

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable Senator Leonard.

**Hon. Mr. Leonard:** Mr. Speaker, I defer to Senator Roebuck.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Honourable senators, I wish to say a few words on behalf of the committee which has reported this bill. It will be remembered that some objection was taken yesterday by my honourable friend who has just waived in my favour, with regard to the dropping of the word Catholic but retaining certain sections in the bill that have a Catholic flavour. If I tell the house what was done in the committee this morning, I think it will make the bill somewhat more acceptable to my friend and as well to all honourable senators and to the country.

We had before the committee a representative of the Boy Scouts of Canada and of the Catholic French-Canadian section, as mentioned in this bill. I should like to quote some passages from the official transcript of the proceedings of the meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, to which this bill was referred.

I asked the witness, Mr. D'Amour, the following question:

**THE CHAIRMAN:** ... You have dropped the word "Catholiques" from the title, which will make the new corporation more acceptable to Protestants, but then in clause (4) there is this:

The principal object of the Corporation is to educate boys and young men by the establishment, organization, administration, promotion and development of scouting as established by the late Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell—

And this is the important clause:

—in accordance with the teachings and principles of the Roman Catholic Church, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, shall include the following objects:

The objects are not a matter of controversy but the phrase that the boys shall be educated in accordance with the principles of the Roman Catholic Church was mentioned yesterday in this chamber and I tried to clear that up so far as possible in the meeting.

The transcript continues:

**THE CHAIRMAN:** ... And then follow the objects which are all very good. That, of course, excludes the French-speaking

boys all over Canada who are not members to the Roman Catholic Church. Why is it necessary to do that? You have just told us that one of the objects of this movement is to provide facilities to the French-speaking young people of Canada, and then at the same time you exclude from the organization the French-speaking boys who are not Catholics.

**MR. D'AMOUR:** I think that is covered in the agreement of co-operation that Mr. Ross (who appeared for the Boy Scouts) mentioned a while ago. When we reach that agreement of co-operation the Boy Scouts of Canada accept the fact that we look after the Roman Catholic French-speaking boys who wish to join, and that it looks after the others.

**SENATOR GOUIN:** As they were doing in the past, Mr. Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, that is a matter to which objection was taken in the house last night. Is there nothing that can be done to make it generally somewhat more acceptable to everyone?

**MR. D'AMOUR:** I think it is a matter for the two associations. I would think that the number of French-speaking non-Catholic boys is very small, and so far this has not presented any problem to the two associations. I do not say that eventually no problems will arise, but Mr. Ross has already referred to the fact that each association has three members on the other association's national council.

These six members—that is, three from each association—will form a co-operation committee which will immediately study all such problems and matters as they arise and find solutions without delay, so that we shall not have a situation dragging on, such as we have had since 1935. Should the problem of serving a greater number of French-speaking non-Catholic boys arise in the future, then I think we have the mechanism to meet that situation when it does arise.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Do you think that a Protestant French-speaking lad could join the organization notwithstanding what is said here in clause 4 of the bill?

**MR. D'AMOUR:** A French-speaking non-Catholic boy could join, and at the local level there are certainly cases of this existing already. We are there to help the boy, and not to find out whether he is