

9:13 a.m.

[Chairman: Mr. Bogle]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll officially declare open the first meeting of the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries 1992 and welcome the members present.

The membership of the committee is made up of Mrs. Pat Black, the Member for Calgary-Foothills; Mr. Stockwell Day, the Member for Red Deer-North; Mr. Mike Cardinal, the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche; and myself, Bob Bogle, the Member for Taber-Warner. The record should also note that the two opposition parties, both the Official Opposition and the Liberal Party, have declined to name their respective members to the committee. Therefore, according to Motion 24, the committee will be composed of the four members previously mentioned. Anything else on makeup of the committee before we move on to item 2?

All right. Item 2 is Review Dates for Meetings. Do we have a list?

MR. PRITCHARD: We've got a handout here with tentative dates. This is clear if you want to just read it. It sets out the time frame right through till November 15. Do you want me to read the memo?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think so. Yes, please.

MR. PRITCHARD: The memo is from Bob Bogle, chairman, to Stockwell Day, Pat Black, and Mike Cardinal.

Re: Tentative Dates for Meetings of the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries

I suggest the following dates be blocked off in your respective calendars in order that we can complete our assignment by November 15, 1992. This schedule will be discussed in more detail at our meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 1992; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The August meetings will focus on inviting input from the members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, the presidents of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Alberta Municipal Districts and Counties, the Improvement District Association of Alberta and the Mayors of Calgary and Edmonton.

The dates that we have tentatively set aside are:

Monday, August 17, p.m.

Tuesday, August 18, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, August 20, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, August 21, a.m.

Tuesday, August 25, p.m.

Thursday, August 27, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, August 28, a.m.

Monday, August 31, p.m.

The September and early October meetings will focus on drawing boundary lines.

Those dates are:

Tuesday, September 1, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, September 3, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, September 4, a.m.

Tuesday, September 8, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, September 10, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, September 11, a.m.

Monday, September 14, a.m.

Tuesday, September 15, a.m. and p.m.

Monday, September 28, a.m.

Tuesday, September 29, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, October 1, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, October 2, a.m.

Monday, October 5, a.m.

Tuesday, October 6, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, October 8, a.m. and p.m.

Friday, October 9, a.m.

The balance of the meetings will involve text work, proofing finished maps, reviewing calculation checks, and finalizing the report. Those dates will be:

Tuesday, October 13, a.m. and p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, a.m. and p.m.

Thursday, October 29, a.m. and p.m.

Monday, November 9, a.m.

We may need to adjust this schedule as work progresses but this will give us a framework for the present.

Signed, Bob Bogle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to emphasize that last comment, that there may be some adjustments in the schedule. This is a tentative schedule at this point in time. We're aware that Stockwell has some holidays in late August that go into early September; also the availability of people who are coming in, particularly in our August time frame. So there will be some flexibility, but generally speaking, what we were trying to work around was beginning the meetings on Monday afternoons so that members have time to come in on the Monday and shut down by noon on the Friday, again so people can get home to their constituencies and, generally speaking, leaving Wednesdays clear. That's your cabinet day, Stock, and it's also a day we can use for other office work.

We want to have some meetings in Calgary, and we're talking about how we can co-ordinate some of the August meetings in Calgary and also possibly some in September. So there's a great deal of flexibility in this. It's just that if we block the time out in our calendars now so that we don't lose the time to other things, we'll try to exercise flexibility but also have some schedule to go on.

MR. DAY: That number 3 is no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion on the proposed tentative dates?

MRS. BLACK: Just one. Is there any possibility of moving the Friday a.m. meeting to a Wednesday, to either the p.m. or even going into the evening Tuesday to allow us to have a day back in our own ridings?

MR. CHAIRMAN: A full day?

MRS. BLACK: Yes. That's very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, there were two thoughts in mind, Pat. One was that, first of all, Stockwell has cabinet on Wednesdays.

MRS. BLACK: Is that all day?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe it is.

The other factor is that if we leave our Tuesday evenings clear, you may wish to go home to Calgary on Tuesday evening and then not come back until early Thursday morning, which then gives you the Wednesday in Calgary. If you'd like to move those meetings on the Thursday back a wee bit and then run quite late on Thursday afternoon, that's something we could look at; say, starting at Thursday at 10 o'clock. Would that be helpful?

MRS. BLACK: Why would we start so late?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was just thinking if you're coming up on the airbus.

MRS. BLACK: Oh, that's no problem. I can be here by 8 o'clock if need be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, then we'd start at 9. I think that would be normal commencement time. Okay?

MRS. BLACK: That's no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Once Bob has had a chance to work with former commission members, the mayor of Calgary, and others about time in Calgary in August, we'll try to fit some dates around Calgary.

