

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

SALVATION ARMY ACT, 1989

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe) moved that Bill S-9, an Act to amalgamate the two corporations known, respectively, as The Governing Council of The Salvation Army, Canada East and The Governing Council of The Salvation Army, Canada West, and to make necessary provisions regarding the charter of the amalgamated corporation, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sponsor the Private Member's Bill S-9, which will amalgamate the two governing councils of the Salvation Army, Canada East and Canada West, in order to streamline their corporate operation. At the present time there are two separate corporations, each administering the property, business and other affairs of the Salvation Army in Canada.

The original governing council of the Salvation Army in Canada was incorporated in 1909. In 1916, the governing council was separated into an eastern and western corporation. At that time it was appropriate for separate corporations because transportation and communication was not as simple or as convenient as it is today.

They have now reached a point where the sophisticated advances in telecommunications and the improvements in transportation make the administration of two corporations unnecessary. The most efficient and convenient way to administer the affairs of the Army is from one central point. Currently, Winnipeg is the home of the Canada West governing council or the legal head office of the Army, while the affairs of both governing councils are administered from the head offices in Toronto.

Private Members' Business

The proposed legislation would amalgamate the two corporations in the same manner as that provided for in the case of corporations incorporated under general corporate legislation by amalgamating them and continuing them as one corporation. Actually, the legislation will simply give what is a reality now a legal entity.

Currently each corporation has five designated officers of the Army as its members, who are the same people in each case. The only identifiable difference between the corporations is their geographical location. The process of amalgamating the two corporations will be relatively simple, given that no new corporation will be formed. There is no transfer of property and the corporations are identical in nature.

In order to ensure their ongoing governance, Bill S-9, provides that the original act of 1909 and the act of 1916, which applied to the governing council of the Salvation Army, Canada East, as well as the by-laws of the governing council of the Salvation Army Canada East will apply to the corporation once amalgamated. The separate statute which incorporated the governing council of the Salvation Army, Canada West, will be rescinded.

As the law requires, notice of the intention by way of a Private Members' bill in Parliament to seek this one continuing corporation has been published in *The Canada Gazette* and in the appropriate provincial gazettes. It has also been published in two national newspapers, one in each official language.

This bill, therefore, seeks to give legal substance to something that has been an operational fact for some time. I would like to stress the importance of the support of members in this House for the bill. In doing so I would like to take a few minutes to speak about the Salvation Army and what it means to our Canadian community.

I have always marvelled at the selflessness of these men and women of the Salvation Army whose entire careers are devoted to making life more liveable for others. They seek not glory nor attention. Theirs is a hands-on ministry. They minister directly to those in need and they minister to the needs of the whole person.

What exactly is this movement; a church, a denomination, a charitable enterprise, a social service agency with paramilitary structure? It is all of them and it is none of