

Private Bills

is preached so often in this country. Since those university or college students are getting a higher education, they recognize the need for association, the necessity of uniting in order to reach the objectives peculiar to their situation, to their condition or the need for them to help one another.

Mr. Speaker, if one considers Bill No. S-36, one sees that the University of Montreal, Laval University, Loyola College in Montreal, the university of Trinity college, the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, Carleton University here in Ottawa, the University of Ottawa, the Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf in Montreal, in short all the recognized universities in this country will be members of the association, as well as our leading colleges.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is a good movement. The students of our universities and colleges are taking a worth-while step; they are making a commendable effort in order to promote higher education within our country.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to say more on the bill before us. However, I should like to say once again that our intention is not to stand in the way of university or college students, but to bring to reason the members of the other place who are delaying a piece of legislation that everybody has been looking forward to for a long time. Under those circumstances, although we earnestly support the principle of Bill No. S-36, we think that eventually, in a week or two, we will have an opportunity to pass this bill without discussion.

But in the meantime we feel it is our obligation and responsibility to say that if democracy does exist in Canada, the time has come to make it clear that the members of this house are not the only ones who have to exercise democratic principles, but that the other place should also respect the soundest principles of democracy in action, a democracy respecting all the people, the provinces, the organizations, the individuals, but especially the province of British Columbia, as we have been requesting for some two or three months.

Mr. Speaker, we are in favour of Bill No. S-36, but we could not let it pass today. However, we will not hesitate to do so as soon as we have evidence that democracy is working in Canada.

Mr. Jean Chrétien (St. Maurice-Lafleche): Mr. Speaker, I have only a few words to say in connection with this bill, but I should like to commend the hon. member for Ville-

neuve (Mr. Caouette) for the moderate tone of his remarks on the legislation under consideration.

I was struck by the spirit in which this measure was prepared. That is precisely the kind of spirit which should exist in Canada. The bill recognizes the two official languages at the same time as the universities and colleges of Canada.

I understand why the hon. member for Villeneuve says that his party and himself cannot, at this time, permit a vote on Bill No. S-36, an act to incorporate the association of universities and colleges of Canada. However, may I make a suggestion to the hon. member?

I understand that the Créditistes may be somewhat angry because the Senate has not yet granted a bank charter to a certain group of citizens from British Columbia. However, I believe that the Créditistes would attain their objective if they confined their opposition to bills concerning the incorporation of new chartered banks or other corporations. But considering that the purpose of this bill is to create an association of Canadian universities and colleges, I believe that if it were passed this afternoon, the hon. member for Villeneuve and his supporters would promote their case, because the population might feel that the group supporting the member for Villeneuve is analysing the situation and showing enough broadmindedness to accept a very important measure which is thoroughly characteristic of our country and which reflects the new spirit which must prevail in this country.

If his group permitted this measure to be passed this afternoon, it would promote, as I said, Canadian unity.

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Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take up much time, but I do want to speak in support of this bill which has been advanced by the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett) on behalf of a very responsible body in Canada. Anything we can do to assist universities I think should be done. In this particular instance the cause is a very worthy one.

I have risen as well to condemn the attitude taken by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) who stated that he was in support of the measure, but at the same time held the threat over this house that he would not allow the bill to pass, and that his party would not accede to it until the other place had met the request he has made. I think his