

of Canadianism required if we are to understand not only what the institution of Parliament, but also every province and the federal government represent for us.

I might be afraid for my hon. friend and colleague that the francophone minority in his province would become suspicious and consider this a second attempt to expell the Acadians, but I say this with a smile. Fortunately, we can be seen on television, because those who know me will realize that I have no intention of dividing the Canadian people according to whether they speak French or English. However, I would like the hon. member to reflect on what this would mean for the French Canadians. I know that he has made considerable efforts to learn French, and I congratulate him as he, or rather as his father congratulated me on learning English as I could hardly say a few words of English when I was elected to this House. I learned English with difficulty in the beginning, and this is why I would not want the hon. member to become discouraged because he is making considerable progress. However, I can imagine what it would mean for francophones who, as my colleague the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) has noted, would talk of spending their holidays in a place called Nova Scotia while the traditional term has always been "Nouvelle-Écosse" in French. This designation has been traditionally accepted, and if there were a sudden change, people would wonder who brought about such a change and whether it is another regressive step. Let us imagine for a moment people telling us: I plan on spending my holidays—

[English]

I am going to go for the summer to Newfoundland. It is rightfully universally accepted by everyone in Canada—at least every Canadian of French-speaking tongue—so you know where I put the emphasis "Canadian of French-speaking tongue". It is not my fault if the translation is bad and in English we are called "French Canadian". In French we call ourselves "Canadiens français", but in English it is not my fault if they put the emphasis somewhere else. One thing I know is that we say to ourselves, "Nous allons à Terre-Neuve". We do not say, "Nous allons in Newfoundland". Maybe some day we will say that. I know my friends opposite may like that, but I did not think it acceptable for us. They will not say, "I am going this summer to British Columbia". They say, "la Colombie-Britannique", even though when I was young at school I was taught that there was a nice province called "Canadian Columbia", because the word was offensive to some. It is not offensive to me. Then do you say, "I am going to go to New Brunswick"?

[Translation]

Would I go spend my holidays "au Nouveau-Brunswick" or in New Brunswick? People say "le Nouveau-Brunswick". Do people say, Will you be spending your holidays "à la Prince Edward Island"? Of course not, people say. I will be spending my holidays "à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard". Are you going to suggest at some other time that the name of Newfoundland be changed?

Designation of Nova Scotia

[English]

I can see my very good friend jumping in his seat, and rightfully so. If someone would say that "Newfoundland" in French means "Terre-Neuve" and in Latin it means "Terra Nova", so let us all go next summer to Terra Nova, then I think that would be unacceptable. That is not historical. What is historical is that we have customs. We have good customs. This one is universally accepted. Because I get along very well with some hon. members on the other side, I should not like to add to their difficulties by too solidly supporting the bill. I am ready to believe in the very good intentions of the hon. member who is the son of a very prominent friend of mine, a man who sat in this House. I always like to recall that because as a student I knew the hon. father of the hon. member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan).

● (1640)

I should like to say that people who are suspicious of certain intentions of certain members and certain political parties—I should like to stay above partisan politics—will say that this is something about which to be suspicious. They may not say it in English but I can assure the hon. member they would say in French that they are taking something away from us. I hear so much in this country about people who think we want to impose something on them.

There are other people who may say we are used to saying "la nouvelle-écosse". Why, suddenly, is there this new interest to call it, en français and in English, Nova Scotia? I am trying to help my hon. friend from the other side and to help his political party too. There is so much misunderstanding and he knows about the true feelings of some of the Conservative Party on bilingualism in my own province. I am not joining in that; I am only saying to them that they should reflect upon what may happen or could happen or how people are going to interpret that—people who are used to the words "la nouvelle-écosse".

I will conclude by saying that I should like to see this bill have a chance to come to a vote. I do not want to participate too long and take up the time that would deprive my hon. friend of a vote. I shall help him, as I always help other hon. members. I have not abused the time of the House of Commons in the 17 years I have been here because I do not believe in that. At times I believe I can be helpful in certain situations. I repeat, I do understand the good intentions and the good faith of my friend from Nova Scotia who introduced the bill. I want to tell him, however, that people will not understand it that way, especially those who are used to the words "la nouvelle-écosse".

I hope I can convince my hon. friend, if we do come to a vote, to withdraw the bill from further consideration with the permission of the House. In that way we would not have to vote against his bill and show division on his good intentions. If that is the case, I am sure we will not have to vote and divide ourselves. If he pursues it, however, I suppose someone else will speak and then we will not have to take a decision. I think we should not have to accept the bill at this time.