



# **Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS  
1998**

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Shellbrook-Spiritwood

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Athabasca

Bill Boyd  
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**The Chair:** — I guess we can call the meeting to order. Good morning, everyone. What the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills does is that it, in short and precise, it goes over things, over the Bill clause by clause. Since this cannot be done under the rules of the House, the Bills are moved to here for this.

So we have two Bills that the committee is going to look at. And basically, we'll follow a procedure where the Bill will be called. The witnesses and the member who is going to introduce the Bill will be asked to comment on it. Then we'll go through on a basically clause-by-clause basis, pass several motions to put the Bill into the House, and do this for each of the Bills.

The agenda that we have, it comes out as Bill No. 301, The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act and I would ask Mark Koenker to introduce the witnesses and if he has, if Mark has any opening remarks, to do so at this time.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's my pleasure today to introduce to the committee Mr. Henry Harder, the chairman of the Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan, and Henry is from Hanley and came down to be with us today. And we also have with us today Florence Driedger from Regina who is on the national conference board of the Conference of Mennonites; and also Otto Driedger from Regina who is the past Chair of the Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan.

I think that in our last meeting I gave an overview of the intent and the necessity of the legislative provisions that we're looking at today, so members should have that from the *Hansard* verbatim. Basically this is a change to allow the Conference of Mennonites to continue to operate in the fashion that they have been accustomed to operating in respecting their traditions. And it's a relatively innocuous change and one that I think we should make to facilitate the good work that the Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan do.

**The Chair:** — I would ask then if the other two witnesses would sit at the table as well, and that would allow *Hansard* to pick up any remarks or that, that they're asked to make. And just to assist the Chair, if I could have each person introduce themselves so we can get who the names are tied to exactly.

**Ms. Driedger:** — I'm Florence Driedger.

**Mr. Harder:** — I'm Henry Harder.

**Mr. Driedger:** — And I'm Otto Driedger.

**The Chair:** — You said Otto?

**Mr. Driedger:** — Otto, yes.

**The Chair:** — Okay. I would now ask the Law Clerk to provide the committee with information regarding this Bill as to whether it met all the legal requirements that we have before we can proceed.

**Mr. Cosman:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to give my Law Clerk's report to the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills respecting Bill No. 301 of 1998 — An

Act respecting the Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan.

In compliance with the requirements of rules 69, 74, and 108 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* respecting private Bills, I have examined Bill No. 301 of 1998 — The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act and am pleased to report that in my opinion it includes no unusual provisions. I so submit.

**The Chair:** — Any questions or comments regarding that from committee members? Okay. Then, Harold, do you have any opening remarks related to the Bill?

**Mr. Harder:** — The only remarks I would have are we would like to, as Hon. Mark Koenker mentioned, like to continue our organization in the way that we have functioned in the past. And that is the purpose for the Bill, that we provide our people with representation to our conferences and our decision-making process that is acceptable and fair to all our members.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Any committee members have questions of the witnesses?

**Ms. Draude:** — Is there actually a time frame on the past body. This is a continuance of a body corporate. Does that mean you need this to actually update your Conference of Mennonites or why is it coming forward at this time?

**Mr. Harder:** — As explained in Mr. Koenker's explanation on the second reading, we were formed as a Conference of the Mennonites of Saskatchewan in 1959 under The Societies Act. The Non-profit Corporations Act then replaced The Societies Act in 1982 and we were continued under The Non-profit Corporations Act.

However our form of governing or our form of doing business did not meet the requirements of The Non-profit Corporations Act and we discovered that this past winter, or last fall. As we were rewriting our bylaws we discovered that there were a few discrepancies. And if we were to conform with The Non-profit Corporations Act our form of government would be a little different than we are used to and that our members would want.

We like to do our governing . . . or not governing, our — what's the word for it? — governance, that all members are represented fairly. And The Non-profit Corporations Act did not allow that, which is the reason that we have requested that we have our own charter.

**Ms. Draude:** — And your members, as far as you know, are all in favour of this?

**Mr. Harder:** — Oh yes, yes.

**The Chair:** — Any further questions? Okay. Would someone move a motion to adopt the preamble?

**Ms. Murray:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — All those in favour of adoption of the preamble, please indicate. Those opposed? Carried.

Okay. Then we will go clause by clause.

Clauses 1 to 15 inclusive agreed to.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

**The Chair:** — Non-commercial private Bills, we usually ask that we pass a motion that reduces the costs. And I would like if a member would move this, that fees less the cost of printing be refunded with respect to Bill 301.

**Mr. Koenker:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Okay. I am informed that Mark is not a member of the committee so we need a committee member.

**Ms. Draude:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved. Is it agreed? It's carried then.

With that the witnesses have successfully completed another rung in the ladder and we thank you for your attendance. And if you would vacate the seats, then we will move on to the next Bill.

**Mr. Harder:** — Thank you very much. We appreciate that.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Thank you. As our guests are leaving their chairs, I'd just like to thank them for being with us today. And I think it's pretty clear that there's really a lifetime of involvement with the Conference of Mennonites here, and decades of active service to the church which is represented. And we really appreciate your contributions that the church makes in our province. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Harder:** — Thank you, and thank you for your affirmation.

**The Chair:** — While the witnesses are coming forward on the next Bill, Bill 302, I have a little bit of a procedural activity that we need to do. Because of the changes that have occurred recently to the membership of the committee, we no longer have a Vice-Chair. And so if committee members would like to, we could either have a motion now for Vice-Chair, or we can delay it till the end of the meeting.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Mr. Chair, I would like to nominate the member from Kelvington-Wadena, Ms. June Draude, for Vice-Chair.

