

While it is unlikely that any Members of this House have had an opportunity to deal with this Bill in any depth, I want to spend a few moments on the details perhaps to forestall any questions that might arise.

For some moments last week there was brief concern that a church in New Brunswick bearing the same name might raise a conflict, but that church has now indicated in writing that it will not only allow the name to be used, but indeed will dissolve its charter and become part of the new church. I should also point out that the Bill does not amalgamate the two corporations but, rather, allows them to amalgamate. Within a certain period of time they have to file their amalgamation with the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in a form acceptable to the Minister. Because of this, by-laws have been pre-cleared with the Department so that there will be no delay in this regard.

It was pointed out in the Senate committee, where I attended earlier this week, that, historically, theologically, and organizationally, the two Churches are exactly the same. They operate under a common book of discipline which carries over 44 districts in continental North America and approximately 130 congregations with 8,000 adherents. The final authority of the Church really rests with the local churches since it is a representative type of government and elected from the bottom up, rather than the top down. From Canada now they do send missionaries abroad working through the International Fellowship of Wesleyan Churches in approximately 34 countries.

Once again I want to say how pleased and honoured I am to have been asked to sponsor this Bill in the House of Commons, and I ask my colleagues to join in giving this Bill passage through all three readings this afternoon so that Reverend Walter Jewell, who is in the gallery this afternoon, may take it to their quadrennial general conference which convenes next week and report there the final legal joining of these two Churches in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Business of the House

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went committee thereon, Mr. Corbin in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Given that we completed Bill C-39 earlier this day, I should inform the House that that has some impact on the order of business for Monday. The business for Monday will now be Bill C-34. The back-up Bill will be Bill C-10.

● (1700)

Mr. Murphy: I presume that Bill C-10 is the Divorce Bill. Now that we have just performed a civil marriage between two churches, we will be dealing with divorce in the latter half of Monday. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, if that is the offer of a deal, then certainly if the Hon. Member wants to handle Bill C-10 in all stages during the latter half of Monday, we are prepared to go along with that.

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, originally the back-up Bill that was to be brought in on Monday was the Bill dealing with the financing of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board. Is it still the intention of the Government that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board Bill be dealt with during this session of Parliament?

Mr. Evans: That is the information I have, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The time for consideration of Private members' business has now expired.

It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 5.01 p.m.