

many millions of dollars, such loss in certain instances having resulted in the bankruptcy and the financial destitution of contractors who at the commencement of the building of the Great Slave Lake Railway were solvent progressive companies with proven records of efficiency in the construction business; and

To the responsibility for these losses which is that of the Government of Canada inasmuch as the Canadian National Railway (an agent of Her Majesty) and those engaged in the construction of the Great Slave Lake Railway were carrying out the expressed wishes of Parliament as set forth in chapter 56 of the Statutes of Canada, 1961.

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald:** Honourable senators, I adjourned this debate some time ago on behalf of one of my colleagues who at that time thought he might wish to take part in the debate. Because of happenings in the other place since that date, namely, that on Monday, June 2, the President of the Privy Council indicated that the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications would be dealing with this matter in the other place and that witnesses would be called and given an opportunity to explain the situation, my colleague decided that in the circumstances it might be better not to speak.

**Hon. Mr. Argue:** Stand.  
Order stands.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA—SECOND READING

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne** moved the second reading of Bill S-39, respecting Boy Scouts of Canada and to incorporate L'Association des Scouts du Canada.

He said: Honourable senators, this bill is very simple indeed, and I hope that it will be adopted promptly by this house so that it can be considered by the other place before the end of this session. It provides for two things: first, it incorporates an existing group, presently known as "Les Scouts catholiques du Canada (secteur français)", under the name of "L'Association des Scouts du Canada", which will serve French-speaking Catholics throughout the country.

The major portion of the bill determines the rights and obligations sought by the new association, which are similar to those already assigned by Parliament to the Boy Scouts of Canada. Thus, this portion of the bill, from clause 5 on, should not present any difficul-

ty. Secondly, the bill changes the French name of Boy Scouts of Canada from "Scouts du Canada" to "Les Boy Scouts du Canada". This change may seem trivial and deserves a few words of explanation.

During the long discussions between the two groups which preceded the introduction of this bill, Boy Scouts of Canada did not want the French-speaking association to keep the word "Catholic" in its new name. The latter group agreed to delete that word, and then Boy Scouts of Canada agreed to add the word "Boy" to its French name. This is a somewhat difficult to understand, especially for a logical mind, but the change was made necessary in order to differentiate the two national organizations.

**Hon. Mr. Choquette:** Boys will be boys in any language.

**Hon. Mr. Lamontagne:** It is important to point out that clause 1 does not change in any way the present rights and obligations of Boy Scouts of Canada. Thus, the only issue raised by the bill can be summed up by the following question: should there be a special incorporated scout organization serving the French-speaking Roman Catholic men and boys in Canada?

I submit that our answer should be in the affirmative, and for three reasons. First, there has been a separate French-speaking group in Canada since 1935 and, even if we were to refuse its incorporation, it will continue to exist and the separation will continue to prevail. Secondly, the incorporation of the French-speaking group, on a basis of equality with Boy Scouts of Canada, will foster active co-operation between the two groups and will strengthen the unity of the scouts movement in Canada. Thirdly, after a long period of negotiation, Boy Scouts of Canada now fully supports the incorporation of the French-speaking group.

In a letter addressed to all members of Parliament and dated March 21, 1969, the President of the National Council of Boy Scouts of Canada, Mr. D. A. Thompson of Winnipeg stated:

...The application for incorporation is made pursuant to an agreement of co-operation between the two organizations signed in 1967, in the presence of and with the wholehearted support of the then Chief Scout for Canada, the late Governor General Vanier.

Scouting in Canada has benefited and will, we believe, continue to benefit from the co-operation of the two organizations