

Redistribution

Qu'Appelle have been compiled very carefully from the official population statistics in the last federal census and by reference to the boundaries of all the municipalities. Now that these figures have been compiled, I suggest to the commission that they should consider them carefully and give serious consideration to the boundaries contained in the map filed here today.

My objection also referred to coverage by news media. I have in my hand a map showing the area served by one of the stations that covers Moose Jaw. It goes nowhere near completely covering the area included in the proposed riding of Moose Jaw. The station in Swift Current will cover part of the area and the station in Saskatoon will cover part of it. Therefore there will be three widely-reported news media covering this very large area each with different community interests.

The suggestions I have put forward and those of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, who had the help of the other members from Saskatchewan in compiling this objection, should be very, very carefully considered. The commission has a precedent for making changes. I should like to read just one comment contained in a Canadian Press story printed in the *Moose Jaw Times-Herald* of January 20, 1966. This paragraph says:

Prime Minister Pearson's Ontario riding of Algoma East, altered severely in the preliminary map, was almost restored to its present shape.

Therefore, as I say, there is certainly a precedent for the commission to consider very carefully what we have suggested and I hope they will make changes such as this Canadian Press story indicates were made for the constituency that is to be called Algoma. That is all I wish to say, Mr. Speaker. I thought a member should rise and comment upon how the proposal of the Electoral Boundaries Commission affects him. I say again that this is not a matter of self-interest but of trying to arrange a constituency that a member of this house can adequately represent.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. K. H. More (Regina City): I should like to make some brief remarks at this time with regard to the objections of the electoral boundaries in Saskatchewan as drawn by the commission. I think it goes without saying that their task in Saskatchewan was difficult because we were losing four seats. The efforts that were made prior to the commission being given its task to have our loss of four

seats lessened fell flat. There was no co-operation from the government here. A plea to the legislature of Saskatchewan to support our efforts was rejected. In fact, the Premier of that province, in response to an argument I had made, said that I was just trying to shift my responsibility to their shoulders; I could look after it myself.

This is not what happened in 1952, when Saskatchewan was slated to suffer a severe loss of seats. At that time the legislature was controlled by the old C.C.F. party. This government introduced a bill into the legislature, which carried unanimously and was referred to the authorities in Ottawa. The then prime minister recognized the plea, and Saskatchewan's loss at that time was minimized. This is in comparison with the actions of the present Liberal government in Saskatchewan, and this government here.

We recognize that the commission had no alternative but to deal with the Saskatchewan problem on the basis of giving Saskatchewan 13 seats. I have listened to the remarks of my colleagues and, in general, I feel the arguments they have put forward are worthy of support. It does appear that the commission has used mathematical calculations almost completely in their consideration, and that they have ignored lines of communication and community of interest. Community of interest is very important to people who are going to be represented by a member, especially where there are diverse interests in a constituency such as urban-rural interests. Urbanization is growing apace, and the voice of the largely increasing urban areas must be heard, and must be heard emphatically in parliament.

My purpose in rising at this time is to make a plea that the commission give consideration to the presentations that have been made here today, pointing out the failure of the commission to recognize natural boundaries, community of interest and so forth. In giving this consideration, the commissioners should bear in mind that the voice of the urban areas, our two large cities of Regina and Saskatoon, must not be diminished. This has happened in the past. The boundaries were set on the basis of gerrymandering and for political purposes. The result was that a large number of people in the growing and developing urban areas, whose whole interest was in the city, who paid their taxes there, who were subject to police and fire protection of that area and the school system of the