

*Designation of Nova Scotia*

It is hard to start out on such an emotional debate, to be able to be here and to go back to my roots. So many people from Cape Breton and other parts of Nova Scotia over the years have had to leave their homeland to go to other parts of the country such as Toronto, Timiskaming and other parts of Canada. They never forget where they came from, they never forget their homeland. That is why it is so important for me today to speak to such an important motion.

This country is vast. Each one of us has a duty to work and to help. It is a pleasure to be here to help my colleague on such an important issue.

The great, great land of Nova Scotia has heritage and history. A great parliamentarian came from Nova Scotia, I. D. MacDougall, a great relative of mine. Needless to say, the area of politics and the MacDougall clan have been there for many years.

**Mr. Cook:** Tell us about MacDougall, MacDougall.

**Mr. MacDougall:** He was a great parliamentarian, an individual who fought for the beliefs of Cape Bretoners, the people of Nova Scotia and eastern Canada.

**An Hon. Member:** Was he a fisherman?

**Mr. MacDougall:** He was not a fisherman. He worked the land. He tried to bring his beliefs to the problems of the great area of eastern Canada.

Many individuals have had to leave the eastern part of Canada because of economic times to move to such places as northern Ontario. I know of the major problems in the coal mining industry over the years. Many people who worked in the coal mines had no choice but to move to northern Ontario, whether to the great riding of Nickel Belt, represented by my colleague opposite, Timmins-Chapleau, represented by my colleague to my left, or the riding of Timiskaming where gold, silver and nickel mining play such an important part. I know of the hard work and dedication of those miners over the years. They come from a great part of eastern Canada where the hard work of coal mining was so important and so vital to the area.

There are other areas of concern such as the tourist industry. The Cabot Trail plays an important part in the economy of eastern Canada. There is the great island of Cape Breton which we all like to visit once a year. If we are fortunate, we experience the great weather of eastern Canada.

It is a pleasure for me to speak today to Bill C-201. It shows the concern which my colleague has for his great province. It also give me an opportunity to speak on what I feel is an important part of Canada. I still have the blue blood of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

A couple of weeks ago I received a letter from a young constituent in Cape Breton, Port Hood. She is a Grade 11 student. She is very interested in the goings on of the House of Commons, the day to day activities, the committee work and the constituency work of a Member. I had the opportunity to draft a nice letter explaining how Members have to work in

order to get elected, the eight-week campaign leading up to September 4, the opportunity to come into the House where for the first time in history we have 211 Members in the government Party. I indicated that there are 40 liberal members and 30 members of the New Democratic Party. I explained to her the duties we have to perform to bring around the economy of this country. I explained the detailed job we have to do because of the disastrous job done by the Liberal government.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am very glad that I have the assistance of my hon. friend, a transplant from Nova Scotia. However, I would like him to focus on my Bill, which is one paragraph. Is he in favour of the Latin name "Nova Scotia" or not?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** That is a point of debate.

**Mr. MacDougall:** I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleague that I get emotionally caught up in this. It is not too often I have the opportunity to go back through history to the time when I started my life and developed my future the way I have. I would certainly be willing to support the Bill and emphasize my strong feelings in regard to it.

• (1620)

I would like to end by saying to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is very important for our young people to be able to communicate with each Member of Parliament. I say to each Member here today, on this last afternoon of the week, that if they have the opportunity to speak to a constituent from anywhere in Canada who is interested in the history and the day-to-day activities of the House of Commons and its committees or is interested in how Members have the opportunity of being elected, they should take the time to speak with them. We must remember that the young people of today are the Members of Parliament of tomorrow.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Liberal members.

**Mr. MacDougall:** I heard someone say "Liberal members". I am afraid to say that it will be many years before we see too many more of those on that side of the House.

In closing, I would like to say that it has given me great pleasure to be able to be present today, my duty day, to take part in debate on such a very important Private Member's Bill as the one presented by my colleague. I fully support Bill C-201 and hope it will pass.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I recognize the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), on a point of order or debate?

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** On debate, Mr. Speaker. I too rise in support of Bill C-201 put before the House by the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan). The Bill should be referred to an appropriate standing committee.