

Commissions to report upon and to provide for the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons in accordance with the findings of the 1961 Census of population was given Royal Assent on Nov. 20, 1964.

Pursuant to Sect. 11 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, the Dominion Statistician sent to the Representation Commissioner a certified return showing the population of Canada and of each of the provinces and the population of Canada by electoral districts as ascertained by the 1961 Census. The Representation Commissioner calculated the number of members of the House of Commons to be assigned to each of the provinces subject and according to the provisions of Sect. 51 of the British North America Act, 1867, and the rules provided therein. He then caused a statement to be published in the *Canada Gazette* of Nov. 28, 1964, setting forth the following results:—

“Eighty-eight members of the House of Commons shall be elected for the Province of Ontario, seventy-four for the Province of Quebec, eleven for the Province of Nova Scotia, ten for the Province of New Brunswick, thirteen for the Province of Manitoba, twenty-three for the Province of British Columbia, four for the Province of Prince Edward Island, thirteen for the Province of Saskatchewan, nineteen for the Province of Alberta and seven for the Province of Newfoundland.”

The Governor General, by proclamation published in the *Canada Gazette*, established an Electoral Boundaries Commission for each province. It was the task of each Commission to prepare, with all reasonable dispatch, a report setting forth its recommendations concerning the division of its particular province into electoral districts and the recommendations concerning the description of the boundaries of each such district and the representation and name to be given thereto. A copy of the 1961 Census return was sent to the chairman of each Commission immediately after its members were appointed.

Pursuant to Sect. 8 of the Representation Commissioner Act, maps were prepared in the office of the Representation Commissioner showing the distribution of population in each province and setting out alternative proposals respecting the boundaries of electoral districts in each province; these maps were then supplied to the respective Commissions. The Commissions complied with the procedure of the Electoral Boundaries Act and completed their reports within the time prescribed, which was one year. Two certified copies of each report were received by the Representation Commissioner; as required by Sect. 19(1) of that Act, one of these copies was transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who in turn laid it before the House of Commons.

Then followed a period of thirty days in which objections in writing, signed by no fewer than ten members of the House of Commons, were filed with the Speaker specifying the provisions of the report objected to and the reasons for the objection. A further period of 15 days was set aside in which the House of Commons was to consider the matter of the objections: this period was increased to 45 sitting days by an Act, assented to on Feb. 23, 1966, entitled “An Act to extend the time for consideration of objections pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act with respect to the reports of commissions established for the decennial census taken in the year 1961”

Several objections were filed with the Speaker, the motions were taken up and considered and the reports referred back to the Representation Commissioner by the Speaker and then to the Commissions. On the expiration of a 30-day period for that purpose, the Commissions returned their reports with or without amendment, through the Representation Commissioner to the Speaker. Then a draft representation order was prepared by the Representation Commissioner to be transmitted to the Secretary of State. This order specified the number of members of the House of Commons who shall be elected for each of the provinces as calculated by the Representation Commissioner and, dividing each of the provinces into electoral districts, described the boundaries of each such district and specified the representation and name given thereto, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports. The Governor in Council, by proclamation of June 16, 1966, declared the draft representation order to be in force, effective upon the dissolution of the then-existing Parliament.