

EVIDENCE

(Recorded by Electronic Apparatus)

Wednesday, June 25, 1969.

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The Chairman: Gentlemen, I call the meeting to order. The matter we have to deal with is the late petition of the Boy Scouts of Canada. The sponsor is Mr. Joseph Guay.

Mr. Guay, will you please introduce the Parliamentary Agent?

Mr. Guay: Mr. Chairman, I believe, you are aware of the petition you have at hand at the moment in relation to this bill. The bill was presented to the Senate and approved as Bill No. S-39 on Thursday, June 12, 1969.

I can think of no better way of giving an explanation than to make reference to what Senator Lamontagne said in the Senate debate on June 17. I refer you to pages 1585 and 1586. There he said:

It provides for two things: first, it incorporates an existing group, presently known as "Les Scouts catholiques du Canada (secteur français)", under the name of "L'Association des Scouts du Canada", which will serve French-speaking Catholics throughout the country.

What is happening here—and I presume you are all aware of it—is that they are dropping the word "Catholic" from their name, which is agreeable to both parties.

I can think of no better way to sum it up than to quote what was said by Jean-Marie Poitras, the President of L'Association des

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Scouts du Canada—their new name—in the two last paragraphs of a letter he sent to me dated March 21. This is what he wrote:

"I wish to say that this day marks a memorable event in the life of Canada. Les Scouts Catholiques du Canada, Secteur français, and the Boy Scouts of Canada, by their affiliation, will play a role of first importance in the unity of our country.

"You are certainly aware that since my appointment as Governor General I have often repeated that the three principal questions that beset me, that worry me and that haunt me are those of youth, of national unity and of spiritual values. In the Scouts, I have found them all."

I wish only to repeat, Mr. Chairman, that by uniting these two groups, which are similar except for the difference in name, we will be creating that unity that we talk so much about and which is so vital and necessary at this time. It was for that reason that I accepted to support and present the bill on their behalf.

Mr. Otto: Can the parliamentary agent explain why they are late?

The Chairman: You were going to introduce Mr. Joyal. Mr. Joyal?

Mr. Marcel Joyal, Q.C. (Parliamentary Agent): To answer your question, sir, the agreement between the Boy Scouts of Canada and what will, we hope, be known as L'Association des Scouts du Canada, was reached very late in 1968 or early in 1969.

The petition was originally presented on March 10. It went through the Senate. At this particular time it would require, of course, that you recommend that it be accepted for late filing. I am hopeful you will see your way clear to do this in these circumstances.

Mr. Otto: What about the \$300?

Mr. Joyal: Perhaps I could suggest that this is a benevolent and non-profit type of operation for which the status is being sought. Perhaps you might find that the Receiver General might not be too discouraging, or perhaps somebody might move that the penalty be waived.

Mr. Otto: Before the motion is made, in relation to what Mr. Joyal is saying about this being a benevolent association, is his legal firm also not charging any fees?