**The Chair:** — Okay. We have a nomination for Vice-Chair. Is there any other nominations? If not, is everyone agreed? That's carried.

#### **Bill No. 302 — The Fondation Fransaskoise Act, 1998**

**The Chair:** — I'd like to now call Bill No. 302, The Fondation Fransaskoise Act, 1998 and ask Lindy Kasperski to introduce the witnesses and make any opening remarks if he wishes.

**Mr. Kasperski:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my pleasure to introduce to the committee today, Mme. Lorraine Archambault, who is the president of the association culturelle

franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan, as we affectionately know as ACFC. And also Mr. Norbert Lepage, who is the secretary-treasurer of la Fondation de la Radio in Saskatchewan.

Basically as members will know — and I'll just refer to the preamble of this and then we'll be calling forth presentations because I understand there's presentations both for and against the Bill — so as members will know, the Bill 302 involves the amalgamation of two units, the la Fondation de la Radio Française de la Saskatchewan and also to amalgamate with the la Fondation — sorry — les Fonds Fransaskois of the association culturelle franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan, into a single unit to be, as is the title of this Bill, La Fondation Fransaskoise Act 1998.

So I will actually like to call upon Mr. Norbert Lepage, who is with La Fondation de la Radio; Madame Archambault, who's also here from ACFC, and I understand some presentations, petitions against the Bill as well. And I'm not sure how you want to proceed with that, Mr. Chairman, but my job's to get this part of it introduced first.

**The Chair:** — Okay. I would like to break in here at the time and have the Law Clerk provide his report on this Bill to the committee members.

**Mr. Cosman:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to give the Law Clerk's report to the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills. In compliance with the requirements of rules 69, 74, and 108 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* respecting private Bills, I've examined Bill No. 302 of 1998, La Fondation Fransaskoise 1998, and am pleased to report that in my opinion it includes no unusual provisions. I so submit.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Members have heard the Law Clerk's report. The next item then would be to hear the presentation for the Bill, and then following that, anyone, those opposed, witnesses opposed. Now could I have you go over your names again for my assistant here.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Norbert Lepage. N-O-B-E-R-T L-E-P-A-G-E. I'm the secretary-treasurer of one of the organizations, or la Fondation . . . or la Radio Fransaskoise en Saskatchewan.

**The Chair:** — Okay. It's Lorraine . . . Archambault?

**Ms. Archambault:** — Archambault, president of l'ACFC.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I have a question first. In view of the fact that there is going to be some opposition, what — or some interventions against the Bill — what are the rebuttal rules?

**The Chair:** — Okay. One moment.

The rebuttal rules fall on the responsibility of the committee members and they will . . . if they wish to ask questions of any of the witnesses that have presented either for or against; alternatively they may be asking people to come to the mike so that it can be recorded in *Hansard* and ask questions and then go back and forth.

So we will . . . I don't expect that we will be asking people to jump up and down back and forth on a ping-pong type of basis, but I do expect that if committee members wish to acquire more information, they will ask and we will have you then or someone else come to a mike to answer.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Thank you. Then in case I don't get a chance later on, I want to state at the outset that I'm aware of Dr. Rosario Morin's intervention against the Bill. I want to stipulate at this stage that I find myself very uncomfortable because Dr. Rosario Morin is a personal friend, not only of myself and my family, he was a very close personal friend of my father until my father passed away, with Dr. Rosario Morin present, in 1974. I value his friendship and I respect beyond words his contribution. He assisted at the delivery of my oldest son. He has taken care of me and my family on many occasions. And I find it, I guess painful is the word.

Anyway having said that, this Bill, as it states, proposes to incorporate la Fondation Fransaskois, which is basically a merger of la Fondation de la Radio Française en Saskatchewan when incorporated in January 1976 by private members' Bill at that time, with a committee that currently exists under the umbrella of l'ACFC, ou l'association culturelle franco-Candienne.

Both of these organizations have similar if not identical mandates, objects, and purposes. However, the objects and purposes of la Fondation de la Radio, the senior of the two proponents, are preserved within the Bill almost verbatim. A first re-examination of the original private members' Bill and the current Bill 302 reveals that basically there is just a modernization of the language. I won't go into detail at this time.

Why do we want to do this? As mentioned in documents that will be presented I'm sure, the federal funds supporting culture and youth — pardon me, not youth — culture and the French language, in particular within Saskatchewan and within Canada, have been gradually shrinking. It is not in order to tap the funds available that the merger is being done, but rather to consolidate the resources that are brought . . . are used in order to manage the funds and to attain the objectives.

I think Bill 302 does that, or sets the framework to do that; within the context of Bill 302, you will see a clause that stipulates that the fund's assets can be reduced below \$800,000. They currently stand at about 630,000 from la Fondation Fransaskoise . . . from la Fondation de la Radio Française, and about 180,000 . . . or 85,000, from la Fondation Fransaskoise, which makes it pretty clear that right at the present time there is very little in excess of \$800,000.

There is within the Act, the proposed Act, adequate, we feel, protection — more than adequate protection — to ensure that the capital is not plundered or frittered away.

The documents which have already been executed to give effect to the Bill, which we refer to as a . . . (inaudible) . . . which are written entirely in French, provide a number of other protections. They also provide, as does the Act, for the election and the establishment of the new governing board of directors in a manner almost identical to that which provided for the

establishment of the board of directors of la Fondation de la Radio.

