

Private Members' Business

At the moment, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada has approximately 300 parishes, five cathedral churches, five sub-cathedral churches and its own theological seminary, St. Andrew's College of Winnipeg which is affiliated with the University of Manitoba. The church has roughly 100 clergy and three bishops whose primate is His Beatitude, Metropolitan Wasyly of Winnipeg and of all Canada.

To get to the substance of the bill, the name "Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church" was adopted at the time, in 1918, to signify its "Byzantine or (synonymously) Greek Rite", rather than the "Latin Rite". In practice, most parishes and institutions of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada have excluded the word "Greek" from their names since at least the 1950s or earlier as being redundant to the common usage of the descriptive word "orthodox". The proposed amendments to the church's 1929 charter are intended to update the charter to reflect the present day situation of the church and the current use of its name.

In addition to the formal change of name, a number of provisions in the original charter are proposed to be amended or repealed so that the church can provide for more effective management through its by-laws. The bill would also remove, as being outdated or no longer required, certain restrictions relating to the holding of real estate beyond a certain value or not required for the church's actual use and occupation.

I am indebted to an Alberta colleague in the other place, the Hon. Senator Earl Hastings, who assisted me in the researching of some of this material and who, indeed, was the sponsor of this bill in the other place.

In conclusion, there is a meeting coming up next month in preparation for the general council meeting of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, scheduled for the Canada Day long weekend in Winnipeg, which is the general council meeting which is held every five years. It is my hope that the House may deal expeditiously with this bill today, and I appreciate the generous unanimous

consent that has been extended, so that members of the Consistory who are preparing for the May meeting and the Canada Day meeting can be assured that, indeed, the church will be renamed to reflect the reality of our marvellous Ukrainian presence here in Canada and the reality of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would move adoption of the bill at second reading stage.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for Edmonton Southwest for taking on the work of this bill. It is very important and very significant that all members of all parties in this House recognize the importance of this and the contribution of the Ukrainian community. I know, in our party, we are all very pleased to be of assistance and to try to expedite this as much as possible.

I, too, would like to thank Senator Hastings in the other place for the work he has done in bringing this forward.

As the hon. member for Edmonton Southwest has said, the bill is fairly straightforward, relating to the Rite which was Constantinople more to a shift in the Latin or Roman Rite, and also with respect to the provisions in respect of the ownership of land, as well as some amendments regarding the administration and by-laws of the church. I think that it is certainly in our interest and the interest of all members of the House to have this passed as quickly as possible.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 5.12 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 5.12 p.m.