

Electoral Boundaries

up to 91,217 people. Georgina, in 1974, had a population of 16,312 which, if combined with the proposed York-Peel, would give a riding of 107,529 based on 1974 population figures.

Personally, I should like to see Georgina join with a North York region riding. Historically, Georgina has been part of a North York riding and it is unfortunate that it cannot remain so. On the other hand, something has to go. As already has been mentioned—and I believe it will be mentioned perhaps by the hon. member for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Milne) following me—perhaps the town of Caledon could be joined with the proposed riding of Brampton. Here, again, we have an obvious problem because Brampton has a population of 91,897 and Caledon has 19,375, again based on 1971 figures. This would mean that that new riding would have 111,272 people, clearly well above the high quotient limit that has been abided by to date by the commissioners.

In short, it is difficult to adjust these ridings and be completely equitable and just to all regions and all people. However, on balance I believe the commission has hit a happy compromise. I think it is unfortunate that members insist overly strongly for changes without realizing that every change they ask for has a domino effect and will be felt in other ridings, perhaps with disastrous consequences for those ridings.

We know what we have here. We may not be 100 per cent sold on it, but let us accept the fact that we at least are 90 per cent satisfied, and for the other 10 per cent of protection the people might be striving for, let us not make the mistake of either having redistribution entirely discarded so that we will have to fight the coming election on the boundaries we now have, which I believe are quite unfair to the present population of Canada; or, secondly, that we trigger the commission into making changes which will be much worse in their final effect for most of us than the proposals now before us.

I believe it is unfortunate that there is not a York North designated riding in the present proposal. I understand that if the member for York North (Mr. Danson) is called upon, he will recommend that the riding of Markham-Richmond-Vaughan as proposed should have its name changed to York North. I believe that because of the historic significance of the riding of York North, and the fact that it was a riding represented in this House by a prime minister—granted, not a Conservative prime minister but one from the other side—and that we have had several cabinet ministers from the riding of York North, including Sir William Mulock, it is an unfortunate change if for no other reason than that the name York North not remain as it has since confederation as a riding represented in this House of Commons.

So I recommend that the commission take seriously the suggestion that the proposed riding of Markham-Richmond-Vaughan which, after all, is substantially made up of the present riding of York North, have its name changed to York North. In any event, if in their wisdom the commissioners see a way to include Georgina with my riding, I would point out that many people in my riding like the name York-Simcoe and would like to have it preserved. It may end up that we could have a York-Simcoe-Peel riding, if that is the solution the commission sees.

[Mr. Stevens.]

I should simply like to indicate that substantially we are in favour of the commission's proposal. There can be improvements, but basically let us not strive to get what some might consider to be perfection, only in reality later to discover that they have given birth to a monster which would truly be unsatisfactory to many people in this province and in this country.

Mr. Ross Milne (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to make a few comments in this discussion on riding boundaries. I should like, through you, Mr. Speaker, to ask the commissioners if they would consider the statement I am about to make in relation to that made by my colleague the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Philbrook). The hon. member for Halton, in representing the riding of Halton, and myself representing Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe, are in adjoining ridings and I think we share some of the same concerns. I should like my comments to be construed as being in support of the basic argument put forth by my colleague, the hon. member for Halton.

Back in August, 1975, when reported in the *Canada Gazette*, part I, the proposal at that time was to have a riding called Brampton which would include only the city of Brampton, and secondly that part of Halton Hills which the hon. member indicated earlier would be included with Caledon, King and Vaughan townships in the region of York. At that time I made no representation when the public hearings were held, because I thought the city of Brampton as a riding by itself was a very good decision taken by the commissioners. It was a decision I wholeheartedly supported.

I understand, however, that many people did make representations on behalf of the area of Halton Hills north of No. 10 sideroad and east of the seventh concession based on the fact that they had very little relativity with the north end of the region of Peel or the north end of the region of York. I think that on the second draft, and on the report that is before us for discussion at this point in time, the commissioners did take into account that argument and on this draft have added that part of Halton Hills to the city of Brampton, as opposed to putting it back in the riding of Halton as desired by my colleagues.

I would just comment, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the commissioners that I think if one of the problems the commissioners are wrestling with is to add to the ridings around, then it might be more acceptable in this case to add the town of Caledon to the city of Brampton than it would be to add that part of Halton Hills. The town of Caledon, as a previous speaker mentioned, has some 19,000 people and is very close to the number of people in Georgetown, so it would not really alter very much the population figures.

I want to say, before going any further, that should the commissioners decide, in their wisdom, to leave the riding boundaries as they recommend at the present time, I would be very pleased to represent the people of Georgetown and work very diligently on their behalf. I have many friends and acquaintances in Georgetown. I have lived very close to there for a period of 15 or 16 years. In fact, I have worked in the Georgetown area.

I rose, however, to make the point that I think there is a case to support the expressed wish of the people of George-