

*Designation of Nova Scotia*

renowned as an English-speaking Party. Today, we have direct proof to the contrary.

## [Translation]

To get back to the debate, Mr. Speaker, some examples were given earlier of foreign designations of certain cities famous for their culture, such as the French "Venise" and the English "Venice" for the Italian "Venezia", and for centuries no one has objected to the different names in other languages. Even London, which is called "Londres" in French and London of course in English. There is Greece and the magnificent island of Corfu, Kérkyra, and here again there has been no objection to these different designations through the ages.

Mr. Speaker, the name "Nouvelle-Écosse" has been hallowed by history and by the suffering of a people that deserves all our support and admiration, and I am referring to the Acadians.

It is probably the only vestige Acadians have retained of their country of origin, and I am referring to this very direct and very French designation, "Nouvelle-Écosse", which was immediately accepted by all Anglophones in the surrounding area, even in Prince Edward Island.

I wonder what will happen if we have to change the name of a province. What all those lawyers are going to think up—some would say there are too many of them here in the House—what are all those lawyers going to say when the door has been opened by legal precedent? Will they dare change British Columbia to Canadian Columbia? Will they ask to change "Nouveau-Brunswick" to New Brunswick or Nouvelle-Allemagne? Where will that open door lead us?

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit to the House that the designation "Nova Scotia" was adapted and adopted by the English because of its cultural flavour, the ability to speak Latin then being the "in" thing in some European courts. That's the reason why the English had adopted it. It is clear, however, that if they had wanted to call it "New Scotland", they would have done so as they did for New Brunswick. I think that the designation "Nouvelle-Écosse" is a time-honoured one which should be preserved jealously not only for the local people, but also for the people in Western Canada, in Ontario, as well as in Quebec who have always known our Canadian provinces by their own names. And the designation "Nouvelle-Écosse" suits perfectly the fine province of Nova Scotia. I suggest, therefore, that we should keep it.

Second, I feel that this is not the proper forum to discuss such an issue, Mr. Speaker. I suggest it is the fact of a very old Government to say that we are going to send instructions to the provinces. The previous Government, missed by a small minority of Canadians, had the despicable habit of sending edicts to the provinces and to tell them: That is what you are going to do. We, from the province of Quebec, know it, because we were imposed similar things with the last Constitution. This Government, however, will respect the basic rights of the

provinces and we sincerely believe that, strictly speaking, it is up to the provinces to discuss at least their name.

I think, therefore, that we should first of all refer the matter to the province of Nova Scotia before coming up with this instruction to be imposed to an individual Canadian province.

Third, Mr. Speaker, we must realize that on all maps throughout the world, the designation "Nouvelle-Écosse" appears. In my career, I have had the opportunity to work for Zaire, a Francophone country in Africa. And I have seen in that and other countries maps of the world showing Canada with its provinces where the names "Nouvelle-Écosse" and "Nouveau-Brunswick" appeared. These people were aware that they had French maps of the world and that French is a universal language.

By the way, if we are to make or propose changes, I dare say that we should suggest in good French the expression "adjoint parlementaire" to replace "secrétaire parlementaire". It would be a very good French designation which is used in Geneva, Paris and Quebec City. I think that the expression "secrétaire parlementaire" is an anglicism which we shall have to rectify one of these days.

But that is not the issue now before us, the debate is rather concerned with a name change for a province that has not yet made an official request—even though it does not have to ask—and has not yet expressed any wish to have its name changed.

Therefore, I would like to suggest to the House that this would imply a number of changes, the updating of all world maps, charts, even radio systems, navigational systems that use the phrase *Nouvelle-Écosse* in French.

Fourthly, it goes without saying that to our proud French Canadians who are struggling in that beautiful country that was Acadia and has been Nova Scotia for a few centuries now, we must not give the impression that they are being deserted. As representatives of all Canada, we must support the remnants of French culture that may remain in difficult areas of Canada. French Canadians who are a very small minority in those areas of Nova Scotia should not be made to feel they are being shelved for good by that change in the name of their own province.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we should respect the vested, innate rights of our French-Canadians in Nova Scotia, who have always been proud French-Canadians and who come to visit us in Montreal once in a while, to show that the French spirit is still around, even among them.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, to sum up, I would like to bring to the attention of all Canadians today the fact that this Bill is being put forth, perhaps seriously, by people whom I shall not name but, as I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, who are now absent from the House.

Therefore, I humbly move, Mr. Speaker, that the name *Nouvelle-Écosse* be and remain historically applicable to that province known in English as "the Province of Nova Scotia".