Representation Act

It has been said also that consideration of that bill could be postponed until redistribution has been completed because the limits of some ridings will change.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it clear that the limits of the riding of Lapointe will not change because our region is rather remote, a national park a hundred miles long cuts through it and there is not a house, post office or resident near it. Therefore, nothing will be added to it.

In the area itself, the four constituencies are extremely well divided, proportionately, according to new standards adopted in the legislation concerning redistribution.

No changes are expected in our area.

Mr. Speaker, before ending my remarks, I would like to say that if the house welcomes this change of name, it will be an all-party agreement. One group will not be allowed to take credit for it more than another because it is a matter where there is no room for politics. I am not asking this change for a personal advantage but for that of my constituents.

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member allow me a question?

Mr. Grégoire: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dupuis: Could the hon. member tell the house whether the constituency of Lapointe also includes the municipalities of Arvida and Kénogami? If so, does he not think that he should include the names of Kénogami and Arvida and change the present designation of his constituency to that of Kénogami-Jonquière-Arvida?

Does he not feel that, should changes be made a few months from now, following the redistribution-and time only will tell-should the municipalities of Arvida and Kénogami be removed from the riding of Lapointe, it would be wiser to wait until the establishment of the new redistribution since everything could then be settled in a more useful and permanent way?

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister without Portfolio has asked that question, and I wish to tell him that I have had representations from the Jonquière, Kénogami and Arvida chambers of commerce, as well as from social clubs in Kénogami and Arvida. All these organizations reof the electoral district be changed to Jonquière only, and not to Jonquière-Kénogami-Arvida.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Representatives from the various service clubs in the towns of Arvida and Kénogami made representations with a view to changing the name of the electoral district to Jonquière, and that opinion was unanimous throughout the district.

The representatives of owners' leagues in Jonguière and Arvida also requested that it be named only Jonquière, and not Jonquière-Kénogami-Arvida.

Moreover, it is not always advantageous to represent a riding with a compound or long name like St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville. In fact, I remember hearing the Minister without Portfolio say that the name of his constituency is rather long. I can even recall that two years ago he said that St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville was a rather long name for an electoral district, and I think he was right at the time.

Mr. Speaker, since the representatives of the four parties of the riding of Lapointe as well as the Liberal member for Jonguière at the legislative assembly unanimously agree that the constituency of Lapointe should bear the name of Jonguière. I feel that we should pass this bill. It would then be a move made by the four political parties, not only by one. We would thus meet the wishes of my constituents, in general those who live in the riding of Lapointe, and I would be happy if the promise made officially by the Liberal candidate, in 1962, in the presence of the present Prime Minister, were kept. All the voters in the riding of Lapointe would then be satisfied.

[Text]

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member permit a question? He is probably aware that in English we sometimes say that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. I am sure there is a comparable expression in French. I am wondering whether we would feel the same about the hon. member, whom we have got to know and love as the member for Lapointe, if his name were changed. Would he smell the same with a different name?

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) may rest assured that, within a month, he will quested, almost unanimously, that the name have heard the name of the constituency Jonquière often enough so that this name will become as favourably known as it was in the past.