I suppose at this point, I would just as soon simply request your support of this Bill and proceed to whatever interventions may occur. Thank you.

**The Chair:** — Thank you for the opening remarks. The procedure that we'll follow is that . . . questions of the members of the committee at the present time before we hear from the representations in opposition to the Bill. Anyone, any questions?

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Yes. Thank you, and welcome, bonjour. I should introduce myself perhaps — Dan D'Autremont, I'm the MLA for Cannington, the very south-east corner of the province. I went to school at Cantal, and for those of you who know the area it was a French school, and Bellegarde is still in my constituency.

I guess the first question would be, why is this necessary; why is it necessary to amalgamate the two associations, the two foundations into one?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Okay. I guess to use a phrase that was in the report of . . . communications, which would be referred to in other documents, we want to merge the wisdom of the senior fund with the energy of the junior one. The Fondation de la Radio Française's fund, while having increased in an absolute fashion fairly admirably over the years, has not kept pace with inflation. In fact when we're just to factor in the rate of inflation since 1976 the fund should stand in excess of a million dollars.

So on the other hand, la Fondation Fransaskoise has demonstrated substantially more flexibility, energy, and marketing expertise in the acquisition of funds for its purposes. That's one of the reasons.

Because we feel we — I'm speaking now for la Fondation de la Radio — that we're not keeping pace with the needs of our members. We were granting bursaries and scholarships in amounts of a 1,000, \$1,500 eight or nine years ago. Now in all fairness, this had a lot more to do with the rates of interest that we were benefiting from at that time.

But the fact is we are now down to about a maximum of \$600, and that accounts for the absolute difference between a 1,000 and 600. But the fact is during that same time, costs of education, which is the main focus of la fondation's bursaries, the costs of education have risen. So our bursaries are a smaller and smaller proportion of the total cost of education, and we need to get the fund going again.

We have modelled a great deal of our documentation and our studies on what occurred in Manitoba with a similar fund. They set up Fondation Radio St. Boniface some years ago and eventually merged it . . . not merged it but expanded it to encompass something similar to what we're envisioning at this time. And they have been far more aggressive and far more successful in making their funds grow through renewed contributions.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — The two funds, their mandates, are they

compatible?

**Mr. Lepage:** — At the present time they're not incompatible, but what's important is what will the mandate of the emerging organization be. And both funds, at the time of proclamation of the new Bill, both funds will disappear. What will emerge is what's in the new Bill, which resembles . . . is almost identical to what's in the old Bill in terms of objects and powers.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — What I'm thinking though is both of the foundations obviously have a mandate that was originally set out by the original settlers of the foundations. Under the new Act, the new proposition, would both of those mandates be fulfilled?

**Mr. Lepage:** — I can only speak for that of la Fondation de la Radio. I would say that in my view that mandate will be fulfilled.

Perhaps Mme. Archambault would like to respond to what the mandate . . . My recollection, because I did serve on the Fonds Fransaskois board of directors until about three years ago, in its early stages, at that time the only mandate we had was to acquire funds. We had a prohibition of disbursing any funds for a minimum of five years; five years hasn't expired yet. So I'm not sure what was envisioned should this Bill not pass.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Yes. I believe that both are covered in the purposes and objects of the corporation, the one being to pay scholarships and bursaries as la Fondation de la Radio is doing now. And the other is to pay grants to individuals, associations, and corporations to promote the French language and culture in Saskatchewan.

So both purposes of both foundations are enshrined in the Bill.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Okay, thank you.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Could I add a little . . .

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Sure, go ahead.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Within the documents that were executed in preparation of giving effect to the . . . is a clause which stipulates that the funds brought into the new organization by la Fondation de la Radio shall remain identified as such on the balance sheet of the emerging organization, presumably in perpetuity.

And only those that . . . the revenue from those funds are to be used only for the purposes that were originally the purposes of la Fondation de la Radio. So there is no impairment at all of either the capital or the revenue from that capital. No impairment of the capital or the revenue brought in by la Fondation de la Radio by the proposed merger.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — The Fondation Radio, wouldn't it have been possible to bring new blood in or new expertise to provide the energy that you say the other foundation has without going through a new Bill and merging the two foundations?

**Mr. Lepage:** — That was something that was explored through the various options that RM Communications brought in, but in

studying the options it was clear that the simplest method and the most efficient and effective method would be to merge the two.

I'm not sure if that responds to your question. I guess it would have been possible; many things are possible. But would it have been desirable? We feel that this particular approach is more desirable.

**Ms. Draude:** — Good morning. I'm June Draude. I'm the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) for Kelvington-Wadena and I have no French background at all, so I do apologize that I don't even . . . sometimes I'm even a little lost.

But I'm just wondering if, as you stated, the two bodies are very similar when it comes to their mandates and their goals, why do you think there is opposition to it then?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Why do we think there is opposition? I could speculate on that, but I won't. I will let the opposition speak for themselves.

I'm sorry. I don't mean to be sarcastic when I say that.

**Ms. Draude:** — Okay.

**Mr. Lepage:** — I don't want to do that because it would start to verge on indulging in personalities. I don't know.

**Ms. Draude:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — I have a speakers' list.

**Ms. Draude:** — Oh, I'm sorry.

**The Chair:** — You're finished?

**Ms. Draude:** — Now I am.

**The Chair:** — You are now? Okay.

**Mr. Langford:** — Yes. I guess kind of speculating that there is opposition, I'm just wondering what kind of communication process did you go through? Did you have public meetings or anything on this, you know, to get . . . find out what the people have said?

