

a Catholic or a non-Catholic or whether he is a Catholic churchgoer or not a Catholic churchgoer. At the local level in some troops or packs there is no doubt but that there are already non-Catholic French-speaking boys who are members of our association. The total number would not be great, but there are certainly some.

Honourable senators, I now referred to the by-laws of the corporation. Senator Lamontagne was kind enough to place in my hands a brochure containing a large number of the documents pertinent to the matter, including the by-laws of both the French-speaking and English-speaking divisions of the Boy Scouts.

I should like to read from clause 7 of the bill:

The Corporation, at its first general meeting and subsequently at any annual general meeting or special general meeting, may make, amend, or repeal bylaws and regulations not contrary to law respecting the carrying out of the objects of the Corporation, particularly...

(d) the admission of members to and their dismissal from the Corporation...

That makes it clear that the organization has the power to deal with this matter as it arises in the future. When we consider the length of time over which these negotiations between the parties has taken place—they have been working with the problem for some years now—we must realize that they are taking a major step forward in dropping the word "Catholiques" from the title of their act and making the organization viable throughout Canada. That is a considerable step forward.

Furthermore, there is now every appearance of real co-operation between the parties, and there is a prospect, if we leave them alone to work out their own problems, the objections now raised will be resolved in their own way in the future.

In committee I asked our Senate counsel this question:

Was the bill, itself, properly advertised according to rules?

Mr. Hopkins replied:

Yes, and no objections have been received from any source.

I have asked my friend Senator Leonard to allow me to precede him in this discussion,

because I felt that this information should be before the house. Of course, honourable senators who are members of the committee are familiar with what took place, but we feel that all senators should know what each of the parties said in committee. I was very pleased that as they departed, the Boy Scout representatives seemed exceedingly happy with the attitude exhibited by the Senate and by the members of the committee, toward their effort to bring about harmony between the two organizations.

Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard: Honourable senators, I do not wish to belabour the matter at issue because what I have to say may be more of a personal nature than of concern to the Senate.

When a bill was introduced several years ago to incorporate Les Scouts Catholiques I spoke to the sponsor and stated my personal objection to the religious characterization of any group in the Boy Scouts. I spoke also to the solicitor who was then in charge of the bill, and the result was that the bill did not go through. It may have received first reading, but if it did, that is as far as it went.

The sponsor of this bill told me recently—I think it was last week—that it was being introduced and that the name to which I had objected previously, Les Scouts Catholiques, was being changed and the word "Catholiques" was being dropped. Since that met my objections to the bill, I was satisfied and said that I was glad to know it was being done. He also told me that they had come to an agreement with the Boy Scouts Association to that effect. So when I spoke yesterday on second reading of the bill I supported it, having in mind that this was the result of what had taken place over the last several years, namely, that instead of incorporating Les Scouts Catholiques, we were incorporating L'Association des Scouts du Canada, and by dropping the word "Catholiques" the religious characterization was being omitted.

As I said yesterday, I have no objection whatever to there being an association of Boy Scouts under a French name and representing French-speaking Boy Scouts. My objection is to the religious differentiation between members of this kind of organization.

When I spoke at that time I had not seen the bill; I was simply going on the fact that the name had been changed and, as I thought, changed really to meet the objections I had made. I saw the bill this morning for the first time, and I must apologize. I