

*Electoral Boundaries*

development movements, to work jointly in order to help one another. And we should, beyond nonrepresentative arbitrary electoral boundaries, not develop a feeling of alienation that would destroy the energies, the dynamism of our people but contribute to the well-being of our fellow citizens.

And I would suggest to the hon. commissioners, should they come to this conclusion, that for a proper identification and to remove any chance of confusing provincial counties and federal constituencies, they should add the name Rivière-du-Loup while retaining the historical name of the constituency of Kamouraska, which will then form the constituency of Rivière-du-Loup-Kamouraska. I am sure that my hon. colleague will endorse this project.

● (2200)

**Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to take part in this debate on the new electoral boundaries of federal ridings.

Mr. Speaker, I deplore the fact that because of bad communications in eastern Quebec, the people have been unable to really take part in this debate. Very few are aware of this federal act that requires that every ten years judges are put to work on redistribution and draw up new boundaries. I would even go as far as to say that even municipal authorities were not aware of this.

Having said this, I should like to congratulate the commissioners on their final draft tabled a month ago, which is a great improvement over the first rough draft dating back to three years as well as over the one tabled last June.

I should now like to make a few remarks. First of all, a part of the Matapedia Valley which is now in Matane riding, namely Causapsal and the neighbouring areas, would become part of Bonaventure. In this connection, Mr. Speaker, I should like to read a telegram sent to me by the following organizations; the town of Causapsal, the Administrative Committee of the County Council of Matapédia, Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur parish of Causapsal, Saint-Raphaël parish of Albertville, the municipality of Saint-Edmond, the municipality of Sainte-Florence, the municipality of Sainte-Marguerite, the Junior Chamber of Causapsal and the Chamber of Commerce of Causapsal. The telegram reads as follows:

This is to inform you of our opinion concerning the electoral boundaries readjustment for the ridings of Matane and Bonaventure. Our representations are belated because the diffusion of information is very bad in our area; thus the very large majority of the citizens involved have not been made aware of the state of the question.

Whereas the Matapédia valley constitutes a very characteristic human and geographical entity altogether different from the entity constituted by the riding of Bonaventure;

Whereas the citizens of the following localities: the town of Causapsal, the municipalities of Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur-de-Causapsal, Saint-Raphaël-d'Albertville, Saint-Edmond, Sainte-Florence and Sainte-Marguerite usually do business in the upper part of the riding in the towns of Matane and Rimouski and that they have almost no business relations with the present riding of Bonaventure;

Whereas there are uninhabited areas exceeding twenty-five (25) miles between the present riding of Matane and that of Bonaventure, which does little to encourage communications;

Whereas our area, the Matapedia Valley, is still one of the worst, economically speaking, in Canada, and that once again it would be at a disadvantage if it had to deal with more MPs;

[Mr. Gendron.]

Whereas in rural areas, it is extremely rare if not unique that a village should have been separated from its parish (Lac-au-Saumon and Saint-Edmond), that is to say the village is in the riding of Matane and the parish in that of Bonaventure;

Whereas our area has already lost its riding, that of Matapedia, and whereas it should not be used to "plug holes" since at the time of the last redistribution, the upper part of the valley was used to complete the riding of Rimouski while this time, that part is returned to the riding of Matane and the lower valley is used to complete the riding of Bonaventure.

For those reasons, we advise you that we are in complete disagreement with the current proposal of the Electoral Boundaries Commission and request that you intervene on our behalf to change the situation with a view to assuring that Matapedia remains within the riding of Matane.

I read, at the start, the name of the municipalities that sent me this telegram.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I agree whole-heartedly with them, and I support as strongly as I can the representations of the Matapedia Valley. I could of course add to their argument the fact that the people is the lower mainland deal far more with the upper part of the riding than with that of Bonaventure.

Causapsal and the first town in Bonaventure riding, Carleton, are 80 miles apart. That is far and services are non-existent. When people come down in the valley, they go to Campbellton in New Brunswick. It is unfortunate but, on the other hand, Causapsal and Matane are only 50 miles apart.

As for the other end of my constituency that is to be cut away, that is the area of Cap-Chat, Mr. Speaker, since the commission stated itself its intention to group in the same electoral constituency people with the same affinities, similar needs and a community of interest, I cannot understand why Cap-Chat is taken out again of the constituency of Matane to be included in the constituency of Gaspé.

I remind you that the children of Les Méchins attend high school in Cap-Chat, that people in Les Méchins, for instance, do as much business with Cap-Chat as with Matane, that Cap-Chat serves a good part of the constituents of Matane and is a most important centre.

As far as I am concerned, and the same holds true in respect of the people of Cap-Chat, I would be very unhappy to see this town leave the constituency of Matane to be become part of the constituency of Gaspé. Mr. Speaker, I do hope that the commissioners will reconsider their decisions and that they will ensure that Cap-Chat will remain in the riding of Matane. It will be recalled no doubt that Cap-Chat was in the Gaspé riding for a few years and I think it is unfortunate to move a municipality from one constituency to another every ten years. This does not make for a feeling of belonging.

Once again, I ask the commissioners to review that part of their report. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, having gone through the commissioners' very carefully and having looked in the Quebec Revised Statutes, and in particular chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes of 1964, since the report refers to this Quebec legislation, I must say that the description of the constituency of Matane is rather obscure. For instance, it is not quite clear, according to the commissioners' description, that the parishes of Saint-René, Saint-Jean-Vianney, Sainte-Paule and Saint-Nil are included in the federal constituency of Matane. All the