MR. PRITCHARD: At least get a couple of the meetings down in Calgary.

There seems to be a lot of dates on there, but I should mention that the commission used 60 working days to get to their interim report, and they had 12 public hearings. We're not having public hearings, but following them, they spent 27 working days to get to their final report. So there are a lot of days required because there's a lot of work involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is, as we all know, a very compressed time line.

Any other comments, questions? Mike.

MR. CARDINAL: No problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's move on, then, to item 3.

MR. PRITCHARD: Number 3 was just some general items that I wanted to go over so everybody was clear on them, and notices of meetings will be posted on the third floor of the Leg. Building before each meeting.

A select special committee requires a quorum of one-third of the membership in order to proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In essence, we need an absolute minimum of two members. Ideally, all four will be present at all meetings, but in some cases we may proceed with three. I'm very reluctant to be moving with two even though we legally can.

MRS. BLACK: I agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The one thing I was remiss in mentioning in the September dates is that we would try to split that time up so that we're focusing on the single-municipality constituencies in part of the time and the multimunicipality constituencies in another part. There may be some flexibility in that sense, if we focus on Calgary and Edmonton and, to a lesser degree, Lethbridge and the other single-municipality constituencies in one block of time and then focus on the multi ridings in another area.

9:23

MR. PRITCHARD: On the issue of the chairman voting, the chairman would only vote in the case of a tie.

The committee may choose to be in camera for segments of the meetings or a large portion of the meetings, depending on the work that they're doing. To go in camera, the meetings have to start off in public, then a motion has to be made to go in camera, and once coming out of being in camera, another motion is required to come back into a public meeting. No decisions can be made in camera. Decisions have to be made in the public forum.

Members' Allowance. I'll be completing those forms at the end of each month for members to sign and submit for payment.

I'll be keeping track of a set of minutes. That's a requirement for the select special committee in addition to *Hansard*. The minutes will not be made public until following the report.

I should mention, to go back to the first item, that I didn't have a chance to read in the letters that we wrote to the opposition. Would you like me to do that now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MRS. BLACK: Yes, please.

MR. PRITCHARD: On behalf of the chairman I wrote to Ray Martin, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Laurence Decore, leader of the Liberal opposition. This is the letter that I wrote:

Re: Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries

Bob Bogle, MLA Taber-Warner, requested that I write to you regarding the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries which was established by the passage of Motion 24 on July 2, 1992.

Sections (1) and (2) of the Motion read:

- (1) "A Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries be established consisting of 7 members of the Assembly, 4 members appointed by the Government caucus, one of which shall be the chairman and another shall be vice-chairman, 2 members appointed by the caucus of the Official Opposition, and 1 member appointed by the caucus of the Liberal Opposition.
- (2) If either Opposition caucus does not appoint its members to the Select Special Committee before its first meeting, such members may be appointed by the other Opposition caucus."

This letter is to advise that Bob Bogle has been appointed by government caucus as Chairman, with Stockwell Day, MLA Red Deer-North as Vice-Chairman, and Pat Black, MLA Calgary-Foothills, and Mike Cardinal, MLA Athabasca-Lac La Biche, as Members.

In order to provide the Official Opposition and the Liberal Opposition time to appoint their members, in accordance with sections (1) and (2), the initial meeting of the committee has been delayed to Wednesday, July 29, 1992, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 1001 Legislature Annex. Failure to appoint members prior to the first meeting precludes appointments at a later date.

Hon. Dennis Anderson, when presenting Motion 24 on July 2, 1992, extended a welcome to opposition members appointed to the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries. Bob Bogle endorses this welcome and looks forward to your response.

Copies of the letter went to the Premier, the Speaker, the Hon. Dennis Anderson, Laurence Decore, Bob Bogle, Stockwell Day, Pat Black, and Mike Cardinal. I should mention that an original letter went to both Ray Martin and Laurence Decore.

There was no response received from the Leader of the Official Opposition. I did receive a response from Michael Henry, chief of staff of the Liberal opposition, on July 23, who wrote, in essence, to respond that they would not be participating.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else on item 3?

We'll move on, then, to item 4, *Hansard* Embargo.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay. Thank you, Bob. I'd like to make a motion

to put an embargo on *Hansard* until the final report of the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries 1992 is completed, except that one copy be made available to the Electoral Boundaries administration for use of the committee members only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion on the motion? Ready for the question?

MRS. BLACK: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is called. All in favour? Carried unanimously. Thank you.

