

perhaps succeeded in some instances—but it must have political guidance, in the scientific sense of the word, to recognize the necessity of political representation.

What is equality in terms of representation? Is it an opportunity to see your member of parliament in a city or riding five minutes walk away from you? Does this compare with the necessity of a 200-mile drive? What is equality? Is it an opportunity to walk into the unemployment insurance office a few blocks away from home, or is it when you find that your constituents and yourself live more than 200 miles away from the nearest branch of the unemployment insurance office?

What is equality? Is it the lack of a Manpower training centre, a Manpower office within 100 miles of your home, versus the opportunity just around the corner or at most a few blocks away? We have heard a great plea for equality of representation. I submit that this plea is without knowledge of what is equal representation. I am sure some members from rural ridings have not been in all the communities of their constituency since the last election, and will have no opportunity to get to them before the next election. I submit that this is not equality when compared with the opportunity of the member representing a city community who is a matter of blocks away from his entire constituent body.

What is equality? The legislation may have brought about what is considered to be an inequity on a temporary basis. But that, of course, is what confederation is; it is what democracy is. It must be the aim of this House to seek out, and to try to find in whatever time may be necessary—either the time of limitation as imposed by this amendment, the time proposed by the bill, or whatever period of time it takes legislators to come up with a fair formula in the form of legislation—the most equitable representation that rural and urban Canada can possibly obtain.

That is equality, and that must be the objective of the House. It must be my responsibility to compromise, perhaps, some of my rural attitude. At the same time, it must be the responsibility of the city-oriented member of the House to compromise part of his city attitude and recognize that the inequities of this redistribution do not all lie in the city, do not all lie in British Columbia and do not all lie in New Brunswick: they lie all over Canada in a rather equitably distributed fashion, with complaints coming from coast to coast. From Newfoundland it is one complaint, and from British Columbia it is another. When legislation generates a situation which brings about complaints on a coast to coast basis in this country, it is high time we took the time to amend the act and to bring about a situation in which there may be some political reality, in the scientific sense of the word, for the government of Canada and the election of the members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for York East (Mr. Arrol) who is the next hon. member to have the floor. I believe the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) is seeking the permission of the House to ask a question of the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain), if he wishes to accept the question.

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Suspension

Mr. Corbin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask my colleague, the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain)—I must say, first, that I support entirely many of the things he said in his speech—whether he supports the amendment of the hon. member for Peel South (Mr. Blenkarn). This did not come through in his remarks.

Mr. McCain: That is a good and fair question. I did not state my position in that respect. I said that regardless of the time required for an equitable settlement of the dispute from coast to coast—and the time is important—the equality of distribution and proper selection is more important.

Mr. Ian Arrol (York East): Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Peel South (Mr. Blenkarn) that the electoral boundaries readjustment suspension be extended only to July 1, 1974, rather than, as proposed in Bill C-208, to January 1, 1975. I should like to remind the House of a rather profound statement of recent times, namely, Parkinson's law. Mr. Parkinson states that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.

● (1530)

There should be no delay beyond that which is absolutely necessary to bring boundary readjustments into effect. We must act as soon as possible to bring justice to those citizens of Canada now denied the full value of their vote. I refer, for example, to those from Newfoundland who are now residents of Toronto or Vancouver. I refer to those from the Maritimes, from Quebec, from the Prairies and from northern Ontario who are now residents of urban centers. Because they exercised their choice to move where they would in Canada, are they to be denied a full vote? Are they less a Canadian, less entitled to have adequate representation? An independent commission has said yes, they should be entitled to a full vote. Parliament seems to be saying, in a majority, by its delaying tactics, no.

It would appear that parliament, by ignoring the needs of the cities, is ignoring the needs of 80 per cent of the population. A number of members from rural areas have indicated that the needs of those in the rural areas are more in want of attention than the needs of those in the cities. As a general comment, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the prosperity of all areas in Canada is directly proportional to the prosperity of the urban areas. Unless the cities of Canada, the industrial centres, perform their role of activating the economy through utilizing their resources, we are all poor.

More specifically, in reference to the individual it is unthinking, if not cruel, to state that the city dweller does not need as much service from his member of parliament as the rural dweller. The city dweller, for the most part, is somebody who recently lived in the country. He has left his roots; he has left his family; he has left his relatives. He is alone in the midst of an uncaring throng, be he from Europe, Asia, the West Indies or the Maritimes. There has been talk about, and attention paid to alienation of Quebec and alienation of the west. By our action let us not incite alienation of the cities. We ignore the cities at our peril.