

[Translation]

Mr. Girard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is because in New Brunswick, which is a bilingual province, we—

Mr. Gauthier: The bilingual province.

Mr. Girard: Thank you. Perhaps I could explain why it is so important for me to talk about these programs. My reason for doing so is that I am from a bilingual province, the Province of New Brunswick, where at one time people suggested that we make similar changes. And here we have a Government Department, the Department of the Secretary of State, which explains a policy and explains its services, and I think it is a good thing for Canadians to see what the Government of Canada is doing to provide Canadians with bilingual services across Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland. That is why I was explaining all this.

To recapitulate: Since 1970, the Department of the Secretary of State has been helping the provinces and the territories financially to provide English-speaking communities in Quebec and French-speaking communities in the other provinces and territories with the option of having their children educated in their own language at all levels in the school system.

Two other programs, fully financed by the Government of Canada, are administered by the provinces in co-operation with the Council of Education Ministers. I am referring to the bursaries for language summer courses and the official language “monitors”, a program under which post-secondary students—

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to get back to . . . why I read it? Well, it is done.

[English]

The proposal before us that the term “Nova Scotia” be used exclusively is one that should be negotiated under the official languages policy. The term may be Latin. We are proud to live in a country that has kept its heritage and its tradition. Nevertheless, the term “Nova Scotia” is perceived as being English as a result of standard usage. We should like to recommend, not necessarily from a judicial or from an historical point of view but from the context of Canada having two official languages, that the name for the Atlantic Province which is designated as Nova Scotia should also be La Nouvelle-Écosse when referred to in French.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Comeau: Mr. Speaker, as the only Member from Nova Scotia—

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I did not interject as the Opposition Whip did who gave a very

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interesting dissertation outlining all the services provided by the Secretary of State (Mr. MacLean), which ate up about 25 minutes of the one hour provided for the private Members' Bill. This raises the question, which obviously government members and opposition members have to discuss in their respective cauci—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: —and cauci is the proper word—as to the place of private Members' Bills in this new Parliament.

There have been several references that this Member's Bill is for a change in name. That is totally wrong. I just want to ensure that we use the proper name.

I thought we had reached a degree of maturity in bilingualism that that canard would not always be raised especially by the migrant from Cape Breton who used that canard and spoke very interestingly. Is the main question for her and for everyone else who participated in this debate—do I understand that to be the drift and the consensus of this Chamber—that if there is a word that has a definite English name it should automatically be translated into French and vice versa?

Ms. Copps: I have a question of privilege. And this is not a point of order.

Mr. Nowlan: That is what I would like Members to direct their attention to, Mr. Speaker. For instance, “Mount Royal” and other names that are good in French or English.

Mr. Parry: This is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Copps: I want to speak on my own behalf—

Mr. Speaker: It is very difficult in the middle of a point of order to hear a question of privilege. I will now rule that the Member does not have a point of order. What is the Hon. Member for Hamilton East's (Ms. Copps) question of privilege?

Ms. Copps: I have a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, I was referred to as a transient—I think the Member changed the word transient to “migrant” Nova Scotian.

Mr. Speaker: What is the Hon. Member's question of privilege?

Ms. Copps: My point of privilege is that I was not born in Nova Scotia. I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and if the Member had listened to my speech—

Mr. Speaker: The hour provided for the consideration of private Members' business has now expired.