

belonging, a sense of community, a sense of togetherness and a sense of common direction, common beliefs and common philosophy. To go one step further, its purpose is the promotion of similar ideas and concepts.

The second purpose of a charitable organization is to benefit those with a specific need. As we take a look at the charitable organizations in Canada today, we can see that they cover the whole gamut, the full circle of people or objects within our society with a specific need. We have such things as art societies, animal societies and societies that deal with prisoners, whether Canadian or foreign, or prisoners held behind the Iron Curtain. I think of Amnesty International and that type of organization.

The second area of need would be physical need, for instance, food, clothing and shelter. Still another one would be emotional need. I think specifically of such areas as counselling victims of crime and victims of stress. Just recently in my own riding I have seen some of the concerns that emanate from that. Over the last couple of years we have experienced a booming economy. We have seen charitable organizations that have provided counselling for families that are suffering from some of the traumatic experiences that come with sudden economic growth which tend to put pressure on the family unit and cause all sorts of pain, destruction and hurt.

The third area is propagation of viewpoints. That is where the charitable organization gets together and really has a sense of joining of like-minded people. Their purpose is to teach the people within their organization about the principles, the guidelines and the goals they wish to foster and propagate. They strive to instruct their members and bring them to a mature approach that is consistent with their organization and the beliefs they propagate. Another area, of course, has to be the seeking out of new members, proselytizing, trying to bring new people into the corporation.

● (2140)

My interest in this bill comes from my keen interest in charitable organizations and from the concept I have of charitable organizations. I tend to think of them as being small groups. Charitable organizations are, in my opinion, largely small groups, minority groups, which tend to reflect a minority position, attitude and idea. They tend to have very genuine and very real reasons for their existence. As I said, I think that is one of the most important parts and most fundamental foundations for the way in which I approach Bill C-10. They tend to be small, and any legislation that attempts to deal with them, attempts to address them or their problems must, therefore, recognize the fact that we are not dealing on the average with large corporations.

Of course, there are exceptions. We do have charitable organizations with very large memberships. We do have charitable organizations that are motivated by selfishness, organizations which have been taking advantage of the charitable donations aspect of the laws in order to accumulate wealth and personal gain. We have seen them used as vehicles of abuse. I

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believe very strongly that in fact these are the exceptions rather than the rule.

As we approach this bill I think it is very important and fundamental that we think in terms of the small organizations which will in fact be affected by the bill. In order to emphasize that, I would like to turn first in Bill C-10 to the definition section which defines charitable organizations. It says:

"charitable corporation" means a corporation incorporated or continued under this act to carry on activities that are primarily for the benefit of the public;

Then it states:

"corporation" means a body corporate incorporated or continued under this Act and not discontinued under this Act;

That is a very broad definition. We wonder, when looking at that, just what it means. The description tends to create in our minds a picture of largeness, grandness, bigness, when in fact what it should bring to mind, because of what it really does define and stand for, is little organizations like Lions Clubs. I have them sprinkled all through my riding; Lions Clubs of ten, 12, 15 members; Kinsmen Clubs, Knights of Columbus, Masons and churches. I think it is important that we recognize that churches represent, in fact, a very important group that will be affected by this particular legislation. That fact has been downplayed in any publicity I have seen about the bill.

In looking into the matter this afternoon I discovered that churches will be covered by this particular legislation. Therefore, I think this causes us some concern and we should give this bill a great deal of consideration. If we look at the size of the bill, we find it is all-encompassing, far-reaching and with many implications. It will have a strong impact on all of us in the House and on people sprinkled throughout my area. Therefore, I believe it deserves very careful consideration and investigation.

This afternoon while sitting in the House I learned that the government intended to bring this bill before us tonight. So I tried to carry out some investigation to find out what the bill is all about. I was surprised that Bill C-10 was to come forward today. I quickly sent out some feelers because I have distributed this bill to a few people asking for consideration and comment. Some of those comments have come back, but the majority have not yet reached me. I suddenly found myself confronted with a bill in respect of which there seemed to be very little resource material on which we could draw, and few sources of background information. On studying the bill. I found it to be massive and all-encompassing, and it will in fact cause many changes. Therefore, it is important that we treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

I have some concerns about Bill C-10. The first is that in my view it will seriously complicate charitable organizations, those charitable organizations which, as I say, create in my mind a picture of small, simple groups, sometimes almost family affairs. Under this legislation they no longer will be simple. These will no longer be family affairs and will no longer be community affairs.

The best example of that, and the one that probably brought this bill into clear focus for me, came from the work I did last