Moving on, then, to item 5, Study and Review Time. I might just ask Bob to make a comment on this first, and then we can proceed with the discussion.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, the Electoral Boundaries Commission found that they had masses of material to look through, which you also have in front of you. You have green folders full of the submissions prior to the interim report. You've got two black binders that are full of material following the interim report and prior to the final report. You've got the *Hansards* from the public hearings of the commission, the reports of the commission, plus the *Hansards* from the select special committee of 1989-90. So you have a mass of material that you're going to have to review and study to get a feel of what Albertans are saying about the boundaries. To that end, the commission was faced with the same problem and the same volumes, so they asked for and received study time, which allowed them the opportunity to not have to get together to meet but to study at their convenience and in their own location of choice the masses of material that they had to work with.

We considered the same thing for this committee because they're faced with the same challenge and also very tight time lines to actually do the work. It's a shame to spend meeting time during the week that perhaps is better spent doing the actual mechanics of drawing the boundaries. This study work should be done at the members' convenience, in their homes or offices or other places that they so choose.

An opinion was asked from the Clerk, who also got an opinion from Frank Work, regarding study time. It was decided that if a motion was made, an arrangement was possible – we'll have to work some of the details out – in order that the committee members could in fact study at locations of their choice and not have to go to the expense of coming to Edmonton and all sitting around in one room reading material.

In essence, to do this a motion is required by the committee to ask to set aside time to study the material that you have in front of you.

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MRS. BLACK: Thank you, Bob, for the explanation of the mound of binders and documents in front of us.

In keeping with that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries members require the opportunity to read and study the substantial documents of research data, written submissions, and presentations to the Electoral Boundaries Commission 1991-92 and the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries 1989-90. To this end, it is moved that up to 80 hours be designated between July 30 and September 1, 1992, as reading and studying meeting days. Suggested days are Saturday, August 1; Sunday, August 2; Saturday, August 8; Sunday, August 9; Saturday, August 15; Sunday, August 16; Saturday, August 22; Sunday, August 23; Saturday, August 29; Sunday, August 30. It's further moved that the senior administrator will record dates and hours to be claimed. These meeting days will be in camera, and to conserve costs, the places of attendance to this work will be at the discretion of the individual members. Details are to be arranged by the senior administrator.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion on the motion? Ready for the question?

MR. DAY: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question's been called. All in favour? Opposed? Carried unanimously.

Item 7, Outline of General Commission Work Plan.

MR. PRITCHARD: I think you missed item 6, review of the mandate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry; I did. Robert, let's go back to item 6.

MR. PRITCHARD: I'll just hand out a copy of the actual motion that was read.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you'd like to read this into the record please, Bob.

9:33

MR. PRITCHARD: Government Motion 24, moved by the hon. Mr. Anderson.

Be it resolved that

- (1) a Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries be established consisting of seven members of the Assembly, four members appointed by the government caucus, one of which shall be the chairman and another shall be vice-chairman, two members appointed by the caucus of the Official Opposition, and one member appointed by the caucus of the Liberal opposition.
- (2) If either opposition caucus does not appoint its members to the select special committee before its first meeting, such members may be appointed by the other opposition caucus.
- (3) The select special committee is charged with making recommendations to the Assembly for the establishment of new electoral boundaries in the province, taking into consideration
 - (a) the May 1992 final report, including the individual reports of each member of the Electoral Boundaries Commission,
 - (b) any legislation, legal decisions, and historic and current practices of Alberta or other Canadian jurisdictions relating to the distribution of constituencies and their boundaries, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms,
 - (c) any geographic, demographic, community interests, and other factors that should be considered in the distribution of constituencies and the determination of their boundaries using 1991 census data,
 - (d) the impact of the determination of constituency boundaries on the ability of Members of the Legislative Assembly to fully discharge their duties to their constituents, and
 - (e) any information or evidence obtained within the province relevant to any other factors that the select special committee reasonably considers essential to the discharge of its duties.
- (4) The select special committee may make long-term recommendations with respect to the process of determining electoral boundaries, including the establishment of commissions, committees, or other bodies and the mandates of those commissions, committees, or other bodies.
- (5) Reasonable disbursements by the select special committee for staff assistance, equipment and supplies, public information needs, rent, travel, and other expenditures

necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the chairman.

- (6) In carrying out its responsibilities, the select special committee may, with the approval of the Speaker of the Assembly, utilize staff employed by the Legislative Assembly.
- (7) The chairman and members of the select special committee shall be paid in accordance with the schedule of category A committees provided in Members' Services Committee Order 10/89.
- (8) The select special committee shall report by November 15, 1992, to the Assembly if it is then sitting, or if the Assembly is not then sitting, shall deposit a copy of its report with the Clerk of the Assembly and forward a copy of its report to each member.

That's the conclusion of the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. When we went over item 1, the makeup of the committee, I indicated the four members who do sit on the committee. It might be appropriate at this time, Bob, if we read into the record the letter from the Premier, the leader of the government caucus, relative to the committee membership.