**Mr. Lepage:** — There were two series of meetings. First of all, back up a bit. The whole notion was talked about within the francophone community which, while geographically dispersed, is fairly small. That had been talked about for probably a couple of years.

The membership lists of la Fondation de la Radio, which at one time was well in excess of 2,000 people, are substantially reduced from that. I undertook about a year and a half ago to update the membership lists, and it's still not completed, but it's evident that there are less than 20 per cent of those people still living.

That doesn't really cut any ice one way or the other. But the possibility to the community, francophone community, was not

a stranger to the notion of doing something with la Fondation de la Radio.

Of a much more worrisome nature is that most of the people who are applying for bursaries and grants from la fondation were almost unaware of their existence until we tried to make them aware, using the school network, using our weekly newspaper. But it was evident that you know, an 18- or 20-year-old student has no idea that there ever were privately owned French radio stations in Saskatchewan.

Addressing more specifically your question, given the fact the whole notion was not totally foreign or unheard of within the community, a committee was formed to study options. And two members of that committee came from la Fondation Fransaskoise and two members were named by la Fondation de la Radio.

That committee called for tenders and received four proposals from consultants to conduct a study as to what should be done, whether . . . you know, what are the options that we should look at. And the upshot of the tenders was that two of them were eliminated immediately based on costs and two were retained. And one of them was RM Communications, which is Richard Marcotte, who happens, at the time, to be the vice-president of la Fondation de la Radio.

But he was chosen because first of all he was . . . of all the people, he had the qualifications and he was familiar with the community and the environment. And also, not inconsiderable, he was also reasonably priced and could get the job done within the time frame that we were looking at. He held a series of four consultation meetings within Saskatchewan: one in St. Denis, one in Bellevue, one in Saskatoon I believe or Prince Albert, and one in Regina. I attended only one of those meetings.

Those were consultation meetings and anyone who cared to, was invited to attend those meetings. They were intended to gather information and, subsequent to those meetings, Mr. Marcotte prepared his report which carried a number of options. And the option that he recommended was the merger.

Subsequent to that the foundation held its annual general meeting and decided to . . . or held a special board members' meeting and decided to present the options and the recommended option at all of our nine regions. We have nine regions, geographically, within the province.

Each one of those meetings was attended by either myself or by the president of our organization, Mr. Joe Jeanneau, for the purpose of informing the people what was involved, why certain things were being recommended, and what the procedure would be. At the end of each one of those meetings a vote was taken as to do you or do you not favour the merger of the two fonds — vote by secret ballot — and the sum of the votes was taken and found to be slightly in excess of 90 per cent in favour.

We felt at that time, given the number of articles that had appeared in the francophone press sort of supplementing the publicity, that that was sufficient consultation.

**The Chair:** — Okay, are there any other questions from

committee members? Yes.

**Mr. Ward:** — Yes, I'm Larry Ward. I'm an MLA for Estevan. How many members do you have now? Did I understand you to say that there was 2,000 but you feel it was less than 20 per cent of that now?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Well in excess of 2,000 and probably . . . again because I haven't completed the list. I found that when I was getting feedback from people who lived within a community, the original list that I submitted to them, when they sent it back to me had about 80 per cent of the names struck off as either being deceased or having moved away. What that would come down to, would probably be about I guess maybe 4 to 500.

**Mr. Ward:** — And out of that 4 to 500, 100 people voted on . . . Is that what you're telling me? Is that 100 people voted on that and 90 per cent were in favour?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes.

**Mr. Ward:** — And any of the membership, does that include both organizations? Or is that just one organization? Or is that the French community?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Actually it's pretty overlapping because the membership you know, the membership in one organization does not preclude membership from the other.

**Mr. Ward:** — So you had no input from the other organization then on your recommendation. Is that what you're telling me?

**Mr. Lepage:** — I can't speak for whatever consultation they may have done with their members.

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — Any further questions that any of the members would . . . Okay. Yes.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Excuse me, could I just reply for the fransaskoise side?

As Norbert said, there is a lot of overlapping membership; a lot of the same people belong to both foundations. And our people were also attending these meetings, these consultation meetings, and they were there when the vote was taken for or against the fusion. They were also present and were included in the voting process.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Only those members of la Fonds Fransaskois which are also members of la fondation, who had the right to vote. Like in Ponteix for instance, we had 23 people at the meeting but there were only seven ballots cast because there were only seven members, of our members present.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Then if there's no further questions at the present time, then we will restructure for those that are opposing the Bill to allow them to take the chairs here.

**Ms. Archambault:** — No, he's representing la Fondation de la Radio. And I'm representing the Fonds Fransaskois . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well actually we're pretty much in

concurrence, so I don't really have that much to add except perhaps to say that in the structure of the new conseil there will be 10 members from la Fondation de la Radio, but 5 from the Fonds Fransaskois. So there's no way that we're trying to take control of this. Still a lot of it will be in the hands of la Fondation de la Radio, but we will be involved in the processes that they will be going through.

But I am very much in concurrence with what Norbert said, so there's no point in repeating or wasting your time with repetition.

**The Chair:** — Okay, that's what basically as Chair I had assumed, is that we have the . . . both of you were presenting the new Bill from whatever structural background that you're coming from. And so then we move to those that are in opposition to the Bill so that the committee can hear those that wish to present opposition to the Bill and question them.

**Mr. Ward:** — Well let me just rephrase my question. So the members that you had voting, that included both organizations. Is that what you're telling me now?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Only if they were members of ours. But some of those were also members of theirs.

