistribution situation in the province of Ontario.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. There seems to be an understanding or agreement not to see the clock at this time in order to allow the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Douglas) to speak. He would be the last speaker on the Ontario report, and we would then proceed to open the examination of the Quebec report with the speech of one member who has to catch a plane, the hon. member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault).

**Mr. C. Douglas (Bruce-Grey):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure you, like many members here, are very happy to see the hon. member for Bruce-Grey rise to his feet as it signifies the end of the list as far as speakers in respect of Ontario are concerned.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You should have spoken last night.

**Mr. Douglas (Bruce-Grey):** I know that sentiment has been expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who, as old faithful, has stuck here through thick and thin during the debate on areas of a province some distance from his own.

I want to make a very few brief points, Mr. Speaker. Generally I agree with many of my colleagues from both sides of the House who have expressed consideration for the good work done by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I speak specifically of members from western Ontario, such as the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot (Mr. Jarvis), and my colleague, who is very close to me, the hon. member for Grey-Simcoe (Mr. Mitges), who presented briefs and interventions to the commission when it met

throughout Ontario. Generally speaking, in our particular cases we have found the commission to be very receptive and very open in its treatment of those briefs and interventions.

I want to raise a couple of points briefly that have been brought to my attention by other members. I speak basically of the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) who mentioned the problem that could arise out of the naming of one of the constituencies "Durham West", as there is no particular Durham involved at the present time.

● (1800)

I speak primarily for the constituents who come to my riding as a result of the realignment of the boundaries, particularly the people of the town of Durham, Ontario. Perhaps some but not all members will know there has been some problem in respect of the town of Durham located in my riding and also of the municipality of Durham, which has been brought about because of the regionalization of government. That has been a particular problem to the residents of Durham. I think that the addition of Durham West as a constituency would add to the consternation the people now have. I would agree with the member for Ontario that if the commission could see its way clear to bring this about I believe it should take it into consideration.

The second point I should like to express to the commission concerns the change of the name that has been given to my riding. I think it will be very confusing for the constituents who live there because the name has been changed to the identical name of a provincial riding. I might point out that the riding of Bruce-Grey consists of townships in the county of Bruce which have emanated from the previous riding of Bruce when the county was a riding represented in the House of Commons.

Just before the election in 1972 there were five townships in Grey added to the easterly portion of Bruce. Since that time the name of the riding has been changed from Bruce to Bruce-Grey. That change was made by me through Bill C-228 which was given Royal Assent on March 13, 1975. Then we have the report of the commission which was tabled in the House of Commons, and lo and behold, for some apparent reason that I have not been able to determine, it changed the name around and it came out in the report as Grey-Bruce rather than Bruce-Grey.

At one time the name of the constituency was Bruce. Then it became Bruce-Grey, and now it is Grey-Bruce. The fact remains that the proposed name Grey-Bruce is almost identical to the name of a riding in the provincial legislature. For this reason I would like to draw to the attention of the commissioners that it is my feeling that the name Grey-Bruce would be very confusing to the people in the area particularly since there is now an almost identically named provincial riding in the area. I might point out to the commissioners that 12 townships in Bruce will be represented in the riding under the redistribution plan while only eight townships in Grey will be represented.

There is one other point on which I should like to dwell briefly. As many members have pointed out during the discussion in this House, there is a diminution in the power of the rural ridings and in their spokespersonship in the House of Commons. I think what should be lamented