MR. PRITCHARD: Certainly. From the Premier of Alberta, dated July 9, 1992, to the Hon. David J. Carter, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Alberta, 325 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Carter:

Pursuant to Motion 24, passed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on July 2, 1992, please be advised per Section (1) of Motion 24, that the Government caucus appoints to the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries, the following individuals.

Chairman:	Mr. Bob Bogle Taber Warner
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Stockwell Day Red Deer North
Member:	Mrs. Pat Black Calgary Foothills
Member:	Mr. Mike Cardinal Athabasca-Lac La Biche

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Don R. Getty

MR. CHAIRMAN: I might mention at this time – Stock, I think you were out taking a phone call when Bob read into the record his letter to both the Leader of the Official Opposition and the leader of the Liberal Party – that we made a decision to delay our first meeting until today to give the opposition parties an opportunity to reflect and hopefully to come back and appoint their members to the committee so that we could proceed, and they obviously chose not to do that.

Anything further on item 6?

MR. DAY: I'd like to comment that when we look at reviewing the mandate, under point 3, where it talks about the different things that can be taken into consideration, point (e) talks about "any information or evidence obtained within the province relevant to any . . . factors." What unfortunately gets left out and I think should really be a matter of public record – it gets glossed over, with some of the opposition playing to the media on the whole area of our mandate – is that everything is going to be done by this particular committee, all of the work. As I understand it, the final report is going to be subject to the Alberta Court of Appeal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's correct.

MR. DAY: So charges of anything being done in any way that is at all untoward are totally unfounded. We will also be guided by Supreme Court rulings in areas affecting electoral boundaries, and there were significant rulings and statements made, and also the B.C. Dixon case, of course, which was the Supreme Court ruling in British Columbia and set a number of precedents there.

Everything that we do is recorded in *Hansard*, so it is public. We'll be drawing also from the five minority reports which comprise the final report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. Though they couldn't agree in terms of a majority report, we have a number of very key guiding factors by five well-looked-upon individuals, at least by the people who appointed them. We'll be able to draw from all five reports; we'll be guided by that. We're going to be meeting with public officials, including mayors, and a number of representatives from a wide range of groups across the province, including all 83 MLAs. Everything that we do is subject to the Legislative Assembly, so I can't think of a process that I've personally been involved in in the last six years that has been more painstakingly open to the public and more subject to guiding factors all the way up to the Supreme Court than this particular process. It's regrettable that, for reasons I can only presume to be political grandstanding, we will not have opposition members with us, but we will certainly have their thorough scrutiny, and we'll look forward to that.

I'd like to have these comments available to put to rest these totally groundless accusations about this not being a thorough process. I can't think of anything more thorough and more open to scrutiny than the one we're about to embark on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? Okay; thank you for those comments.

Moving on, then, to item 7, Outline of General Commission Work Plan.

MR. PRITCHARD: This is just a general outline that I've made up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As you can see, Bob's been busy the last little while.

MRS. BLACK: It's nice to see him busy.

MR. PRITCHARD: I won't say anything right now because the tapes are running.

This is a simple outline, but it will give us an idea of where you need to go. I'll just quickly go over it.

August 1 to September 31. The work during that period would include meeting with any consultants you wish to see and meeting with any interested MLAs. A review of commission submissions: that's actually submissions to the commission. There were 329 of them after the interim report and 89 prior to the interim report, plus the public hearing information, which will give you a review of the commission's *Hansards*. A review of the legislation, that being to take a look at the legislation to see if there are any changes that you think might have to occur after having read what Albertans have to say. Then also during that period, the actual drawing of the boundaries as you see fit.

By October 7 we have to give our final maps to Alberta mapping, and we need to give them two to three weeks to complete the technical work. What we have to do is get our map, from whatever our rough maps are as we're working through, onto a final large wall map like the one that's just behind Pat. That, then, or sections of it, plus the city maps go over to Alberta mapping, who do it on a large-screen computerized system. From that, a final map later goes to the printers. We also want to send our final map to Ottawa because they have a service whereby they'll confirm the numbers of people based

on the 1991 census, which I'm assuming you're going to use, to do a check for us on numbers. As we're drawing the maps, we can do checks here. We can do a manual process, and we probably can do a computer process as well. But as a final check, if we send them away to Statistics Canada, they'll do a check on our numbers. It's kind of a double check that our numbers are accurate. They do require two to three weeks. Also from October 7 to 21 we should complete our text, the body of the report, other than the boundaries and the maps. All that material needs to go to the printers on October 21 or 28, approximately in that period, with the text going to the Queen's Printer. The Queen's Printer does not do maps, so we'll have to use a private printer. We must have our final product back on November 11 or 12 so that we can deliver it to the Speaker on Friday, November 13.

