

of the differentiation between religions. I did not think there ought to be an association of Catholic Boy Scouts of Canada. As a Catholic, I felt that Catholics should be members of the Boy Scouts organization along with other religious groups.

However, I said at that time, and I still feel, that there is a difference between "Scouts Catholiques" and "Scouts Français". There is a difference between Boy Scouts associations representing the French-speaking people of Canada and Boy Scouts associations in general. If it is the wish of the French-speaking Boy Scouts or the promoters of that organization, and if it is also the wish of the Boy Scouts Association of Canada—that is, the organization, which has been largely English-speaking, even though there were French-speaking patrols and groups in the province of Quebec—then it seems to me to be all right to have this new organization.

We are a bilingual country, and I do not have the same objection to the incorporation of this organization that I had to Les Scouts Catholiques du Canada. I think it is perfectly right to have a French-speaking organization of Boy Scouts in Canada, particularly when it has been agreed to by the central Boy Scouts organization. I understand the matter has been under discussion over several years. Though I had strong objections to a religious differentiation among Boy Scouts organizations, I have no objection to a differentiation on the basis of language.

I therefore support second reading of this bill.

Hon. Josie D. Quart: Honourable senators let me say at once that I support the bill. For many years I was a Divisional Commissioner of the Girl Guides. The very thing envisaged by this bill was a problem we had to face at the time Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell visited Canada. We had very frank discussions with them concerning the institution of "Les Guides Catholiques du Canada, secteur français". They saw no objection at all to such a group. In fact, they went along with it.

As a member of the National Council of the Girl Guides of Canada, I am in a position to say that this duality of the Girl Guides of Canada and Les Guides du Canada, secteur français, works very well and has done so for many years. We all attend the same national meetings and as yet there have been no problems.

Two years ago one of our national meetings was held at the Memorial University in Newfoundland, at which there was a delegation from the Girl Guides du Canada, secteur français. Now, they were and are, responsible to the National Girl Guide Association of Canada, but they make their reports in French and generally conduct themselves in French. When as Divisional Commissioner I had the Girl Guides du Canada, secteur français, with me, I arranged as far as possible to have the examinations and tests for badges held in French, and as far as I could determine it worked very smoothly.

I can see the problems envisaged by Senator Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche), but I want to say that if this arrangement works for the Girl Guides, there is no reason why it should not work just as well for the Boy Scouts. And, if I may differ with some of my colleagues, I feel that such an arrangement might have great advantages for national unity.

I believe the Boy Scouts have thought this out very carefully. It may be that they are simply taking a page out of the book of the Girl Guides.

In passing, may I say how disappointed I was that the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides had to be the "unsung" heroes in our Centennial year. I was very much disappointed that these young boys and girls, who worked so hard for and gave such enthusiasm to our Centennial celebrations and at Expo, should have received so little praise and not even mention in news coverage.

As an example of what the Guides did, I may say that for most of the Centennial year 2,000 Guiders from various countries were located just outside Montreal, giving to Canada the benefit of their youthful enthusiasm and their sense of international unity.

On one occasion during Centennial year, on Nairn and Morrison islands in Ontario when John Fisher was in attendance, Guiders from 72 countries and numbering over 2,000 gathered together, and to hear them singing their national anthems in their own languages was a memorable experience on which we could draw for Canadian national unity.

If Les Scouts Français du Canada, in making the concession of dropping the name "Catholiques", were to follow in the path of the Girl Guides, then, personally, I would be in favour of this bill.