

presume it came to me yesterday, but I had not had an opportunity of seeing it before. Immediately I saw that the principal object of the association, in addition to the usual objects of the Boy Scouts, is to develop it in accordance with the teachings and principles of the Roman Catholic Church, I felt I had to object. I objected to the title before. I object also to there being any such body as Roman Catholic Boy Scouts. I object because I am a Catholic. I would object in the same way, were there other religious differentiations.

I appreciate what the chairman of the committee has said. This is as a result of agreement that has been reached between the two main bodies, the Boy Scouts Association of Canada and what was formerly the unincorporated Les Scouts Catholiques. They have dropped the word "Catholiques", but have retained something that, to my mind, is just as objectionable.

Senator Roebuck said that even though that provision is in the act, and apparently in their constitution, they will still have non-Roman Catholic members of this association. It seems to me that if that is to be the case, they should drop those words. It is perfectly proper, and I have no objection whatsoever, if they allow non-members of the Roman Catholic Church to belong to this association. If they are going to do so, I do not think they should put on the public record in this kind of an association a statutory description that draws those religious lines.

Honourable senators, this is largely a personal opinion. It does not matter to me whether the two associations have agreed; I think they are wrong, and this is the wrong thing to do. Although I supported the bill on second reading, I cannot support it on third reading, as long as those words remain in it.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne: Honourable senators, as sponsor of the bill, I should like to deal with two points that Senator Leonard has raised.

He referred to the bill that was presented in 1967 and the objection that he raised at that time. I must remind honourable senators that at that time there had been no agreement whatsoever between the two groups. So at that time he was certainly much more justified in objecting than he is today, when peace has been made between the two associations.

Senator Leonard also said that it was only this morning that he saw this clause in the

bill. I am sure that he has forgotten what he told me yesterday, or the day before, when I discussed briefly with him here whether or not this bill should go to committee or, with leave of the Senate, it should proceed immediately to third reading. He told me at that time that he had seen this clause in the bill related to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege. I had not seen the bill, and I could not have said that I had seen any clause relating to the Roman Catholic church. All I knew of this bill was its title.

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: I am prepared to accept the word of Senator Leonard, but I put a different construction on what he said at that time, which apparently was not what he purported to convey.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: Were you speaking the same language?

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: I was speaking the bilingual language at that time, and not la langue de la confidence.

However, we have before us now a difficult problem. Most honourable senators who know me will not recognize me as fervent a Catholic as is Senator Leonard, but, in any case, I am a great admirer of the Scout movement in Canada.

There are two ways to unity. One way is through uniformity—and in some cases this may be an ideal way. But when, after 22 years of discussion, misunderstanding and isolation between the two groups, this way of achieving unity has proved to be ineffectual, I think we have to find another way. The other way to unity is through diversity, in which people remain conscious of their differences and agree that they are different, but agree to work together. After all these years of negotiation, finally and, in my view, fortunately, these two groups have agreed to work together, having stated and recognized their mutual differences.

It seems to me that on this occasion we should withdraw our personal objections to this kind of an arrangement, and enable these two groups finally to work for the greater benefit of the scouting movement in Canada, not through uniformity, because that has proven to be impossible, but through diversity.

Hon. Mr. Paterson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask Senator Roebuck a legal