9:43

MRS. BLACK: It's pretty tight.

MR. PRITCHARD: It's a very tight schedule. We've worked with these people before – the Alberta mapping people, the Queen's Printer – which is fortunate. We've already tentatively scheduled some dates and that sort of thing to rush the work through. The really tight part will be getting to the point of drawing your final maps for the end of September. It's very tight.

MRS. BLACK: So we're basically taking about 14 months and compressing it into three.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. You have about a week's overlap into October, but in essence I think that's what we're doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. And for anyone to suggest that you could in some way turn this over to a judge who's had no experience in the area and ask him to do it so that we could be assured that the Legislature could enact the appropriate legislation so that our next election would be fought on new boundaries rather than old is just not realistic. It could not happen.

MRS. BLACK: Well, let's be thankful that we've had *Hansard*, these good people, with both our committee and the commission or we would be in big trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's be thankful we've had *Hansard*.

MR. PRITCHARD: You have a bit of a leg up in that you have had previous experience, but also you have extra work to do in that you have to look at the legislation, plus there are only four of you.

MRS. BLACK: Yeah. Well, roll up our sleeves time and get into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, one of the things that Bob will tackle after we adjourn today is contacting the former commission members, the heads of the AUMA, the MDs and Cs, the improvement districts, and the mayors of Calgary and Edmonton to invite them to come and meet with us individually. Also, we'll have to contact formally all of the MLAs and invite them to come in and give us their thoughts re their own constituency; we'll have to co-ordinate that into our time frame as well. It is important that we block out a period of time in September to concentrate on the single-municipality constituencies and a period to work on the multis so that we can focus.

MR. PRITCHARD: Just a small detail. In the two binders you have here with all the presentations, there is an index in the front. They've been broken down by cities, towns, and villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to lead us through that briefly, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: All right. In the green folder are your written submissions that came in prior to the interim report. There are 89 of them. The index for that is basically the names of the individuals who sent them in. The submissions that came in after the interim report are primarily related to the boundaries as they were set out in the interim report. The index in that is broken down with – for example, it starts with Airdrie. If you want to know what people had to say about Airdrie, you'd look at submissions 80 and 271. If you wanted to have a read of what people said in general about all, you'd look at 250, 146, 112, 145, et cetera, et cetera. Athabasca-Lac La Biche – Mike, you won't want to look at these – would be 226, 90, 239, and 132.

I think that will give you some help. Also, if you have a particular name, if you think of somebody from an organization or somebody that you know, if you look in the final report, there's a list in the back of all the people that sent in submissions, and those numbers correspond with these numbers. If you find Fred Smith's submission in the final report numbered 283, you'll find it under 283 in this book.

I think the two books of the *Hansards* are self-explanatory, the one bundle being the public hearings of the commission, the larger bundle being the background from the select special committee, which you may want to review to refresh your memories.

If there's any other data or information you want, contact us. Ted and I will endeavour to get whatever you need.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, will it be communicated to mayors other than just the mayors of Edmonton and Calgary that they're welcome to also come and make submissions and discussions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because of the concern expressed in both Edmonton and Calgary over the so-called 'rurban' ridings, a concept which we had never envisaged in our original select special committee report, my thought was that in addition to invitations going to the umbrella groups – the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, which represents all urban municipalities, and the rural municipalities associations, the MDs and Cs and the improvement districts – that we should single out Edmonton and Calgary. However, if you feel that we should also look at cities, particularly those which have two or more constituencies, we'll certainly accommodate that if there's a special request that comes in.

The one thing I felt we should not do is signal in a broad sense that we want briefs to come in from all municipalities. In a sense we've been through that twice, through our previous committee work and through the commission work. I'd leave it to the sensitivity of members. If you feel that the mayor of Red Deer or the mayor of Lethbridge, for instance – I guess Grande Prairie was proposing too, and then we have to decide what to do with Fort McMurray, where there was quite a lobby that there be a split in that area – we'll certainly try to accommodate.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, I just didn't want the feeling, and it certainly isn't our feeling, that they would be excluded in any way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It was really to address the sensitivity of the 'rurban' constituency concept, which we had never envisaged.

MR. DAY: Okay. I just wanted clarification.

MRS. BLACK: Doesn't that terminology actually belong to Strathcona? Wasn't it at that meeting where they suggested the new terminology? But that was never our terminology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it was never ours. It comes out of the fact that the county of Strathcona is unique in that the hamlet of Sherwood Park is part of the county. In every other situation where you've got an urban area like Sherwood Park, it's a freestanding municipality. So I think it was Iris Evans, the reeve of the county, who came forward and suggested that the model used in the county of Strathcona might well work other places, and she came up with this 'rurban' concept, but we didn't endorse that.

