

*Redistribution*

to get from one part of his riding to another part which has been added on. You thus have the ridiculous situation of members trying to serve their own constituents having to travel through two or three other ridings in order to get from one part to another of their own.

You will also have the additional situation that the town of Merritt, which presently is included in Kamloops riding and which has a complete community of interests with the city of Kamloops—the residents of Merritt do what business they do not do in Merritt in Kamloops which is only 60 miles away and joined by an excellent highway involving only an hour's drive—in order to make possible the adjustment arising out of these two monstrosities, will be included in Okanagan Boundary, with which it has no community of interests. In other words, this city and area that has every community of interest with its present riding will be put in a riding with which it has little or no community of interest.

The same situation applies to Williams Lake. It has no community interest with the coastal area of the new proposed riding of Coast-Chilcotin, but in order to conform with some notions, of which I am not aware, of the readjustment commission, Williams Lake is taken out of its present riding and included in this new area.

I should say at this stage that with respect to all the communities I have mentioned the chambers of commerce and city councils have all passed resolutions making it clear that they object to what is being done because they wish to be left in the riding with which they have a community of interest.

Similarly, as a result of this proposal Quesnel will be taken out of the present riding of Cariboo, in which it is included with the city of Prince George and with which it has a complete community of interests, and will be included in the new readjusted riding of Kamloops, with which it has no desire to be joined as expressed through a resolution adopted by its municipal council.

I could continue in that way, Mr. Speaker, illustrating the anomalies that arise from the proposals of the readjustment commission. So far I have been dealing only with the geographical factors with respect to the constituencies themselves and the communities of interest. Let me now detail for the house, so this will be part of the record, what these new proposals mean in respect of representation. Let me assure you that I consider as

[Mr. Fulton.]

only secondary the convenience of the member of parliament who may represent one of these constituencies. I imagine that members of the public might say: Well, you ran for office; you wanted to be there, so do not complain about the difficulties you have in representing us; if you have to travel a long way, that is up to you. That is an understandable view on the part of the general public, so I am not complaining from the point of view of a member who may run and be elected. On the other hand, I think the residents of a constituency have a right to have reasonable access to their members of parliament, and it is from the point of view of the constituents that I talk now about the distances involved. Surely a constituent of mine or of any other member of this house—the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Chatterton) or the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford)—has a right to have reasonable access to his member to discuss his political business. However, in respect of these new ridings and the constituencies newly created or reorganized, a constituent who wishes to do business with his M.P. in the Coast-Chilcotin riding will have to face a return journey in the order of 820 miles to get from the place where he may live to the place where his member of parliament is likely to live. In the case of the Okanagan-Kootenay riding, if the member of parliament lives in Vernon a constituent from Fernie will face a return journey of 800 miles just to see his member of parliament. In the case of the new Kamloops riding, if the member lives in Kamloops a constituent from Quesnel would face a return journey of 540 miles just to see and do business with his member.

The answer may be suggested that the member should travel around his constituency. Members do that now and will continue to do so, but they cannot be in their ridings travelling around all the time. It should be possible, and it is a right, for a constituent who wants to see his member of parliament to get to the place where he lives and back in what is a reasonable and physically possible manner.

I know that other members from British Columbia will be dealing with matters particularly relevant to their areas. What I have tried to do in my remarks is outline the general objections and anomalies which will be created. I do not wish to detain the house any longer and will leave it, therefore, to