**Mr. Ward:** — Of theirs.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes.

**Mr. Ward:** — So how many members do you have? Like when you redid your membership list, was that just your membership list?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Just our membership list.

**Mr. Ward:** — How many members do you have in your organization?

**Ms. Archambault:** — We have — I don't have the exact amount, but I would say with the last campaign we did, we must have about 300.

**Mr. Ward:** — And were they . . . they were apprised of the whole situation and that there was going to be a vote on the amalgamation.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Yes, they were there. The vote was done at l'AGA (Assemblée Générale Annuelle) de Rendez-vous, right, in November?

**Mr. Lepage:** — I'm sorry, I wasn't present.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Oh, you weren't there. The vote was taken at our general meeting in November of the Fransaskois . . .

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay, and how many representatives were at that general meeting?

**Ms. Archambault:** — Oh boy.

**Mr. Ward:** — Do you have a rough . . . not exact . . .

**Ms. Archambault:** — What the vote was I'm not sure, but there had to be about a hundred people there. But whether they all voted is what I'm not sure. As a matter of fact there were well over 100 people there.

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay, okay.

**The Chair:** — Any further questions from members now that we have . . . Seeing none, okay, I'll try to get on then with those that are wishing to present in opposition to the Bill going through, would you take some of the chairs here at the table so that we can . . .

There are a few little adjustments that we need here for procedure. Mr. Morin, I'd like you to introduce the other people who are with you and then make opening remarks in basically the same procedure that we've been following regarding the present . . . those that are supporting the new Bill.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — I'm Dr. Rosario Morin. And before I give my statement, the written statement, I must say that I'm flabbergasted that the secretary of la Fondation de la Radio Française is promoting the destruction of this Fondation de la Radio Française. And I'm also . . . Mr. Richard Marcotte, who is vice-president, was a paid propagandist that went around — and I was at these meetings, I took a fast ticket down here to be at these meetings in May — and he was a paid propagandist to bring about, in my view, the dissolution of la Fondation de la Radio Française. And also render void and null the Bill 04 that was passed January 28, 1976, which actually have, in our minds, one purpose — protect this Fondation de la Radio Française for the coming generations.

These are my two sons. And by the way, they are the 2 of 10, and they take after their mother because they're all smart and they all have university degrees. I paid the bill.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — And just for clarity purposes, I think it would be important that we differentiate between l'ACFC and the Fransaskois in the sense that l'ACFC is the charitable organization that is registered with Revenue Canada; the Fonds Fransaskois is not.

So I think that's important that it's in the context that the two charitable organizations . . . on the one hand there's the l'ACFC, on the other hand there's the la Fondation de la Radio Française en Saskatchewan. My name is Louis Morin.

**Mr. M. Morin:** — And my name is Maurice Morin.

**The Chair:** — You have provided to the committee a copy of basically your remarks, Mr. Morin?

**Dr. R. Morin:** — We have received a number of documents.

**The Chair:** — Right. The written presentations, the written presentations have been distributed and tabled in the committee at the present time. So the previous written statements are available to all members of the committee.

Okay, would you go ahead then with your . . .

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Thank you. There are three priorities in my



life — my profession, my family, and my love for radio, because I was there from the very start. And may I, at this point say, that Mr. Norbert Lepage, who is secretary of la Fondation de la Radio Française, his father was one, and one very important, man that brought about the two French radio stations in this province.

I spent over 50 years in Saskatchewan of which 30 years were dedicated to my profession as a country doctor in the communities of Antler, Redvers, and Gravelbourg. By the way, it was some 29 or 30 years, 26 of which I was a doctor in Gravelbourg. Furthermore my specialization in surgery provided me with the abilities to serve all of the needs of my patients — 26 years like I said, 26 years were spent in Gravelbourg.

After studying in a country school, I attended College Mathieu and obtained a Bachelor of Arts, after which I went to Laval, Quebec City, that's the Université Laval in Quebec City, and I became a doctor.

I also became a professor of biology from 1953 to 1968 at College Mathieu, of which I insisted without remuneration, zero remuneration, in return for my gratitude to the Oblate Fathers for the education provided for me from 1934 to 1940.

My second priority, my family. I was asked how could I have 10 children with my medical knowledge. I replied to the man that told me that: you were not married to my beautiful wife and my intelligent wife. What could a man and a doctor ask for more.

All of my children are perfectly bilingual. And like I have said, all 10 have acquired a university degree. And may I underline right now that they were perfectly bilingual because they attended Mathieu College in Gravelbourg, which prepared them very well to either study in a French or in an English university in this country. And they did. And they all have degrees.

My son Louis has a master's degree, one in communication and one in public policy, law and administration. Louis, who assisted me by researching the Saskatchewan archives and my personal collection so I could provide you with factual information on the establishment of la Fondation de la Radio Française en Saskatchewan. And Maurice has a degree in communication from Nice university in France. So he speaks a pretty good French.

This brings me to my third priority, which is my lifelong love and that of a great inventor, Marconi — radio. I was named first president of the French radio station in Gravelbourg in 1948. My interest in this type of communication medium was continuous and I served as president for over 20 years.

Also I participated in the important drive that raised the initial funds some 50 years ago, and I acted as chief negotiator when the two radio stations were sold to Radio-Canada in 1972 when Radio-Canada decided to have a network, a French network, all over the West.

Finally, I've participated actively in all of the decisions to establish la Fondation de la Radio Française to protect the funds. And there also I was the first president.

