

brought about by the agreement. Application for incorporation is being made with the full co-operation of Boy Scouts of Canada.

I hope that the second reading of this bill will be approved today, so that it be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and be considered by that committee tomorrow. If this procedure is adopted, I understand that representatives from the two organizations will be available for questioning by the members of that committee if necessary.

**Hon. Edgar Fournier:** Honourable senators, I rise to speak without the benefit of any preparation. Two years ago we had a similar bill before us, and then it disappeared—and I hoped that we would never see one like it again.

I am a French Catholic. I am in agreement with some of the arguments which have been given in support of this bill. On the other hand, I was for about fifteen years a very active member in the Boy Scouts organization, and my children belonged to that organization. I understand the association well, and I know it does not call for this type of bill, especially at the moment when we are preaching unity across Canada. Regardless of races and religions, everybody should work together. This bill might not do any damage or harm, but I wonder what good it can do.

I have learned by experience in my own family. My boys started going to Boy Scout meetings at a very early age and they mixed with the rest of the boys, Catholic, Protestant, French and English. That was the type of training I wanted to give them.

In my own town, some twenty years ago, we had a great Boy Scout organization which was known to everybody. I was a strong supporter of it, and the question of race or religion was not important. On Sundays the Catholics went to our church and the Protestants went to their church; but after church we came together, had lunch, and talked and lived and played together.

At one time the suggestion was made that we should separate the French from the English, with the French Boy Scouts having one organization and the English Boy Scouts having another. It was not long before communication ceased between these two groups, the Catholics and the Protestants. The French, or Catholic boys, were in their hut and the English, or Protestant boys, were in their own hut. There was complete lack of

communication. As a result, those two organizations are now almost out of existence because the town was not strong enough to support two organizations.

For these reasons I am slightly reluctant to accept this bill as part of a movement to improve the Boy Scouts Association of Canada.

Moreover, this bill, if passed, will be one more cause for increased expenses to the parents, who are really the ones who have to pay the cost of their son's participation in the Boy Scouts Association. It is the parents who pay for the uniforms, the badges and so on. With this bill we are going to have two separate organizations, with the result that many boys will have to change their uniform and other insignia, all of which will add to the cost.

My own inclination at this time, based on past experience, is to vote against the bill because it is not in line with the principles of the Boy Scouts Association of Canada, and it is not in line with the principle of unity we are preaching today.

**Hon. G. Percival Burchill:** Honourable senators, having had the honour of being President of the Boy Scouts of New Brunswick, may I rise to endorse everything that my colleague from New Brunswick, Senator Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche) has just said.

I very much regret that it has been deemed necessary to bring this bill before this house today. I received the letter from Mr. Thompson that has been quoted, and I know of the long, protracted negotiations that went on over the years in the hope that some solution could be found whereby one united body of Boy Scouts in Canada could be established.

I should have thought that, if ever there was a time or place for unity, it was within this association. If we unite the youth of Canada by virtue of the Boy Scout movement, it is one more step toward uniting Canada itself. This is one association in which there should be no division.

While it seems that nothing can be done about the situation today, nevertheless, I rise to support everything that Senator Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche) has said. I repeat that I am grieved today to learn that it is thought necessary to bring forward this bill.

**Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard:** Honourable senators, several years ago a bill was introduced to incorporate Les Scouts Catholiques du Canada. I objected to that bill on the ground