

*Designation of Nova Scotia*

of Nova Scotia involving no more and no less than the proper use of a proper noun in the proper context.

The proper noun we are dealing with, of course, is the name "Nova Scotia", which is Latin and, in my humble submission, therefore is not translatable to either English or French. If, under the BNA Act and under its original Charter, Nova Scotia was called "New Scotland", then in our day of bilingualism, the translation for that would be "Nouvelle Écosse". However, the fact of the matter is that the name is Nova Scotia. It is a proper name that comes from a grant made by King James I to William Alexander in 1621. This was before Canada was ever even conceived of in terms of any constitutional arrangement. There were Indians present, and I shall return to that.

There are many names in Canada, historic names which reflect our history and heritage, which are not and should not be translated. I must say that this Bill germinated when I was a new Member of Parliament. This is why I am glad to raise it again in a new Parliament which consists of so many new Members. I was a Member of a new Parliament back in 1966 when in this far corner of the Chamber a very eminent Canadian, who happened at the time to be an independent Member and the ex-mayor of Trois-Rivières, Mr. J. S. Monro, rose in his place every time an anglophone mentioned the words "Three Rivers". He would bring the proceedings to a halt. I suppose there were times in that new day of bilingualism that anglophone Members were irritated at the question of privilege or point d'ordre being raised on the use of the name Three Rivers.

● (1700)

Then there was the interesting situation of another eminent federal Member at the time, who has had some eminence in Quebec politics since that time, Gilles Grégoire. He represented part of the riding which now encompasses Sept-Îles. I worked in a place which was known as Seven Islands when the Iron Ore Company was only a dream. Before the railway was built along the Moisie River there was a fishing village with a population of 1,500 which was known as Seven Islands. However, quite properly attention was drawn to the fact that under the Charter of Seven Islands the proper noun for Seven Islands was Sept-Îles. Those points were made and they were accepted.

I submit that my case is even stronger than the cases which I have mentioned. I am not talking about a translation; I am talking about the use of a proper noun in the proper context. If there are Members, Nova Scotians or Canadians, who feel more comfortable using other appellations for my Province, then let them use them. The Bill does not restrict anyone or make it illegal to use any other name. Obviously I know the name that a majority of the people in my Province are familiar with, that is the name of la Nouvelle Écosse. If in their social context and in their dialogues they feel more comfortable using Nouvelle Écosse, so be it. Depending on the results of this debate today, the point of truth, frankly, Mr. Speaker, may become perhaps a problem between you and me. I believe

it is high time that a name which has existed for three and one-half centuries, which is neither English nor French but is Latin, should be the proper noun which is used for my Province. I will have to consider my position and how obstreperous I will become if this Bill does not find favour with the House.

I will not quote all of the Latin of the King James Charter which was given to Sir William Alexander, although it is beautiful stuff. There are pages and pages of Latin which relate to Nova Scotia. That is the first part of my case.

One can say, "What is in a name?" I will cite some interesting and ridiculous situations with respect to what is in a name.

When I was first in this House, Mr. Speaker, one of your eminent predecessors was Mr. Speaker Lamoureux. He was a very gracious Speaker and obviously a great predecessor of yours. However, on the English side we did not call him "Mr. Lover". Nor did we call Gilles Lamontagne, the former Minister of Defence, "Mr. Mountain". We did not call and do not call Madam Sauvé, "Madam Saviour", although she was a Speaker who certainly saved the decorum of the House from completely breaking down from time to time. We did not do that because it would make a mockery of the sincerity and seriousness of bilingualism for us to become too fervent in deciding that every word should be translated, especially proper nouns. It is grammatically incorrect to translate proper nouns into another language, be it from English to French or from French to English.

In the present Cabinet we have Roch La Salle. Are we going to call him "Roch the Room"? We also have John Wise. Are we to call him "Jean Le Sage"? That obviously points to the absurdity of the matter. We could do it with Andrée Champagne, who is a lovely lady. I have not had the pleasure of formally meeting her too often, but I will certainly call her by her name and not "Andrée Field". That would be a mockery and an insult to her.

All I am asking is for fairness in using the proper nouns in the proper context. The Bill is very simple. Paragraph 1 reads:

This Act may be cited as The Official Designation of Nova Scotia Act.

That is simple. It does not pose a problem. The second paragraph reads:

In every place where the words "Nova Scotia" appear in any Act, regulation, statutory instrument, report, contract, lease, licence or other document the proper designation of such name in both official languages is and shall be "Nova Scotia".

I will not get into the situation of wanting rewritten all the laws which must be translated. I simply want to ensure from this day forward that we will not translate proper nouns when those words are not translatable.

I know Members in this House are versed in history and I do not want to take much of the time of the House, but I found it interesting, when I researched this matter, that the very name of Canada is an Indian name. We do not translate that. Ottawa is a very interesting Indian name. It perhaps typifies what we do in this city, but it is not translatable. Quebec,