MRS. BLACK: They'd actually split their county into three segments, hadn't they? Remember, they had a pure rural area, a pure urban area, and then they had an area in between with acreages, and they called it . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: A mixture.

MRS. BLACK: Yeah, as I remember. It would be interesting to review these submissions.

MR. PRITCHARD: Just with reference to what Stock said about some of the mayors from other cities, you'll find there are some excellent presentations that were given by the cities that you mentioned, Lethbridge and Red Deer, that you'd probably want to have a read of.

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Chairman, would this be an incorrect assumption? From all of the input from the people, from both our select committee and the commission, surely there's sufficient information to draw these lines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Exactly.

MRS. BLACK: I didn't attend all of the meetings, but I know that in Calgary the people were hopping mad over the interim report that came out from the commission, the way Calgary had been carved up and axed to pieces. So surely we can rely upon the information from *Hansard* to draw those lines and give the people what they want.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree.

MRS. BLACK: We don't need to go on the road again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; there just isn't the time to go on the road again. We've got enough work to keep busy in any event, but if we could fit in meetings with former commission members and the other individuals I had mentioned just to give them an opportunity to tell us in their own words some of their thoughts and ideas, I think that'll be helpful.

Moving on then, I guess, to item 8, which we've touched upon, but let's go into that in point form.

9:53

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, and I'll do that very quickly, this afternoon or tomorrow. I'll start to make those arrangements as soon as I can.

MRS. BLACK: Might I ask you, Mr. Chairman, have the mayors requested a meeting with us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't believe so.

MRS. BLACK: Or would this be an invitation from us?

MR. PRITCHARD: It would be an invitation. They have not requested it.

MRS. BLACK: Well, they may not. They're pretty tied up with municipal elections right now, so they may ask us to rely upon their submissions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's correct. They may.

MR. PRITCHARD: You may find that some people may not want to come or have other commitments, but we'll invite the people that we've listed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would certainly hope that we are able to convince the former commission members to come and meet us. I think we need to hear from them. I mean, they spent an enormous amount of time. It was not easy coming up with five individual reports. I know they did not come to that decision lightly. I think it's important for us to hear them out, to learn from their experiences, and we may in fact find that we want them to come in more than once. I think we need to wait and see how the dynamics flow when we do have the meetings and take it from there. Okay?

Item 9, Report on Census Data.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes; I just wanted to bring everybody up to date on that. Although the census data appears to be out because there are population figures for various cities, towns, and villages, to the detail that we require it when we're drawing boundaries and drawing lines down to the enumeration areas, that data is not yet available manually or by way of computer. I talked to the people there just yesterday, and they're still trying to have it ready for the end of August. They're running into some problems, but they still hope to have it done at the end of August. It's critical for us to have that material. There are 700 maps that cover the province of Alberta. Their boundaries match none of ours, so of course when we draw lines we always split enumeration areas. It's very complex. You have to sit and make a judgment as to if an enumeration area is a hundred people, how many are on one side of the line and how many are on the other. It's messy work. We need that raw data in order to enable us to do the calculations for each of the new ridings that we draw.

To go on to item 10, report on the use of the computer, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman. The system that was developed for the select special committee by Tomislav Milinusic was not working the way we intended previously. However, Bill Gano from the Legislative Assembly Office took three of the ridings that were outlined in the interim report. It took him a day to do each, but he sat down with Mr. Milinusic's computer system and calculated the population by computer, and in each riding he came to within a hundred of the number that the commission used. Now, when the commission did theirs, it was all done manually. They did each one of them three times to ensure that they were as accurate as possible. So Bill coming that close using the computer I think shows that the system has now been fixed or works relatively to a good degree of accuracy. The problem is that it's time consuming, because a day to do each riding is actually longer than it takes to do it manually. Even the most complex division, with the large number of maps in the calculation, might take half a day, but I don't think any riding would take one day.

There's a system called rubber banding wherein it simplifies the process. If you draw the boundaries on the computer, the computer automatically calculates the population in that area. The way it's set up now in the computer, the older way, you have to touch each

enumeration area and do the calculations from that. Tomislav is now building that rubber band system into the program. It shortens the time to do a riding from a day down to about an hour. Also, he'll input the 1991 census data from the federal government once they have it available on disk, which again is also about the end of August.

Somewhere between Tomislav's computer system and the manual maps and getting the maps checked by Ottawa, we should be able to come up with accurate numbers. Our problem will be having that data available September 1 so that we can start to use it for the boundaries that we draw, because it doesn't make sense to draw a boundary if you don't know the number of people that are in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pat?

