

Electoral Boundaries

more as these parishes according to the plan put forward in June 1975 were to be included in the riding of Gaspé, and I would like to ensure they are actually in the federal riding of Matane.

Third, I think that in the proposed new federal riding of Matane, both parishes of Saint-François-Xavier-des-Hauteurs and Saint-Charles-Garnier should be left out. As everybody knows to get these two municipalities, you have to go through Saint-Gabriel in the Rimouski riding, and those two municipalities are 27 miles away from Sainte-Angèle-de-Mérici, the closest point to the federal riding of Matane.

A quick glance at the map is enough to note that it is not sensible to wish to go through St-Gabriel in the Rimouski riding to go to those two towns, especially as they happen to be situated outside the Matane riding but their interests and history are linked to the Rimouski constituency. The best proof of this lies in the fact that the present federal member of parliament for Rimouski wishes those two towns to stay in the federal Rimouski riding.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo a demand which I have often heard in my riding, namely, to stop calling it Matane and call it by the name of Matapédia-Matane to which it is rightfully entitled. I do not know why but before I had the honour of representing this riding, a law had been passed to discard the name "Matapédia". When we look at the shape of this riding, we notice that it is made of two distinctive parts: The area along the coast and the one in the lower mainland.

● (2210)

I find that we should go back to the former name and call it the riding of Matapédia-Matane. I have never felt I represented the town of Matane, but the whole riding. I have sworn not to show preference for a parish or another and while I understand that the citizens of Matane are proud that the riding is called after their town, yet we have to admit that this name does not do justice to the people of the valley whom I also represent.

I strongly recommend that the former name of the riding of Matapédia-Matane be restored for it would better meet the requirements of the two groups which constitute the population of the riding. The town of Matane is undoubtedly the largest centre of the riding with its 13,000 residents but when we consider the population of the new riding, about 67,000 people, we must bear in mind that we have to be fair to everybody and that the member of Parliament must resist the temptation of favouring one section over another. I consulted an impressive number of people in the constituency, and many names were suggested if compound names are not appreciated. There are such names as Mitis, Metis, D'Amours, Kent, Fraser, Des Monts, Du Golfe. In Matane, the reference is of course to one of the pioneers in the area, the sieur Mathieu D'Amours de Chaufour, and we already have in Matane a school and a dam named after him. Others would rather insist on a family name that would be de Chaufour rather than keeping a town name that does not reflect all opinions and all the people in the other 50 municipalities in the riding.

Mr. Cyr: The De Bané constituency!

Mr. De Bané: My friend the hon. member for Gaspé also made a suggestion that should be discarded. I would like that this be brought to the commissioners' attention. Of course I would prefer the name of Matapédia-Matane. To conclude, I insist on both ends of the old constituency remaining in the proposed one. This includes both the area of Causapsca, an important municipality in the valley and Amqui's sister-town, and at the other end the municipality of Cap-Chat, an extremely important one where we hope, with the Quebec government's cooperation, to launch soon two significant projects that will finally allow the hard working population to survive the very serious depression they have been going through for a number of months.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the judges who are charged with the drafting of the new electoral map, independently of every partisan power, and on which we as members have no influence whatsoever other than some meek representations, will consider the remarks I am making this evening. I want to point out that these are not only my personal views, but the result of an extensive consultation process with people in every area of the riding I have had the honour of representing for a number of years.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave): Perhaps, following the usual procedure, it would be helpful if the Chair were to indicate the order of the next six members from the province of Quebec who will be taking part in the debate. I would propose that they be called in this order: the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Demers), the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), the hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Pinard), the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy), the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard), and the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Comtois).

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Demers (Duvernay): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to comment this evening on a rather important matter concerning the representation here in Ottawa of my constituents.

● (2220)

Before the new redistribution, the city of Laval included two ridings and was divided in two approximately equal parts: the ridings of Laval and Duvernay. The commissioners used a very precise and above all excessively rigid tool. They took as a basis the 1971 statistics. As a result, Laval now extends over two and a half ridings. They took part of the riding of Duvernay and part of the riding of Laval; they blended that with the north of Montreal on the other side of the river.

I suggest that besides using a very rigid tool such as the 1971 statistics—and especially the fact that they used only that tool—the commission should have taken into consideration other factors such as geographic factors. As a matter of fact, as you know, the city of Laval is limited to the north and to the south by rivers. If it can be said that the motto of Canada is "A mari usque ad mare", it certainly can be said that the city of Laval stretches from one river to the other.

Three of Canada's boundaries are oceans and the city of Laval is an island completely surrounded by water.

Mr. La Salle: A small Canada!