

Representation Act

and say where they stand on this flag issue. Are they scared? Are they brainwashed? Are they just following orders, like the trained seals they are emulating? They will not get up and speak; they only speak from their seats. They will not get up and identify themselves. Are they sitting on the fence in the hope that they will get some reflected glory because they did not say anything? They are plenty vocal at other times, so why do they not get up and speak in this debate? Why can they not get up and state where they stand, in some way other than just sitting in their seats and interrupting those who hope they have something to say in which their people will be interested? That also goes for the other parties, the lesser groups in this house. They are not carrying their weight in this debate; they sit around and yell "filibuster" and let it go at that. That is their contribution. What a contribution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely public bills and private bills.

REPRESENTATION ACT
AMENDMENT TO CHANGE NAME OF
LAPOINTE CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-66, to amend the Representation Act.

He said:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, it will only take me two minutes to explain this bill. Its purpose is to change the name of the electoral district of "Lapointe" to that of "Jonquière".

I should remind the house that such was the promise made by Liberal candidates during the last election.

As a matter of fact, I wish to point out that this promise was made by the former Liberal member for Lapointe, Mr. Augustin Brassard, at a public meeting attended by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), who applauded and said the promise would be kept.

The promise was also made by the Liberal candidate during the 1963 election campaign.

It was also taken up by the Tory candidates during the 1962 and 1963 elections.

It was also promised by the N.D.P. candidate in 1963; that party had no candidate in my riding, in 1962.

In fact, I was the only one not to promise that. I felt that it should not be part of my platform, but it was promised by the Liberal candidate and former member, for the riding, before the present Prime Minister, who was then leader of the opposition. That promise was made with the approval of the present Prime Minister, and in his presence. Since the Prime Minister now seeks to keep his promise concerning the adoption of a national flag within two years, I am sure he will want his party to keep the promise made by its candidate in the riding of Lapointe, just as he is making praiseworthy efforts to keep his pledge with respect to the adoption of a distinctive flag.

Mr. Speaker, I did not make that promise during the election campaign, but afterwards, I received many such requests from chambers of commerce, service clubs and the municipalities of Jonquière, Kénogami and Arvida. I even received some from tourist associations, etc., because all feel that by substituting the name of Jonquière for that of Lapointe, it would be easier to locate the riding in the interest of the tourist industry and others.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Lapointe has been named after Jean Lapointe, the first farmer in that area. The name of Msgr. Lapointe, the first bishop of the diocese, is also mentioned.

Mr. Choquette: And Ernest Lapointe.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lotbinière has just mentioned the name of Mr. Ernest Lapointe. But in the opinion of all, the riding was so named in honour of the first farmer of the district, Mr. Jean Lapointe.

Under the circumstances, there are no political implications involved. As a matter of fact, the provincial riding bears the name of Jonquière, and since the largest city of the county is called Jonquière, there is every indication that this name would be more appropriate and, at the same time, more suitable for the people.

Representatives of all political parties have submitted requests to me and the Liberal member for Jonquière in the Quebec legislature told me himself that he approved this change of designation. It must be remembered that he also represents a large number of electors.

Therefore, I submit that this bill deals with a change of name only and does not involve any government policy. It is only a matter of granting the wishes of the electors of that riding.