Of all the shareholders and duly elected directors of the two private radio stations, there are only four of us still alive who established this special fund, its purpose being to pursue studies or research.

Being one of them, I note that the will of my compatriots was to build the two radio stations, and after the sale of these two radio stations, to create and protect the funds to a legislative or . . . and a private Bill, and this was done.

It took some 10 years to reach our goal. And as I remember, as if it was yesterday, when the two radio stations met in the summer of 1975 — that is the administrative bodies of these two radio stations met in Regina in 1975 — we unanimously decided to create this foundation that would secure the precious prize for the future generations.

I remember when Mr. Raymond Marcotte, director of Radio Gravelbourg, said the following at that meeting: "To further protect this special fund, we should ask the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to pass the private Bill."

He added, and I could put my hand on the gospel, this is what he said: "One day a group of French Canadians will want to take over the administration of these monies and decide how it should be spent."

And so we worked hard to have Mr. Art Thibault, MLA for Kinistino, to sponsor the Bill with the assistance of Mr. Roy Romanow, who was then attorney general, now Premier of Saskatchewan — and Premier of a good government that came up with social measures such as hospitalization and medicare that was copied in all the provinces of Canada. And it's the best system in the world.

Do you in your wisdom find it acceptable that la Fondation de la Radio should cease to exist and that we should promote a repeal of the crucial private law assented January 28, 1976?

Support for this Bill was overwhelming, coming from a large French population, the standing committee, the legislature of Saskatchewan, and ultimately . . . (inaudible) . . . the people of Saskatchewan.

Allow me to give more details with regards to my objections.

The amalgamation of two charitable organizations, la Fondation de la Radio Française and the French association, ACFC in Saskatchewan, will undoubtedly transform the distinct purpose and objects for which la Fondation Radio was established.

Keep in mind that differences exist between the two mandates of these two charities. The ACFC is a special interest group responsible for influencing matters of public policy, whereas the la Fondation de la Radio is a charity responsible to assist several to pursue studies and research in the field of communications.

Keep in mind that there is a difference in the composition of the boards. ACFC is made up of representatives all from Saskatchewan, whereas the foundation is made up of representatives from Saskatchewan and nationally. A study of history of the French radio provides us with an understanding

why la Fondation de la Radio's composition was defined this way.

Keep in mind the differences in the capital funds, which are evident. Keep in mind the differences which exist in the *raison d'être*. The ACFC is an umbrella group who decide on the distribution of some . . . to some 40 associations, and furthermore receive funds from various sources at the provincial and federal level. Whereas la Fondation de la Radio is a group of elected representatives — and this is democracy at its best — that make fair, responsible, and objective decisions to provide funding based on the merit of the applications that are presented to them.

Keep in mind that the difference exists in the mode of operation. The ACFC is an administrative body made up of volunteers and a paid staff, whereas the foundation is a voluntary-based structure with no remunerated staff as per the private law.

Keep in mind that differences exist in the electoral mandate. The ACFC are elected for very different purposes than someone elected for la Fondation de la Radio. In the case of la Fondation de la Radio, they are elected to review applications coming from students or groups interested in pursuing studies or research. In this the purpose of the elected individuals of the ACFC is a question mark.

One can see that the merging of these two entities will undoubtedly change the unique purpose of la Fondation de la Radio Française in Saskatchewan.

La Fondation de la Radio was not created on the spur of the moment, but after countless hours of discussion and debates, an independent body was favoured over all other options. Although certain attempts were made to alter our decision we maintained due course.

Dr. Demay, my good friend and confrère, graduated also at Laval University, president of the Saskatoon station, started his letter of April 4, 1972 addressed to the secretary of the umbrella radio broadcasting group, and I translate and quote:

I cannot see in virtue of what divine or human law would oblige us to hand over the assets of the French language radio to the ACFC.

And this was in 1972. "It would be interesting to know what line of thinking . . ." And this is still Dr. Demay speaking:

It would be interesting to know what line of thinking would dictate such a turn of events.

This reflects precisely the intentions of all of my compatriots, and this goes back as far as 50 years, which doesn't make me a young man by any means, but I'm still young at heart and I still stand for the principles that I stood for when I was 30 years old.

In adding, La Fondation Radio was established to protect the memory and embrace the vision. Let us remember the contributions made in the initial campaign in the late '40s and the early '50s. The Southern Saskatchewan campaign involved many: 38 Catholic congregations; 92 different businesses; all

parish priests and bishops; 60 different ethnic groups; and some . . . or over 2,000 French Canadians. And may I say at this time that my confrère, Dr. Sheer, who you will know by the name is English, donated a substantial amount for the building of this radio station.

Let us remember the contributions made by the citizens of Ontario and Quebec. Actually there were money collected in Quebec and Ontario for the purpose of building these radio stations. So it comes out to be a type of a Canadian enterprise.

Let us remember the contributions of founding members and shareholders: countless hours and money.

Furthermore, La Fondation de la Radio was established to make — and I insist — independent decisions and decisions that are made and are not influenced by any other body. They are democratically elected in the nine regions of Saskatchewan and they have a meeting every year and they formed the administration and they have no political axe to grind.

Mr. Raymond Marcotte states in his letter of January 10, 1973, and I translate and quote:

It is necessary that we maintain our good relations with the ACFC while letting them know precisely that we are capable of making the arrangements so as to ensure that the foundation will assist not only one individual or yet a particular group of individuals or yet a particular provincial organization, but it will always take into account the primary goals in the establishment of French language radio in Saskatchewan.

