

would like to underline that this practice was not the result of a whim or pure fantasy, but was based on logic. We found it very important if not essential for airplane operators and pilots to know immediately where they were from the name of the airport for the purposes of navigation and communications.

Any confusion must therefore be avoided in order not to affect air security. By giving a busy airport a name different from that of the community where it is located, we would be increasing the volume of communications needed between pilots and controllers. Of course, this would add to the hazards of confusion, especially when sophisticated names are shortened or abbreviated after a certain time. In short, Mr. Speaker, it is wiser to include the name of its true location of the airport.

Finally, and at the risk of repeating myself, I am sure that the intentions of the Hon. Member for Hull in proposing this Bill are good. He is undoubtedly trying, as any good Member would do, to obtain an identification appropriate for his constituency. Or perhaps he is trying in this way to support the efforts of our party to maintain and strengthen national unity. In fact, the Hon. Member has proposed this name change so often that it is reasonable to believe that he may be the first Member of our party to be so concerned about national unity!

I sincerely believe that the position of the Government should be to postpone passage of this Bill until such a time as the necessary studies and consultations have been completed. If such studies and consultations were to support the proposal of the Hon. Member for Hull, I would be most happy to join him in voting for his proposal, which he will certainly present to this House again.

Nothing would have given me more pleasure than granting this support to the Hon. Member for Hull today, but as I said earlier in my comments, I must not let my emotions get the better of my reason and allow a change which, while being desirable under certain aspects, would also involve certain hazards. Let me make myself clear. If it can be shown that the proposed change is desirable and would benefit the region, the airport and the nation, I shall be glad to go with it. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case and I hope that the Hon. Member for Hull, and all those who support him, will understand my position.

● (1730)

[English]

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mrs. Côté) accept one brief question as a matter of information? I listened carefully to her speech and I do not know if it was the translation being interrupted briefly, but I missed one comment in her speech. Would she give me that one point as a matter of information?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Standing Orders do not provide for questioning members at this time. But, of

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course, if the House grants its unanimous consent, this could be feasible. Is there unanimous consent.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary went on at some length in her speech about the renaming of the Toronto International Airport. I thought she began to say what the costs were. If she did give a figure, may I have that figure? If she did not, then I will proceed.

[Translation]

Mrs. Côté: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question, I did not mention costs, but I said that the change had certainly resulted in justifiable costs in view of the historic importance of the change.

[English]

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, before I deal directly with the Bill, I want to make a couple of points. First, I was intrigued and would be interested in knowing during some point in the debate this afternoon how this Bill has come before us a second time when there are bills by other members which are on the list but have not yet been dealt with. I took the trouble to read through the last debate on this Bill which was on January 27. I was intrigued to see that there was a reference made to a December 15, 1983, presentation of the Bill. This leads me to believe that this is the third time, not the second, it has been dealt with. I know that there are a number of members' names that have been drawn for the Private Members' list and their bills have not been dealt with yet.

The second point I want to make concerns the comments made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mrs. Côté). I listened to her information in some detail. I would be interested to know why she did not refer to the Ottawa Airport as Uplands Airport, as it was known for many years. I still speak to a number of people who refer to that airport as Uplands.

I also have a third point. With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I recall very clearly a few months ago when you castigated a member on this side of the House who had been in the House but for a very short time, having come here as a result of a byelection. I recall you stopped him three times as he read his text. I noticed that throughout the Parliamentary Secretary read her text intact. She has been here a good deal longer and should have the expertise. She was not stopped once. I find that passing strange, Sir.

● (1740)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The Chair is ready to answer the two questions raised by the Hon. Member. The first concerns his surprise at the House considering for the second time Bill C-207 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle). Hon. Members are called by table officers before a Bill is brought to the House. They are asked whether they are ready to proceed. I am