MRS. BLACK: Just a couple of questions. Who has the rubber band system now?

MR. PRITCHARD: The rubber band is actually a system that they have to build into the program. I'm not personally very good with computers and I don't know anything about programming, but it's a system of programming a computer to the lines or dots that make up the lines of the boundary that you're drawing, and it signals to the computer to do an automatic add-up of every enumeration area, every dot that's inside that boundary drawing. Without the rubber banding sort of feature put into the system, you'd have to do it manually with a computer with a pointer. You have to direct the pointer to the enumeration area and touch it. It takes a minute or two or three to register and then puts the number in. This faster piece that Tomislav is building in isn't like a package you can buy in the store. It's actually where they're sitting down working with the programming to make the computer do something faster. In my layman's terms that's how I understand it.

MRS. BLACK: With the federal census, do they not generate the census on the same basis as they do the federal enumeration so there's a correlation between obviously geographical boundaries and the census? Is there not a merge available on that program?

MR. PRITCHARD: On their computer program?

MRS. BLACK: Yeah.

MR. PRITCHARD: Probably there is, and I think that's how they do it when we send it down to Ottawa, but I think that's not a program available to anybody inquiring. I did ask at the time if we could have that program here so we could do the check. They said no; their programs for doing that check were only set up in Ottawa. They were, I guess, unique to the systems that they have there, so all maps have to go there to be done if you want them checked.

MRS. BLACK: Well, I was just thinking that surely they could peel off a disk and we could load it in here and sort this out.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's kind of what I thought, but I guess there's more to it than that.

MRS. BLACK: Control, I suppose. I know that they've got the information available and out to the returning officers for the next federal election. They've all received that information, so they must have it in their data base.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, there are two sets of data. Bill has already purchased the one. There is a preliminary set of data, but it's not to the detail that we need.

MRS. BLACK: In Calgary – and in Edmonton I'm sure it's the same – we will need the data basically broken down community by community, or I guess an enumerated area, so that you don't split communities.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, the cities like Calgary and Edmonton already have that. Actually, they've done it themselves through their civic census.

MRS. BLACK: How close would that information be?

MR. PRITCHARD: When I've seen them – we got numbers from Calgary before because the commission was looking at something like this – it seems to me that it was very, very close. I doubt if it was off by much more than 5 percent from the actual federal census. That may have been due to the factor of time, when they did the civic census and when they did the federal census.

MR. CARDINAL: Even in rural areas like improvement district 17 there is also – the north has municipal censuses. It's all available, and they can check it any time.

MR. PRITCHARD: Right. There's a sheet hanging on the wall there. Actually, that map that I brought there has all the – the green lines are the existing electoral boundaries, and behind it is a county map. The numbers written on are all the populations within those counties. We got that from the federal government. We have those kinds of breakdowns, but we need an even finer, more detailed breakdown. That's what they're still looking for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I'd suggest we take a coffee break so that we can go over and look at the maps and go down and look at the larger maps that Bob and Ted have been working on as well. The tape doesn't need to be running for that part of the discussion because we'll be away from the table. So we'll just take a coffee break and do that?

HON. MEMBERS: Okay.

[The committee adjourned from 10:03 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on item 11, and we need a motion re the meeting dates, recognizing there's still some flexibility with it.

MR. DAY: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by Stockwell that the meeting dates are beginning on Monday, August 17, running through to Monday, November 9.

MR. PRITCHARD: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The dates have already been read into the record.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, they have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion on the motion?

MRS. BLACK: There is some flexibility on those dates if need be?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, there is.
Ready for the question?

MRS. BLACK: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question's been called. All in favour? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

Now, under Other. Is there any other business to tackle today before we adjourn? Bob is going to work with those individuals we're inviting in.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll have work to do whether they choose to come or not. There's enough to keep ourselves occupied during August.

As well, we've asked that Bob and Ted do some scenarios for us using 1991 census data, using 83 seats in the Assembly and what our mean would be – we have that figure now – looking at the plus/minus 25 percent, looking at the four ridings that are up to 50 percent below the mean, and then looking at other options; i.e., if we went to an 84-seat Assembly or an 85-seat Assembly, what the mean would be. Also, looking at Calgary and Edmonton in particular, under our current legislation we had added one seat to Calgary, so they had moved to 19 and Edmonton was at 17. Let's look at those numbers, the 19 and 17, and then let's look at 20 and 18 and see what that brings us to.

MR. PRITCHARD: All right.

MRS. BLACK: Could we also start putting some undue pressure on the census people in Ottawa to get that information out? If we haven't got the detailed information, we're going to have some difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob has outlined for us the backup plans we've got. I think both he and the Chief Electoral Officer have been trying to get the information from Ottawa.