Again I must say I could not have said it any better. La Fondation de la Radio was created to make impartial decisions. Moreover the shareholders of the French language radio determined the condition on the sale of their assets.

Meeting December 15, 1971, a resolution was passed — and I was there — and I quote:

That the shareholders of Radio Gravelbourg approve the sale of its assets to Radio Canada on condition that the funds from the sale be held in trust as a special trust.

Mr. Marcel Simonot, a lawyer, who is here . . . a legal counsel, wrote to the members of the umbrella radio broadcast group that he would seek, and I quote:

Ways of means of transferring the assets of the companies or the shareholders to the umbrella radio broadcast group for the purpose of establishing a benevolent fund.

And I could go on and on.

The point being that if you merge the two charities, they say everything will stay the same. This is an impossibility. They don't have my credibility on this and it will not be the same. These two charities you are changing, la Fondation Radio's specific purpose and objectives, its mandate, its composition, its mode of operation, its electoral mandate and so on are one and only, and they are democratically . . . and those that are represented are democratically elected.

Are the people of Saskatchewan really aware of these implications and consequences. Are the francophones really aware of the important history of this Canadian institution and what it represents.

In summary, I petition the members of the standing commission to have courage and wisdom and to reject this proposal. I know and I'm impressed with the honesty and the fair play of this government. It's a government of the people, for the people, and thank God they came back in power in this province. We must avoid that the wishes of founding members of any public charitable organization be changed at the leisure of a new board that comes along.

We must keep in mind that these funds belong to no one in particular — not I as a director and shareholder, not the businesses who contributed. I am sure the Catholic religious congregations are content with the status quo.

To add, it is important that you keep in mind that the French association in Saskatchewan is presently restructuring its entire operation. It must exist. For all we know it has been proposed that they change their name — even change their name to l'Association Communautaire Fransaskoise. And I think you should keep in mind that this is not the time to add to this overall chaos and to their responsibilities.

Now I must add that in May of 1977 — this is not in this statement — there were four meetings in Saskatchewan, and I took a fast and expensive ticket to be able to be at these meetings. The one in Gravelbourg, the paid propagandist was Mr. Richard Marcotte. And I have from reliable sources that the French association was paying him. He had lost his job with Radio-Canada due to budget cuts.

When I underlined to him that as vice-president of la Fondation de la Radio Française he was in conflict of interest by becoming a propagandist to bring about the destruction and dissolution of la Fondation de la Radio Française, he was quite embarrassed. I threw a bait at him. I said in case of a dissolution of the Fondation de la Radio Française, the first in line to inherit these monies of some 660,000, I said the Conseil de la Vie Française will have these funds to continue to promulgate the French culture and the French language in all of North America.

And they do so as far back as in Louisiana where there're still French speaking. They send teachers to this district in the county of Louisiana because there are still people there that want to continue speaking French.

Now you know, I said . . . that's exactly what I said — I said, you know, the Conseil de la Vie Française are first in line to inherit that 660,000 that the Fondation de la Radio has, if it is dissolved. And he stopped and corrected me. He says, you are wrong. The first in line to inherit these monies is the French association, ACFC.

An understanding of the evolution of French radio development in Saskatchewan and the importance of making a focus-oriented charitable entity dedicated to communication funding initiatives have provided a rationality for this objection and thus the need to maintain la Fondation de la Radio Française as a separate legal, charitable entity as defined by the Bill 04 assented

January 28, 1976. And that was the reason we had this legislature at that time pass a Bill to protect the foundation so nobody could step in and take over its assets.

I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and God bless you.

**The Chair:** — Okay, now any members have questions related to . . . Yes.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — That you ask the Chair for that . . . (inaudible) . . . Dr. Morin, since you worked in the Antler and Redvers areas you know our community. In fact I was born in Redvers Hospital, I hope while you were there at the time, but that was 1950, so . . .

**Dr. R. Morin:** — My brother is Leonard; we both graduated at the same year of Laval University, 1945, but my brother Leonard was . . . he can find your mother, that's what . . . you're quite a specimen.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I guess my first question would be, since you said that there was three other original members of the board still alive, have you contacted those three other members and what are their opinions on this possible change.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Well there's one that I contacted and it's Mr. Clotaire Denis because he was involved in . . . he was president of the foundation, you know, like I think after me. After I was, he was the one that took over as president of the la Fondation Radio. His state of health, he told me that his state of health did not permit it to take a stand and he would not stand the stress of such an initiative.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — But did he express to you whether he thought the change was good or bad?

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Well he felt that the foundation should continue as it is. But between that and putting your health in jeopardy . . . because he is over 80 years old.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Okay, thank you. The original purposes that the money was collected for was to provide French radio service to the province of Saskatchewan.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — That's right.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — When the radio stations were sold to CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), Radio-Canada, the money was then used to provide educational bursaries to the people . . .

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Whoa, whoa, whoa. First it was decided in the meeting in 1975 that these monies who were in trust would be in the hands of a foundation that would do what you're describing.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — The foundation would provide bursaries to provide education and communications.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — In the line of communications.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Not to scare our CBC radio friends here but the . . . CBC monies are not necessarily secure, as we have

seen; there's been a number of cut-backs across Canada including Radio-Canada.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Not with my blessing.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Was the original purpose for the foundation also to foresee that possibility and to provide French radio service if it should fail in Saskatchewan?

