

Designation of Nova Scotia

and New Brunswick are united into one dominion under the name of "Canada". I suggest and submit, Mr. Speaker, that the 1867 proclamation brought us into being. Even in the Constitution Act of 1982, or whenever it was, which in effect reaffirmed the BNA Act and made the Constitution more modern, there is not a section in the statute which gets close to what they did with Trois Rivières—Three Rivers officially to designate the change from Nova Scotia to any other name.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I am happy to have had the chance to speak for these few minutes before the House. I hope I have not over-stressed the point, but I do believe it is time we considered this matter seriously. One can say, "What is in a name?" But long ago an Hon. Member of this House, the Hon. Member from Shawinigan, stood in this House during a private Member's hour and wanted the name of Trans Canada Air Lines changed to that of Air Canada. There was quite a debate and the Bill went through. That was many years ago when that Hon. Member was relatively new. I do not expect the same hallelujah if my Bill goes through today. That was one of the first Bills to, in effect, make a name almost "alingual", but I do not even have to face that. The proper name of my Province is Nova Scotia; it is not New Scotland, it is not Nouvelle Écosse.

I ask the consideration of the House to reflect on my remarks. Hopefully, the reflection will conclude before six o'clock so that this Bill can be properly referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. I believe that if we do get it that far, it is high time that Nova Scotians, including its Premier, addressed this problem.

[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be taking part in the debate on this Bill.

In fact, I was reading about past debates on the subject in some old volumes of *Hansard*, and I cannot help wondering why another attempt is being made to bring this legislation before the House today. I must say that I wish it were a quarter to six or six o'clock or whenever we are going to vote on this Bill this evening, because it will be very interesting to see how our Quebec colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party vote on this particular Bill.

I intend to be very brief to give these Hon. Members an opportunity to take part in the debate and show us how they intend to vote.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the Acadians in Canada is very important, although at times many Canadians have trouble remembering that particular history.

The Hon. Member who is sponsoring the Bill referred to the Acadians earlier, but I think his remarks need some elaboration. We should remember what happened in 1755, remember the deportation of the Acadians and their arrival in large numbers in Louisiana and related events.

Today, we should also remember the day when the Conservative Government of our country closed the consulate in

Louisiana, which I think was a slap in the face of the people of Louisiana, especially Acadians. Today, this Bill is once more before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that as a Francophone outside Quebec, I am very reluctant to support this kind of legislation. That is why I fully intend to vote against the Bill, and I also wish to take advantage of this opportunity to urge my francophone colleagues here in the House of Commons to do the same, especially our colleagues from Quebec on the other side of the House. I would urge them, first, to rise in the House and let us know what they think of the proposed legislation and give us their views, and second, before the House adjourns this evening, to vote against the Bill.

We are told that the reason for presenting this Bill is that in 1621, the province was given the name "Nova Scotia". That may be so. In fact it must be so, because the Hon. Member said so. However, Mr. Speaker, in 1621 legal texts were probably all written in Latin. I therefore fail to understand why it is so important for us to remember this particular incident today. It is quite possible that at the time, a lot of other things were given Latin names as well, but today, these have been translated into other languages. Prince Edward Island is called "l'île-du-Prince-Édouard" in French, and when I go to the Maritimes next year, I want to be able to go to Nouveau-Brunswick, if that is what I want to call that province, and to "la Nouvelle-Écosse", if that is how I want to call that province. If the Hon. Member wants to go on calling his province Nova Scotia, he is welcome to do so. I think we should keep the province's French name, the way it has been translated for centuries. It is correct, and I think especially in the present context, it is a way of showing the Acadians of our country some small recognition, and we certainly owe them at least that.

● (1720)

Mrs. Monique Landry (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as this is my maiden speech in the House as Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State, I would like to start by congratulating you on your recent appointment.

I would first like to provide a few explanations on the origin, the functions and the responsibilities of the Committee responsible for geographical designations in Canada.

The first organization in charge of controlling geographical names in Canada was created by Order in Council in 1897 under the name of Geography Commission of Canada. In 1948, this Commission became the Canadian Commission of Geographical Names, and in 1961, it received its present designation of Canadian Standing Committee on Geographical Names.

The Committee is made up of seven representatives from Federal Departments and one representative from each province in Canada appointed at the provincial level. The