

Public Bills

been presented to us. Hon. members will recall that this bill was passed unanimously because it was the clear intention of the House to provide protection against the commercial exploitation of the words "Parliament Hill".

Subsequently in the other place it was discovered that some complications existed which were not known to this House when the bill was passed. It has been discovered, among other things, that the place where the legislature of the province of Quebec is located is described in the Statutes of Quebec as "Parliament Hill", or "Colline Parlementaire". Therefore, the bill has been amended so it will not apply to the use of the words "Parliament Hill" in reference to the site of the legislature of the province of Quebec or of any other province.

Perhaps it is unnecessary for me to go into the details of the amendments which have been made, except to say that an addition has been made in paragraph (a) of clause 1, limiting that paragraph to the national capital region. So that all we would legislate, were this amendment to be adopted, would be a prohibition of the description or designation of a property in the capital region as "Parliament Hill", except for the actual Parliament Hill upon which our parliament is located.

The other amendment which has been made is to paragraph (c) of clause 1. It has the effect of clarifying the language we adopted in originally passing this bill in the House. This clause now reads as a prohibition against using the words "Parliament Hill" in combination in association with a commercial establishment providing service.

• (1630)

I might say I have had the privilege of having a discussion with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who originally seconded this bill in the House at second reading stage. I believe both he and I are in agreement that had we had the preparation of these amendments we might have chosen perhaps different language and a different formulation. However, I have looked very carefully into the effect of these proposed amendments and I am persuaded that the effect of the amendments is not to weaken the original bill.

The meaning of the main amendment is to permit the use of the phrase "Parliament Hill" as a description of a site outside the capital region so long as it is not a commercial site. In other words, the amendment presented and the bill in its amended form do not weaken the original intention of this House in respect of protecting the use of the words "Parliament Hill" from commercial exploitation. I hope that with that explanation it will be found possible to concur in the amendments made in the other place.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) was kind enough to point out, I had the honour of seconding the motion for second reading of this bill when it was moved in this House by one of our former colleagues who has now gone to another place.

An hon. Member: He has passed over.

Mr. Bell: He has gone to the other place.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The interest in that other place here in this place seems quite active. At any rate, I thought it was a good bill and I must say I do not like what the Senate has done to it. It seems to me if there was a need to protect the right of the people in Quebec City to refer to the location of the Quebec National Assembly as Parliament Hill and if there was a need to protect the right of the people in Edmonton to refer to the location of the provincial capital of Alberta as Parliament Hill—and I understand these are the only two cases in this country where it applies—this could have been done in a better way. Indeed I think this could and should be done in a way that would not seem to leave a loophole for the term "Parliament Hill" to be used in other connections.

On the assumption that some people read *Hansard* and may wonder what this is all about, I believe, it is necessary to place on the record the wording of clause 1 of the bill which is being amended by the motion now before us. That clause before it was amended by the Senate read as follows:

Notwithstanding anything contained in any act of Parliament or regulation thereunder, no person shall use the words "Parliament Hill" in combination

(a) to describe or designate a property, place, site or location other than the area of ground in the city of Ottawa bounded by Wellington Street, the Rideau Canal, the Ottawa River and Bank Street,

(b) to identify any goods, merchandise, wares or articles for commercial use or sale, or

(c) in association with a commercial service rendering establishment.

The Senate has proposed as its first amendment a change in the wording of paragraph (a) which I just read, so that paragraph (a) as amended would read as follows:

(a) to describe or designate a property, place, site or location in the national capital region other than the area of ground in the city of Ottawa bounded by Wellington Street, the Rideau Canal, the Ottawa River and Bank Street,

There is more in this clause but I will come to that in a moment. What bothers me about this change is that we seem in paragraph (a) of clause 1 to be saying that the prohibition against using the phrase "Parliament Hill" to describe a property applies only in the national capital region. In other words, nobody can do it in the national capital region. Nobody can call anything else "Parliament Hill" in this immediate area, but out in the Ottawa valley where my friend hails from, or in Brandon, or in Saint John, in Moncton or in Halifax there is no prohibition against using the phrase "Parliament Hill" to designate a property.

If all we wanted to protect was the right of provincial legislatures or the members of provincial legislatures to use the term "Parliament Hill" in relation to their locations, I think this could be done much more easily by amending clause 3 of the bill. Clause 3 now reads:

This act shall not be construed to limit in any way the powers, privileges, rights and immunities of both Houses of Parliament and of their members.

I would think there could be added to clause 3 these words: "or of the provincial legislative assemblies and their members". Out of a desire to protect the right of provincial bodies to use the phrase "Parliament Hill", and in fact out of a desire to protect that for just two locations,