

*Electoral Boundaries***ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT**

OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSIONS' REPORTS RESPECTING NEW  
BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND MANITOBA

**On the Order: Orders of the Day:**

No. 1.

February 28, 1983—Consideration of an objection relating to the Province of New Brunswick.

No. 2.

February 28, 1983—Consideration of an objection relating to the Province of New Brunswick.

No. 3.

March 8, 1983—Consideration of an objection relating to the Province of Prince Edward Island.

No. 4.

March 9, 1983—Consideration of an objection relating to the Province of Manitoba.

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Concerning consideration of those four objections to the reports of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions, I had discussions earlier today with my counterparts in the Opposition Parties and I would like to confirm that we have agreed to the following, and I stand to be corrected if it is not exact. First, that the maximum of one hour today will be devoted to the consideration of those objections. Second, at the conclusion of that one hour of debate, if there are still some Members who would like to participate and who are not here today, we have agreed to resume that debate at a later date, which will be chosen, as usual, by Government and, as usual, after consultation with the Opposition Parties. Third, if we do not debate this matter for one hour because of a lack of speakers, the agreement we have made to resume debate at a later date will still apply.

● (1230)

I think that is the essence of the agreement, Mr. Speaker. We would not like to see the Speaker send a report to the Commissions before the debate on the objections is completed. We do not think it will be possible to complete that debate today, whether we give it one hour or less. We have therefore agreed that when the debate expires today it will be resumed at a later date.

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader has outlined the essence of the agreement between the House Leaders, which is that we will move from this motion on to Government orders at the end of one hour or a lesser time if we run out of speakers due to the fact that Members on all sides have other commitments. We would not want this to be a precedent. It is being done by agreement rather than by a formal motion.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Government House Leader for advising me of the agreement reached among House Leaders and the Acting House Leader for this Party. I take his word that that is what has been agreed to and it has been confirmed by the House Leader for the Official Opposition.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** The House has heard the proposal put forward by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard). Is it agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Agreed and so ordered.

\* \* \*

**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT**

OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSIONS' REPORTS RESPECTING NEW  
BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND MANITOBA

The House proceeded to the consideration of objections to Reports of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions for The Provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, as one of New Brunswick's Members of Parliament, I join my colleagues today to express objections to the Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for my Province.

Among the guidelines the Commissioners had to follow in New Brunswick was the maintenance of an average of 69,540 voters per constituency. I realize that this was a difficult mandate to fulfil and I feel the Commissioners have done the best job they could within that mandate. However, in the process, almost inevitably community interest has suffered for the sake of population requirements.

For example, the northern portions of the Parishes of Douglas, St. Mary's Stanley and Maugeville in my constituency would be moved to the renamed constituency of Miramichi, creating a hardship for both the residents and their Member of Parliament. Residents of Maugeville must travel southwest to Fredericton to reach Route 8, which will take them northeast to their representative's constituency office in Newcastle.

Even residents of Taxis River which is located near Route 8 and on the existing boundary between York-Sunbury and Northumberland-Miramichi, have only about 80 kilometres to travel to my constituency office in Fredericton, but twice that distance to Newcastle. I consider that a disservice has been done to these citizens to effect a modest shift in population between the two constituencies.

I also feel that the community of interest provision was violated in the proposal to shift Southampton Parish to Carleton-Charlotte. While it is located, geographically, at an equal distance from the hubs of both constituencies, communities in Southampton have had longstanding social and economic ties with the Fredericton area.

A particularly striking example in New Brunswick of the population imperative taking precedence over both geographic and community considerations, is the proposed shift of Salisbury parish, from Moncton to Westmoreland-Kent. This idea completely ignores the parish's obvious ties to the City of Moncton, and its geographic link to Fundy-Royal.