

Order Paper, namely, public bills, notices of motions and private bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[*Translation*]

NOVA SCOTIA

OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF THE NAME—NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants) moved that Bill C-217, respecting the official designation of "Nova Scotia", be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, before dealing with the substance of my proposition, I should like to make a few preliminary remarks. First and foremost, I want to emphasize the fact that the introduction of this bill does not relate in any way to bilingualism. I am solely interested in the purity of the forms enshrined in legislation, documents and traditions.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Knowles: Carry on. Continuez en français.

Mr. Nowlan: I will have a few more words—

[*Translation*]

—a few words in French. Although I am not fully bilingual at the moment, I am studying French and I hope that by the end of this session I will be functionally bilingual.

[*English*]

But I seriously ask the House to consider Bill C-217, which has a very simple title but, frankly, does have a serious message.

This matter affects all members. Mr. Speaker, you and I have sat in this House when the then hon. member for Three Rivers used to rise in his place in a proper way and raise questions of privilege every time "Three Rivers" was used as a proper noun to describe that place. You remember that, I remember it, perhaps other hon. members remember it and I think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) would remember it. I think that member was a former mayor of Trois-Rivières. Gilles Grégoire was also a member. I forget the name of the county, but every time the words "Seven Islands" were used, he stood in his place on a question of privilege and said, "The proper noun for my place is 'Sept-Iles'". That was of particular interest to me because I used to work in Sept-Iles when it was called "Seven Islands", long before iron ore was developed in Ungava. I was on a survey crew for the Iron Ore Company of Canada to lay the centre line up the Moisie River. At that time it was "Seven

Designation of Nova Scotia

Islands". It was a little fishing village. It is now Sept-Iles, quite properly.

There is probably no good time to present this type of bill because we are perhaps ultra sensitive with respect to language in this House. I actually had this bill before the House and on the Table at the time of the referendum. Frankly, I have had it on the Order Paper for about two years. There were always tense times with respect to language, and I deliberately delayed bringing the bill on. Perhaps I am bringing it on now because there may be no good time to bring it on, but—

[*Translation*]

Finally, by way of introductory remarks, may I say that I would have liked to deliver in French all my argument in support of this bill. Still, I will continue to make efforts and take lessons to improve my French, but I admit that those efforts have left me somewhat less than perfect. Therefore, I would not dare embark upon a long speech, keeping in mind the status I have achieved thus far.

[*English*]

Having said that, I want to emphasize by those preliminary remarks en français that this bill is not against anything. It is for the proper use of proper nouns. That is the whole purpose of this bill.

The proper noun for the Speaker, "Monsieur le Président", may be very apropos in view of the things which have gone on in this House for the last two or three days. "Sauve" means to save. Madame Sauvé, is the hon. Speaker of this House. That is stretching it a little. The man who was chastised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, Mr. Baker, is Monsieur Boulanger. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) is "Romeo the white". Even the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) is the pit, in effect, almost.

Mr. Pepin: The "peep-in".

Mr. Nowlan: The "peep-in". My friend Bernard Loiselle—I know what that is en anglais. It is too demeaning to say in English. The hon. member is much finer than the translation of his name, as far as I know. There may be some jest, and I am glad there is because we know the temperature of this House rises and sometimes get a little too hot.

Frankly, for a period this afternoon I did not think this was the best time to bring this bill to the floor of the House in view of some of the things which were said, but I accentuate the fact that this bill has as its purpose the proper use of proper nouns with respect to some of the people I have mentioned, but especially with respect to places.

I have mentioned two places which stimulate my interest in my own province, the proper nouns, Trois-Rivieres, and Sept-Iles, because as some hon. members may not know the proper noun describing my province of Nova Scotia is neither English nor French. It is Latin. It is in the original charter given by King James way back in 1621 to William Alexander. In the original charter it was "Nova Scotia". Of course, in those days the educated people could not speak English or French. The only language they could speak was Latin. It is as simple as