

take away from Parliament certain obligations, certain duties in respect of private bills which now take up a good deal of time.

The effect of section 1 of this bill will be that, in the case of religious organizations, they will have to apply to the Registrar General of Canada for letters patent incorporating them, rather than to the Parliament of Canada.

Honourable senators who have been members of the Miscellaneous Private Bills Committee, as I have for quite a number of years, will realize that that sort of work, incorporating a religious organization, is a thing that can just as well be done by the civil servants in the Secretary of State Department as by Parliament itself.

As far as I recall, the only question that has ever arisen in connection with any of these religious organizations has been as to the use of the name. In one or two cases that has arisen. In the case of names, the Department of the Secretary of State—now the Department of the Registrar General—has a tremendous body of experience in connection with the granting of names to companies and making sure they do not conflict with the names of other companies, and I am quite sure that department could do likewise with regard to religious organizations.

I support the principle of this bill, because it will relieve Parliament of an obligation which I do not think it necessary for Parliament to take and because, in these days of enormous masses of important legislation, it is a good thing for us to reduce the parliamentary load.

I would draw the attention of the house to the fact that this seems to be a trend developing at the present time. In connection with the new Bank Act, which is to come to us after it has passed the House of Commons, as I recall it there are provisions which would allow a new bank to be established by letters patent without having to go through this long and complicated business of a parliamentary bill. I would suggest, along that line of thought, that it would be wise if proper action could be taken to allow pipe line companies to do the same thing. As honourable senators who are members of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications know, we have a series of pipe line bills coming before us, and we are always told that the only purpose of such a bill is to give corporate form to the organization, because when the organization wishes to build a pipe line or an extension, or anything of that kind, it has to go before the National Energy

Board. It has seemed to me for some years that this business of bringing these pipe line bills before us is really a waste of the time of Parliament.

I was much interested in my honourable friend Senator Flynn's suggestion as to a further extension of this bill, for instance, in the case of a company which has been organized by special act of Parliament and which wishes to increase its capital or change its name or its head office, or any of these things, and which has now to come before Parliament and go to all the trouble and expense of getting an amending parliamentary act—to see if we could devise some scheme by which it could go through the Registrar General and get supplementary letters patent, or some such procedure. I think that would be a proper amendment and would support what I consider to be the merit of the bill, the divorcing from Parliament of much unnecessary work.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: May I ask the honourable senator a question? Is it not possible in this bill to include, by way of amendment, a clause enabling a company with share capital to change its name or adopt a French name, or do things of that sort which now come before us? Could that be done in this bill by way of amendment?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): That has already been done; that is already in the act; we did this last year. However, you are quite right, it is the kind of thing it could do.

Hon. Salter A. Hayden: Honourable senators, may I add a word?

The companies that are intended to be covered by section 1 of this bill are companies which may have national connotations in the area of patriotic, religious, philanthropic, charitable, or like objects, and which, while they might be confined to a province, feel and have found it necessary to go to the Parliament of Canada rather than seek incorporation by letters patent.

One advantage in having a company with objects of this kind come to Parliament is that their efforts and what they are seeking are spotlighted, because they must advertise preceding the introduction of their bill, and in that way there is an opportunity for a more searching inquiry, if necessary; and the purpose, the objects, plans and intentions of the persons behind this sort of company which is espousing patriotic, charitable or educational objects, come to the attention of a larger body of people. Therefore, you can be