

Designation of Nova Scotia

that. But if the name is "Nova Scotia" in Latin, I say with respect that it should not be translated because it would not be the proper name.

I gather all hon. members in this House know that the name "Canada" is not a French name or an English name. It is an Indian name. It is the Huron-Iroquois name "Kanata" meaning a village or community. We all accept "Canada" as the name of our country. We do not translate it. We do not have "Canada" on one side of a name card and "Village or Community" on the other.

The case of Quebec is very interesting. As all hon. members from *la belle province* know, "Québec" is an Indian name. The Algonquin name for Quebec means where the river narrows. I cannot say that in French but I do say I am proud and happy that Quebec is known by its proper name, and in my opinion and submission Nova Scotia also should be known by its proper name. The interesting thing about Quebec, which I did not appreciate, but scholars of French would know, and I imagine you, Mr. Speaker, would know, is that if you went down the river a little way you would get the translation of Quebec in French from the name of a little town called *Détroit*. In effect, *Détroit* means of the narrows, the same meaning as that of Quebec in the Algonquin language. Until I did a little research on this I did not appreciate that, and I thank those researchers who gave me that little hint.

● (1610)

Let us now move on to that great big province of Ontario. Again Ontario is a name which is not translated at federal-provincial conferences. It is not English or French, it is Iroquois. It has two names, *ontare*, meaning lake, plus *io* meaning beautiful, or beautiful lake. If Ontario means beautiful lake and Ontario is good enough for Ontario and for the Canadian public, and in federal-provincial affairs, we do not have to make it any prettier by calling it beautiful lake.

Nova Scotia is Latin for New Scotland, it is not *Nouvelle-Écosse*. Let us go out west to a couple of the provinces there. Manitoba in Cree and Ojibway means the strait of the manito or spirit. Saskatchewan is another Indian name. It is a Cree Kishiska name for rapid current. I could go on to the other provinces but I will not waste much time on them. They have names which are translatable into English or French even though, quite frankly for my purpose, in terms of the proper use of language, they should be known by their own proper names.

You could consider the names of members on both sides of the House, such as that of my friend, the former minister of agriculture, the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise). He wants to be known by his own name of John Wise, not Jean Le Sage. The whole thing could be carried to absurd lengths. Or let us consider the name of the former minister, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) who, I am sure, would prefer to be known as Mr. Allmand, not Mr. German. There are so many other names, but I do not want to take the time of the House to go through them. Quite frankly, the proper name for British Columbia should be British

Columbia, not *Colombie Britannique*. *Trois Rivières* is the proper name for *Trois Rivières*. I do not understand why that name is not translated but *British Columbia* is.

I want to stick to my own province of Nova Scotia. My own town, which is a very beautiful spot in Nova Scotia, is called Wolfville, and it is known as such. Anyone who tried to translate it to *la Ville de Loup* would find that, although it might help him to get through on the telephone system, he would be laughed at in my province. I seriously hope members will be disposed to give some direction and pass this very simple bill. It did not take a bill for us to correct what I consider to be an injustice in terms of *Trois Rivières* and *Sept-îles*.

Now that I have finally got this bill on the floor of the House, having started work on it eight years ago, I intend from now on, in a non-argumentative way, to try to stress the importance of using proper names for places in this country. Just notice, Mr. Speaker, how conditioned we are. The very title of my bill says in French "*la Nouvelle-Écosse*". That is in the official title of my bill. I will not go into all the pragmatic reasons I would like to see this changed in terms of tourism. We spend money in our part of the country to get tourists to come to Canada. I know that part of the country has a history of its own and I have received some very interesting letters from people in Nova Scotia and in Quebec, some very good Acadian friends of mine, who have sent me copies of their deeds 300 or 400 years ago. Some of them are in Nova Scotia, but some of the early Acadians even then were calling it *Nouvelle-Écosse* because they had translated the Latin name of Nova Scotia. That is all right. I am not suggesting we could get this changed overnight and condition people to calling Nova Scotia by its proper name.

I see the former premier of Nova Scotia, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan), in the House. Had I known he would be here on this late Friday afternoon, I perhaps would have tried to get him to second this bill in the hope it could move through, because it will hurt no one. Frankly, at this time when we are trying to renew federalism, as has been discussed from time to time when we are revising constitutions, and as we have certainly heard from time to time, we should allow reform on the proper use of language and call proper nouns by their proper names.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Mississauga North): Mr. Speaker, I have to say at the outset that this is a tough act to follow. Like most of his fellow members from *la Nouvelle-Écosse*, the hon. member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) is a great speaker and he has clearly laid out his reason for putting this bill forward. I have to say I support him. I think it is a good idea. He wants to make common usage official usage. I think that is a good idea. He has spent a long time in his speech telling us he is not against anything and, like most of the people from Nova Scotia who I know, such as our Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) or our Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan), I think it is a constructive idea from a constructive