

For that reason, in amendment I move, seconded by my honourable friend Senator Lynch-Staunton:

That the report be not now adopted, but that it be referred back to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology for further consideration.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion in amendment?

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
(CANADA WEST DISTRICT) BILL—SECOND READING

Hon. Leonard J. Gustafson moved the second reading of Bill S-12, to amalgamate the Alberta corporation known as the Missionary Church with the Canada corporation known as the Evangelical Missionary Church, Canada West District.

He said: Honourable senators, I should like to take this opportunity to make a few short remarks on the amalgamation of two churches: the federal corporation, known as the Evangelical Missionary Church, Canada West District, and the Alberta corporation, known as the Missionary Church. They are continued by this enactment as one corporation under the name Evangelical Missionary Church, (Canada West District).

Honourable senators, I have been a member of one of these churches which are amalgamating. There are several very positive reasons for the amalgamation of these two churches. They both have their roots in the Wesleyan movement of many years ago, originally out of Great Britain.

I want to quote from some of the recommendations that were put forward by the churches as reasons for amalgamating. Under "Values of Merger" it states:

Considering merger is an appropriate response to scripture. In the book of John, Jesus prays, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Basically, they are saying that unity is very important. These churches are amalgamating. There are times when churches separate, but unity is better than separation. That is the main reason that the churches put forward for unity. They go on to state:

Merger would give us a stronger national identity and voice. Besides being larger, both present denominations would gain churches in areas where they currently do not have any.

I will touch on a few points to bring senators up to date on exactly what is happening under this bill. The networking that churches would develop through this merger is significant. They would retain more people who move to new locations, instead of

losing so many who have learned to appreciate and support the program of their local churches and denominations. Church planning would be given a stronger boost in the networking of churches, especially in Western Canada.

Pastor placement would be enhanced by a larger pool of churches and pastors. We always work towards excellence in fitting pastors to congregations. A broader range to select from increases the possibilities of ministers serving in a situation appropriate to their gifts.

The process of merging gives us an opportunity to re-examine denominational, district and local church structure and policy, and to effect positive changes that will make us more effective in carrying out the work of the Kingdom.

Merger would result in better stewardship for western conference costs. Instead of having two conferences and two district conference offices, there would be one office. Further, by combining the present number of salaried positions, we could provide greater specialized ministry to our pastors and churches.

Honourable senators, I ask for your support in this matter, and move that this bill be sent to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Gustafson, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

UNITED NATIONS

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, BEIJING, CHINA

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Pearson, calling the attention of the Senate to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, from September 4 to 15, 1995, which she and Senator Cohen had the privilege to attend as parliamentary observers on behalf of the Senate.—(*Honourable Senator Cohen*)

Hon. Erminie J. Cohen: Honourable senators, I was privileged to have been asked to attend the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women as a member of the official Canadian delegation and as a parliamentary observer. This was the first opportunity I had had to participate in a United Nations forum, and I found it an exhilarating experience, greatly enhanced for me, both personally and professionally, by the company of my colleague Senator Landon Pearson, from whom I learned a great deal.