

Designation of Nova Scotia

piece of paper towel which we use to clean ourselves after a meal. At the same time, the origin of that word is from the French word "serviette" meaning a towel or towelling. Would the Member then suggest that all use the word "serviette" should be struck from the English language because of its origin in the French language? Of course this would be ludicrous.

Any student of language will know that as time evolves, so does a language. "Nova Scotia" was incorporated as the English appellation of the Province of Nova Scotia at the time of its introduction into Confederation. The Member will agree full well that it must, of need, have a French translation for those of us who have seen official documents translated since that time.

I do not want to speak for very long on this issue, Mr. Speaker, because I too am excited about the prospect of the Government's coming to a vote on this issue. For those Members from the Province of Quebec who were elected in great numbers to represent the Progressive Conservative philosophy in the Province of Quebec, as well as for other francophones *hors Québec*, it must be an absolute embarrassment to see that two weeks into the discussion of private Member's Bills, at a time when Nova Scotia is facing extremely high unemployment rates and difficult economic times as well as a ferry shutdown perpetrated by the Government, the Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) can find nothing of greater urgent and pressing public importance to discuss than a private Member's Bill which was roundly defeated back in 1981.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the House of Commons have spoken. I hope that we will have an opportunity today to hear from the Members on the Government side of the House who will see fit to allow this issue to come to a vote. I am convinced that this particular proposed piece of legislation must be as embarrassing to the government members as it is to those of us who have our roots in Cape Breton and recognize that Nova Scotia has been incorporated into the English language as the name of a province of which every Cape Bretoner, Nova Scotian and Canadian can be proud. It is a province with a strong francophone and Acadian heritage which would certainly find this Bill to be a blot on its contribution to Confederation.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would hate to disappoint a couple of the speakers on the opposition side of the House who have recently joined us here in the House of Commons from the provincial Legislature, but there is a distinct possibility that sometimes Bills do not come to a vote in private Member's hour.

Ms. Copps: Because you don't want them to.

Mr. Gauthier: We are ready.

Mr. Dick: I have not seen very many do that.

Ms. Copps: We are ready.

Mr. Dick: That is fine. You can be ready all you want to. I did not say that I was ready. There may be some other Members who are not ready. In this place we have the privilege of speaking our minds. I happen to think that the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) did a wonderful job in introducing this Bill. I think it shows the freedom a person has to speak his mind and express a point of view. I do not think we have to be locked into the narrow version we heard from a couple of speakers from the official opposition Party who are perhaps titillated by the idea that there may be a vote which they think is going to split the government Party. I hope that there will be votes on days to come when government members will be allowed to express their opinions on both sides.

Mr. Gauthier: Never.

Mr. Dick: The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) says "never". Never is a pretty strong word. In politics I have learned that you never use the word "never".

Mr. Gauthier: You just used it twice.

Mr. Dick: I just want to tell you that I will never say it.

Mr. Gauthier: Never mind. Get to the point.

Mr. Dick: That is good of you. If you want any further interjections, go right ahead. I think the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants was quite proper in bringing forth a very interesting argument. Having listened to what he had to say, I think he was very persuasive. He said that the name of Nova Scotia has a Latin origin and is a proper noun.

Then unfortunately I heard the speech made by the Hon. Member for Blainville-Deux-Montagnes (Mrs. Landry) who explained that in centuries gone by before Confederation the name appeared as Nouvelle Écosse on a number of maps of the world. It appears that the words "Nouvelle Écosse" have been part of our heritage before some of the items which the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants brought up. He said that it was just in the Latin language that it was brought into our British North America Act in 1867.

We must be very sensitive. In the last 15 or 20 years this country has moved a long way toward accepting two languages from coast to coast. That has been an advancement in the country. If we are going to do anything which will derogate from that step forward, we must approach all corners of society very carefully and get their concurrence. Instead of simply having the Bill introduced in the House at this early date in the new session, a person who was serious about getting it passed may have lobbied various government ministries. Perhaps the Province of Nova Scotia itself may make a petition to the Government to have the name used only in the Latin language and not have it translated. Until that sort of lobbying has been completed, I think it would be premature to move away from the use of two official languages. I accept the argument that although Nova Scotia may have been derived from Latin, it has in fact been adopted into the English language as if it were an English word.