

*Electoral Boundaries Commission***CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS****REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT IN POSITION OF
RETIRED EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I wonder whether he is yet in a position to implement the promise he has made to me on two occasions, first on February 27 and again on March 20, to make a report to the house on the possibility of improving the pensions of Canadian National employees already retired.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman, who is usually very accurate, has somewhat abbreviated what I said. I said I would make inquiries of the railway about the matter. I am going to see the president of the C.N.R. this week and I will raise the question with him at that time.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the minister's accurate memory, does he not recall that on March 20, when he last made that promise, he said he would report on the matter at an early date?

Mr. Pickersgill: I will report on it at an early date.

REDISTRIBUTION**PROVISION FOR BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS AND
READJUSTMENT OF REPRESENTATION**

The house resumed from Tuesday, April 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pickersgill (for the Prime Minister) for the second reading of Bill No. C-72, to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): I should like to deal with one aspect of the question of redistribution, Mr. Speaker, which has not been mentioned too frequently in the house. I am not going to deal with the question of rural versus urban ridings, but I should like to deal with the disparities which exist between various urban ridings. I am referring particularly to the difference in population which exists between the old city ridings and the new suburban ridings, the places where the greatest growth in the country has taken place. This condition applies right across the country whether you pick Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton or

Vancouver. You find a number of ridings which have existed for a period of time within a city and you find the suburban ridings which have had a marked increase in population in recent years.

One of the members taking part in this debate earlier said you could tell the constituency from which a member came, by what he said on the redistribution bill. I shall not pretend to be any different from the rest in that connection. I represent a riding in which there has been a 100 per cent population growth since the last redistribution. I should like to deal particularly with the distribution of parliamentary seats in the lower mainland area of British Columbia, that is the area around Vancouver, bearing in mind that the same sort of situation exists in other major centres of the country. It exists in Ottawa, for example. The ridings of Carleton and Russell have grown a great deal, while some of the older city seats have not grown to the same extent.

In the lower mainland of British Columbia, that is the greater metropolitan area of Vancouver, there are 11 representatives in this house, six of whom come from the city of Vancouver and five from what I will call the suburban ridings. Each member from Vancouver represents, on an average, 64,500 persons, if I have done my calculating correctly. Each member from a suburban riding represents an average of 107,000 persons. If you make the same sort of calculation for the city of Toronto and the areas surrounding it, you will find the same disparity. I have looked at the population figures for suburban ridings and I find that in almost every case between 1951 and the present time they have grown by over 100 per cent.

These are the areas, Mr. Speaker, which are continuing to grow, so that the longer redistribution is postponed the more out of date will be the figures we arrived at a number of years ago. These ridings which have grown 100 per cent in population in the last ten years will continue to grow, and in perhaps two or three years time the population will be 150 per cent of what it was at the time the last redistribution took place. I believe it was the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Francis) who, earlier in this debate, said perhaps there should be a growth factor taken into account in determining the allocation of members within a province and around the major metropolitan centres. I do not know whether or not this is possible, but I think in order to be fair to these places something of that sort should be considered by the commissioners when they begin their work.

If the bill passes in its present form, I understand the province of British Columbia