

British North America Act

matter and principle of this bill have great merit and I feel that perhaps a great deal of reform could be usefully introduced in our electoral institutions. I hope that a committee of this house will soon be empowered to look into the subject of the Canada Elections Act and the question of redistribution.

As the hon. member for Port Arthur pointed out, the subject of redistribution has plagued—I was going to say succeeding governments, but it has really plagued succeeding oppositions down through the years. I come from a riding which has shrunk since the last redistribution. There has been a great deal of changing of residences into commercial properties, widening of streets and other things involving the removal of residential properties. Under any system of redistribution I imagine that the riding of St. Lawrence-St. George would be profoundly affected.

However, I feel I must agree with what was said earlier by an hon. member to the effect that if the day has not passed when great advantage can be gained for a party by control of redistribution it certainly is well on its way to having gone. The introduction and development of mass communication systems which brings the voices of leaders of the various parties to people all across the country has served to eliminate what in so many cases could be referred to as safe seats or protected pockets of people. I do not anticipate much objection when the time comes for redistribution on a fair and equitable basis. Of course, it would be impossible to redistribute the seats in this house in a manner that would make everybody happy, but on the basis of what has been said in this debate I believe that the hon. member for Port Arthur may be assured that when this matter comes up, as it no doubt will—and I hope along with him that it comes up soon before the fire horses begin to hear the bells of another election—he will find in evidence the mood that has been expressed in the speeches we have heard tonight—one of give and take and fair play for all concerned—and it is possible that a commission, better defined than that proposed in his bill, will be established. Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

Mr. Fisher: How naive can you be?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the hon. gentleman who is leading the house if the business which was indicated last evening will be the business for tomorrow?

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we shall continue with the estimates of the Minister of Public Works. Unfortunately, the business which was indicated last evening, the continued debate on NORAD, will not go on tomorrow. The Prime Minister, you will recall, adjourned the debate. Due to the presence of a very distinguished guest tomorrow, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, our Prime Minister will be very busy and unfortunately will not be able to continue.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister indicate when the Prime Minister proposes to conclude the debate on NORAD?

Mr. Brooks: I could not give a definite indication, but some time next week.

Mr. McIlraith: What about the business for Monday?

Mr. Brooks: That will be announced tomorrow.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, before you adjourn, may I ask if in view—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Winch:—of the unfortunate situation of a week ago it is the intention to ring the bells tomorrow morning to summon hon. members to the chamber to hear the remarks of our distinguished visitor?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): That was announced by Mr. Speaker today. The bell will sound at 9.50 a.m.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): You should come down and listen to us some time, Harold.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.