

*Representation Act*

**Mr. G. C. Lachance (Lafontaine):** Mr. Speaker, we heard the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) mention the promises made by the former member for Lapointe, by the former candidates and by the provincial members.

But apart from the statements which were made in this house by the hon. member for Lapointe, I have no personal knowledge of any representations which would have been made—

**Mr. Grégoire:** In Montreal.

**Mr. Lachance:**—either by the electors of this riding or by the various organizations, chambers of commerce, municipalities, etc. Mr. Speaker, changing the name of a riding is just as serious as changing the name of an individual, and the hon. member for Lapointe must have very serious and interesting reasons to put forward this request, but the house must study this question as seriously as it would for any other riding.

He spoke of the representations made to him.

As I just said, I personally did not get any. I never heard about that. It may be that I did not happen to read certain newspapers of that area which might have dealt with the question, but I never heard about it in my riding, in Montreal or in Ottawa.

**Mr. Grégoire:** No wonder.

**Mr. Lachance:** Have representations been made also to other authorities, to this government or to the chief electoral officer?

I could not say but I never heard about it.

Now, as the hon. member for Lapointe said, the name of the riding would be changed as a result of representations made by candidates or members. It could be a good reason for discussing the matter. That is what we are doing today.

But I do not feel it is sufficient reason to pass the bill as hastily as all that, without giving it very serious consideration.

A moment ago the hon. member for Lapointe referred to the forthcoming redistribution. Perhaps the boundaries of this constituency will not be changed but, there again, the hon. member can give us no assurance.

Indeed, the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis) told us that other cities and towns might be interested.

If an inquiry were made, perhaps we would find that both Arvida and Kenogami are

interested in having their name given to the constituency now called Lapointe.

There are other municipalities in the constituency of Lapointe. I am sure that the hon. member for Lapointe knows them very well because he has surely visited them. There are, in addition to Jonquière, the municipalities of Larouche, Bourget, Taché—great names—

**Mr. Grégoire:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I would point out to the hon. member for Lafontaine that there are no municipalities of Bourget and Taché, but that there are the townships of Bourget and Taché.

As this hon. member seems to have absolutely no information about my constituency, I am not surprised to see that he was not aware of any representations—

[Text]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order. The hon. member may disagree with what is being said by the hon. member for Lafontaine. The point he is raising now is refutation. It is not a point of order. The hon. member for Lafontaine.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lachance:** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of course, of the store of knowledge of the hon. member for Lapointe, but I think he must know whether township municipalities exist. When one mentions a township or a municipality, it is for the purpose of an enumeration and I note that after the towns of Larouche, Bourget and Taché we also find Labrie and Bégin, for example—

**Mr. Choquette:** Would the hon. member allow me a question?

Does the municipality owe its name to Hon. Joseph D. Bégin, a great friend of the hon. member for Lapointe?

**Mr. Lachance:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I cannot—

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, there is in fact a municipality of Bégin. The name has existed for a long time; it is a parish where respectable persons are living and I could not perhaps say as much about the hon. member for Lotbinière.

**Mr. Lachance:** I should like to add that the constituency of Lapointe was established following the 1941 census. It was created in 1947 under a new legislation, and it was first represented by Mr. Jules Gauthier.

**Mr. Grégoire:** A notary from Jonquière.