

The letters are at least two feet high and are raised from the building. It is nicely illuminated at night. It is on a very attractive background. It reads, "The Nation's Capital", and it has the equivalent in French.

● (1750)

It seems to me that if a visitor purchased a ticket to Ottawa or Hull and upon arriving at the Ottawa International Airport saw an attractive sign reading "Nation's Capital" and equivalent in French, he or she would have some idea about this area of the country. If visitors could deplane here and not be required to walk through a boarded-in mine tunnel, such as is the case now, the situation would be improved. There could be some indication of the beauties of Ottawa and its attractions. There could be some indication that indeed it is the nation's capital, and some pride in that fact, rather than the rough framework through which passengers have had to walk during the past few years. That would give more impetus to what the Hon. Member for Hull wants.

Upon landing at the military portion of the airport, there are no inside walkways. People have to walk across approximately 100 yards through rain or snow, but the sign to which I referred earlier is attractive. If we could do that, it seems to me that we would enhance the nation's capital. Also we would enhance its airport and could show visitors the benefits and beauties awaiting them in this area. We could spell out in many ways how attractive the region is and, of course, we could accommodate my friend by including the area which the NCC has designated as the National Capital Region. We could spell out the beauties, not only the tulips in Ottawa but the various attractions in Hull. This would be the proper way to show that indeed this is the nation's capital.

To try and designate it as such will not change anything. If ticket agents anywhere in the world are asked the cost of travelling to the nation's capital, they would probably have no reply. However, if they are told that passengers want to travel to Ottawa, the situation is different. When passengers arrive in Ottawa it should be spelled out in large letters, for all to see, that indeed it is the nation's capital.

I commiserate with the Hon. Member. I understand what he is trying to do. I understand his home town loyalty and the effect of this Bill upon his constituents. However I could not support it and agree with it—"a rose by any other name would smell as sweet".

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak at this time on Bill C-207. Down deep in my mind I wonder what is its purpose. However, first I should like to indicate that the Hon. Member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) is a very respected Member of the House and a great supporter of his community. With that in mind, I understand his interest in having the name of the Ottawa International Airport changed to the National Capital Regional Airport, or some such name. We must all promote our own communities.

In terms of this Bill my mind goes back to what happened in the case of the Toronto International Airport. It was first

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known as the Malton International Airport. Then its name was changed to the Toronto International Airport, and now it is the Lester B. Pearson Airport. This has resulted in nothing but massive confusion. Regardless of how great a Canadian for whom the airport was named, people in that area do not relate to such names. However, they all relate to the Toronto International Airport. They did not relate to the name of Malton because at that time in our history airport traffic was not what it is today. They have become accustomed to calling it the Toronto International Airport.

I cannot see any purpose being served in changing the name of the Ottawa International Airport, especially if I remember the history of the Toronto International Airport. If we talk to people visiting from anywhere outside or inside Canada they do not understand us when we refer to the Lester B. Pearson Airport in Toronto. The situation in Ottawa would be compounded if the name of its airport were changed.

Governments have added too much to disorientation in terms of the history of Canada, the early pioneers and the original purposes of naming towns, airports, cities or whatever. History will not treat us very kindly as we go down the road. This has been a government of change. I suppose this is just another one of its suggestions. It changed the flag. That has been accepted now, but it took years. Perhaps it has not been accepted by everyone. It changed Dominion Day to Canada Day. Now it is trying to project its wishes upon places, institutions and locations.

I certainly know that in the area of the Province of Ontario from which I come the name Lester B. Pearson Airport will never be accepted. It adds to the confusion within the community and its people. I cannot see the necessity for encouraging further change such as that suggested in Bill C-207. I honestly believe that the Hon. Member's intentions are all well and good for his community. From what I heard in this debate, I am very convinced of that fact.

I heard the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mrs. Côté) indicate that she could not support the Bill. I thought she would have supported it, but perhaps she was expressing the wishes of her Minister. We have to be realistic about this and forget about our local fancies. We should speak more internationally of our country and forget about trying to christen an airport with a name which means nothing to the people living in the community around it. Name changes could take place for every international airport in the country. I do not know where it would end.

This is a good point at which to retain the name of Ottawa International Airport. It is up to Hon. Members, regardless of their Party, to be proud of the national capital. It is a great region. We are all very proud of the National Capital Region. I take great pleasure in showing it to many people, especially American tourists. They remark on how clean the City of Ottawa is, as well as on its beauty. We can all expound its virtues. Certainly the Hon. Member's side of the river is very picturesque. I enjoy going over there. The City of Hull has improved over the years. It has many fine buildings which can be seen from both sides of the river.