MR. PRITCHARD: I know they're working on it. The fellow that I've had some contact with here is Bruce Meyers. He even went to Ottawa about two weeks ago. Other provinces are asking for this data too. Apparently Alberta is quite high on the list to get it done. I could ask him if there is some way that we could send a letter or something else we could do to ensure we have that by the end of August.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob, what other jurisdictions are going through redistribution at this time?

MR. PRITCHARD: New Brunswick is partway through a process. I'd have to review. I'm not sure that there are any others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could we get an update on Ontario?

MR. PRITCHARD: I'll do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reason I ask is that you may recall that there were a significant number of ridings in Ontario that were well below the provincial average, so it would be interesting to see how the Bob Rae government in Ontario is dealing with ridings that fall outside the plus or minus 25 percent.

MR. DAY: Some of their northern ones are like 60 percent off.

MRS. BLACK: You mean well above the norm, not below?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well below, were they not?

MR. PRITCHARD: They're below.

MRS. BLACK: I'm sorry, beyond.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, beyond is the word.

Ted Edwards is working on a little project to collect data from each of the provinces and Yukon and the Northwest Territories, their most recent numbers and their most recent legislation and that sort of thing, so we can do some comparisons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Update our information from the electoral boundaries report.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. He's got a lot of that data back, and hopefully we'll be able to finish that in the next week or 10 days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, is there anything else that you want Bob or Ted to work on in preparation for our August meetings? Just take a moment to think about it. You've seen the maps they're working on on the walls and the colour coding they're following. Is there anything we need, Pat, specifically for Calgary or Edmonton?

MRS. BLACK: Well, with the municipal election I would think that they would have a fairly accurate breakdown by community within the two cities which would be very, very helpful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we have a more detailed breakdown by community in the cities?

MR. PRITCHARD: We'll get whatever we can from them.

MRS. BLACK: I'm sure they must have that ready by now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pat, in Calgary, for instance, do the lines between the community leagues go down the streets or do they go down the alleys?

MRS. BLACK: Well, that depends.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It depends? Okay. If it's a major thoroughfare that's easily identifiable, I suppose they could use the thoroughfare.

MRS. BLACK: Very easily.

MR. CARDINAL: One additional item, Bob. It may be available already, and we may have it in our files. Is it possible to get the population status of the villages, towns, and hamlets in the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have that now.

MR. PRITCHARD: I have that list. It's hanging on the wall. I'll make a copy of that for you.

MR. CARDINAL: That includes all hamlets?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, wait a minute. Hamlets are part of counties or MDs, so I don't think there'd be the breakout for hamlets, but for villages and towns there certainly is.

The difficulty we have, Mike, is that where you take a county or an MD that is divided between two constituencies, there isn't a breakout yet. For instance, for the county of Warner two-thirds of the county is in Taber-Warner and one-third is in Cardston. Of the total population in the county, we cannot yet ascertain how many are on the Cardston side and how many are on the Taber-Warner side.

MR. CARDINAL: Right.

MR. PRITCHARD: But it's fairly detailed. I'll make a copy of this for you, and then at least you'll have that. [The committee adjourned at 10:54 a.m.]

MRS. BLACK: A question. When they do the census, do they do it on the basis of the LSD, or do they do it on the basis of the community or the street? On what basis is that census done?

MR. PRITCHARD: The federal census?

MRS. BLACK: The federal census.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It makes no sense. As an example, the town of Taber was divided. Part of the town is in one of their census map areas and part of the town is in another.

MR. PRITCHARD: Their lines have no bearing on any line in Alberta.

MR. DAY: No, they don't look to provincial constituencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Or federal, anything.

MR. PRITCHARD: As a matter of fact, they look like they purposefully try and cut through as many places as they can.

MRS. BLACK: Make it difficult.

Well, how is it they draw the federal ridings then? What do they use for data on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Population, but they pay less attention to the lines, like municipal lines, than we do.

MR. DAY: Just because their constituencies are so much bigger. They sweep in a lot more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're looking at population in natural areas. They often follow rivers.

MRS. BLACK: That might be a recommendation we make somewhere, that surely we can have some form of commonality between census Canada and . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wouldn't it be nice if both the federal and provincial governments looked at municipal lines and wherever possible followed those?

MRS. BLACK: Or a variety of things, yeah. Or even LSDs throughout the provinces could make it a heck of a lot easier to identify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think the information you got, Mike, shows the populations in 1986. It just shows 1990s. Although it isn't something we need to dwell on, there is concern about areas where there's population slippage as well as areas where there's population growth.

Anything else before we adjourn?

MR. PRITCHARD: I don't think there's anything else today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion to adjourn?

MR. DAY: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Stock. All in favour? Carried.

