

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 12, 1990

The House met at 1 p.m.

Prayers

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[*English*]

SALVATION ARMY ACT, 1989

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill S-9, an act to amalgamate the two corporations known, respectively, as "The Governing Council of The Salvation Army, Canada East" and "The Governing Council of The Salvation Army, Canada West", and to make necessary provisions regarding the charter of the amalgamated corporation, as reported (with an amendment) from a legislative committee.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I have advised both opposition parties that the hon. member in whose name this bill is has been unavoidably detained by airplane schedules. I ask the consent of the House to move this particular bill so that we can proceed with debate today.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cooper (for Mr. Cole) moved that Bill S-9, as amended, be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooper (for Mr. Cole) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make some comments on this particular bill.

The organization that is the subject of this particular bill is represented very strongly across Canada. In fact, I did some research on its background. It is a very rich background that I will not go through here, although I think it is worth while to recall some of the dates involved, to give some indication of just how steeped in our history the organization called The Salvation Army is.

It first came to Canada in 1882. It was introduced by a group of very dedicated people. The corps first really sprung up in smaller towns in Ontario.

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As an indication of the kind of movement that the Salvation Army had, just five years later the religion, as I would prefer to call it, was being practised from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland. In relative terms, that was a very short time for a religion or a particular movement to spread across any country.

There are a number of milestones worth pointing out. In 1886, the organization was a rescue home for fallen girls, as it was called. In 1891, the Salvation Army opened its first prison-gate home. In 1905, a Salvation Army officer became the first Dominion Parole Officer.

This is an organization of great stature in our country. Today, the Salvation Army maintains both a social and a religious or evangelical purpose. It is a recognized church with close to 130,000 members.

In my travels across Canada, in the Bermuda area and other parts of the world, I have been very impressed with the kind of work the Salvation Army does. If I may be permitted a personal aside, the very first duty I had to perform after being elected in the riding of Bonavista—Trinity—Conception was to attend a dinner given by the