

Private Bills

the unity of conviction that prevails in the house with regard to the great work of the boy scouts.

Finally, mention was made by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) of the girl guides. What one has said about the boy scouts one could say about them. I am happy to join with him, particularly because he comes from my section of the province, in the proposal he made for recognition of their anniversary by some action which, as he suggested, could more appropriately be taken by the Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton). If the Leader of the Opposition were in his seat he would have said these words but I am sure he would have said them much better.

Mr. Pickersgill: As an old boy scout and as the minister in better days—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but I must recognize the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

Mr. Howard Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, it is most certainly not my intention to take up too much of the time of the house but, like many other members, I represent a constituency where the boy scouts are doing most active and useful work. However, that is not my main purpose in rising at this time. My real reason for wishing to say a few words lies in the fact that I would be more than remiss if I did not bring to the attention of the house the fact that the boy scout movement in Canada includes not only the great host of boy scouts from coast to coast but also includes a great number of sea scouts.

I do not wish to pretend for a single moment that I am a prime example of the sea scout movement, but, in supporting Bill S-13, I should like to take this opportunity to say that the sea scouts association exemplifies all the qualities of leadership that have been mentioned by other speakers this afternoon. I should like to point out, the sea scouts organization prepared many boys for active service in the navy during the second world war. I should also like to voice my word of thanks as an old sea scout to the scouting movement and commend the bill to the most serious attention of the house. I am grateful for the opportunity to say a few words this afternoon.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, evidently not only was I prepared but I was too well prepared. As hon. members know, the motto of the boy scouts is "Be Prepared". I have always taken this seriously all my life and I think it is one of the best mottoes in the world. I also think that the boy scouts are one of the best organizations in the world. My only excuse for taking a minute or two of the time of the

house this afternoon is that I was, as minister of citizenship and immigration and as Mr. Harris was before me, very much interested in promoting this work through the department, and I have no doubt that the hon. lady who now presides over the department also is.

Unfortunately—in fact, doubly unfortunately—I did not have the advantage that the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey) had of being a sea scout. That would undoubtedly have stood me in good stead in later life. Unfortunately, I was brought up 2,000 miles from the sea and in the days before the Hudson Bay Railway was built even if one was quite prepared to be a sea scout it was rather hard in Manitoba. I believe that has been repaired now by including the Red river as part of the sea. But the sea scouts are, of course, a very important branch of the boy scouts, particularly on our coasts, and there is no doubt that they have added vastly to the value of the organization.

I should like to join with other members who have already spoken in saying that I hope the Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton) will yield to persuasion and commemorate the anniversary of the girl guides with a stamp. I hope he will not regard it as a lobby, which seems to be very unfashionable with the government these days, but merely the gentle persuasion of the devoted women who have given their time to this organization.

(Translation):

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to support this bill, especially in view of the outstanding role played by the boy scout movement in the world and because here in Canada, all provinces are fortunate in having one or more branches of this world-wide organization.

Boy scouts play a significant role in the province of Quebec, more particularly in the federal constituency of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. The city of Joliette has a boy scout organization which is an asset to the town of Joliette and to the constituency of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

Scouting in Canada provides useful training; it teaches the young the spirit of sacrifice, of devotion to the community and trains him to be a better citizen.

I am glad to support this bill which will contribute to the growth of scouting in Canada.

(Text):

Mr. O. W. Weichel (Waterloo North): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak briefly in support of Bill S-13 having to do with the