

Private Members' Business

Salvation Army in my hometown of Bonavista. It was at that dinner that I committed my assistance to the movement and some of the projects it is interested in because of my belief, faith, and the way I have been touched by what it has done in its time in Canada, especially in the smaller villages and towns of Newfoundland where the movement is particularly strong.

Across Canada there are parole supervision agencies, the well-known Harbour Light Centre for alcoholics, Sunset Lodges, Grace Hospitals, fresh air camps for youngsters and programs for drug addicts. In my riding there are two camps which the Salvation Army through hard work has put together. It continues to supervise the youth activities. In fact, some of these camps double for activities which involve senior citizens and other like organizations of a recreational nature.

To summarize, the indication that the Salvation Army has put across is that it is a willing hand in a time of need. I am familiar, as I am sure anybody who has been associated with the organization is, with its motto, "With heart to God and hand to man". I think all of us have a lot of time for the kind of work that this particular organization does. It is for that reason that it has such great stature in our country.

My concern in reviewing the information that I had on this bill was that we simply did not make amendments to an existing organization that could come back and perhaps make life difficult for the Salvation Army. I just had to review for my own benefit precisely what this amendment was doing.

The Salvation Army as a church has what is called the core managing board, which does not have the ownership of the property within which it performs its function. All that ownership rests with the corporation which is called the governing council of the Salvation Army. In simplistic terms, I understand that this council has to be set up in order to have ownership of the property and the many organizations which represent real estate to which I have made reference. This is opposed to the Salvation Army movement itself, which as a religious movement would not have title to these particular properties.

The governing council was split in two in 1916 when there was formed a separate territory called the Canada West in Winnipeg, which was a special regional organization.

In 1930, because of severe economic conditions and, once more, because of the business of trying to amalgamate and save administrative dollars, the army amalgamated this group. The senior leadership moved to one centre in Toronto without having made the change in the legislation.

In simple terms the legislation, as I understand it, has never caught up with the reality of the reorganization that took place in 1930. The officers of the governing council are the same for Canada West and Canada East. For purposes of tightening up the structure and ensuring the tidying up of the corporate legislative details, the Salvation Army brought forward this bill, which it hopes to see passed as soon as possible.

It is my privilege on behalf of my colleagues, and I hope all members of the House, to say that any reservations we had have been discharged. I hope that in passing this bill we will allow an organization that is running for the good of mankind to run a bit more smoothly from the administrative and legislative side. We are quite happy to proceed with this bill.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to offer my appreciation to the hon. member for York—Simcoe who has worked so hard on this bill. It is very unfortunate that he got caught in the plane delays which affect every one of us who are here trying to serve this House. I appreciate his giving me the consent to proceed with the motion.

Second, on behalf of all members of this House, I wish to say how much we appreciate the work of the Salvation Army or, as it is more affectionately called, the Sally Ann. It has definitely created an attitude in this country of credibility, of kindness and a spirit that all of us would do well to imitate and reflect upon.

I often think of one soldier I talked to who is about as hard and cynical a man as I know who regularly referred so kindly to the Sally Ann officers who had cared for him and helped him during the times of war.

I also want to say that I appreciate the co-operation of both the Liberal and NDP members and how much they have helped us in proceeding with this bill. I know that the House does want to express to the Salvation Army our continued support for its work and our appreciation for what it does for so many Canadians who, from time to time have suffered hardship. It has demonstrated leadership.