**Dr. R. Morin:** — That never was discussed. And I think if someone would have said that, they would have said this is irrelevant, this is irrelevant. Radio-Canada is taking over and from then on Radio-Canada will do the job.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — So the original purpose then was not to at some future point be able to provide French radio, but rather provide student bursaries to carry on in the field of French communication, radio, not directly to provide radio services at any foreseeable point.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Exactly, exactly.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Do you have a concern about what the composition of the membership of the new foundation will be if it is carried forward? As I read the Act it lays out first, membership group — who can participate, that being members of the Fondation de la Radio Française en Saskatchewan, and the members of the Française ACFC.

The next clause though spells out who the membership will be after the foundation's annual meeting and that will be whomever the bylaws designate as potential members. Do you have any concerns with how that is structured and whether or not . . . how the membership will be decided for the foundations?

**Dr. R. Morin:** — All these questions are to me irrelevant because I don't want that private Bill, Bill 02 to be passed by this legislature. And I depend on the fair play of this government because they will want to protect Bill 04 . . . that was then the NDP (New Democratic Party) government when they passed Bill 04 that actually protected la Fondation de la Radio.

And I have to say this, you see, there's propaganda . . . like Mr. Florent Bilodeau said there was over 100 people that I've met and they all were in favour. This is untrue. At the Gravelbourg meeting, at the end of the meeting there was a vote taken with a raising of hands and I counted them. And there was a majority of two against the fusion of Fonds Fransaskois with la Fondation de la Radio Française.

In the subsequent meetings — I was in Regina and I was in Saskatoon — there were no votes taken. And I was informed that in Bellevue there was also no vote taken either. So how can they say that everybody's in favour? They did it; they are doing it for propaganda purposes.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — I might want to add too that in terms of the . . . (inaudible) . . . I might want to add that in addition to what father has added, is that I believe if I looked at some of the minutes of la Fondation de la Radio that students who were recipients of bursaries, you would ask them automatically to

become members. As a matter of fact I have a copy of that resolution that I can pass on to this committee.

But what we're doing here, what I'm saying here, is that the membership list continues in the sense that the bursaries are going to students — and there are on average about 39 a year that receive it — will also be requested to take a membership with la Fondation de la Radio.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Requested — specifically stated in the correspondence. There is no obligation.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — So it's not only, you know, the deceased and the non-living and so on and so forth that are members. Now we're talking about a new membership here that will evolve through this foundation.

**Mr. Lepage:** — There are about 120 of the existing members who have become members since the sale of the two radio stations and the establishment of la Fondation de la Radio. That would include the ones that Louis has said . . . is mentioning.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — The current membership base for la Fondation Radio — how was it determined? Do people buy a membership or do you make a contribution and become a member? How is that determination made?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Anyone who had contributed a minimum of \$10 to the original construction campaign that Dr. Morin was referring to was automatically a member of la fondation. And that was considered to be a family membership. That could be husband and wife. Subsequent to that anyone who . . . any individual contributing \$10 after the sale of the radio also became a member. But this was a one-time contribution. It's a life membership.

Now I have, you know, I guess . . . No, that's all I really want to say.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — And maybe I might add that my father has always been a member of la fondation.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes, that's what I was hoping someone else would bring up. As a matter of fact . . .

**Mr. L. Morin:** — And he lives in Montreal so he's outside of the province and a member of la fondation.

**Mr. Lepage:** — The bylaws, Article 1, "Conditions of Membership: Any French-speaking Francophile resident in Saskatchewan."

**Dr. R. Morin:** — This would be . . . in court of law, this would be qualified unconstitutional because this country's still one and the rights you have in Saskatchewan or in Quebec are the same. I can assert that.

**The Chair:** — Okay. As the Chair I've been allowing things to be rather informal because it makes things move usually without as much problem as to going formally, but the remarks should be directed through the Chair. And I say this as much to the committee members as to others who are not knowledgeable of that because they're not involved in committee structures as

much. So with that, I'll go back to Dan, if you have further questions.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present time, one further question. Dr. Morin, Louis, Maurice, what do you see as the future of la Fondation Radio if nothing is changed?

**Mr. M. Morin:** — I think that the issue here — besides all of the actual presentation and the objection being made and so on — I think that the key issue behind the position that is being made here by my father is that there is such thing as a political legacy coming from one generation to another. And this . . . All of the work that this generation put together in bringing about the realities of the radio, and then when CBC was able to take up its mandate which was legislated in the Canadian parliament, that it should be serving the French-Canadian population coast to coast to coast, then this is when the decision was taken to sell and to use the money to help generations who wanted to get an education in the field of communications.

And this is something I've done myself. I've been working over 20 years in the field of communications as a director for CBC, Radio-Canada, worked for both sides of Radio-Canada and CBC and in film making. And most often, what I've done is I have been talking and presenting issues that concern western Canada, and presenting different realities, like Cannington Manor in your area, and which are part of our history.

But to get back to your question, which is a very important question, about the pertinence of la Fondation de la Radio. Here we are with a generation leaving a legacy and memory of a battle which was theirs. And this generation was fighting for a vision at the time using the means that they had, which was radio, to help develop their culture.

Now I'm living a different reality all together in communications — digital technology. One in two of our children are going to be working in a communication field. Now don't you think that that's broad enough of an effect that we can get from helping students do this in their French language, using the purposes and the objects that were defined in the Bill B-04.

So I think we have to look at this as being a legacy of a vision. It will help us understand our past as French Canadians or as Fransaskois, and we'll be able to take up our own battle in the new areas that are opening for communications. We'll be able to help students. And you know if you are parents and have children going to university how much it can cost now to put your . . . help your children go through university. So it might not be a whole lot, but \$2,000 in a student's budget is a lot of money. And this is what they're doing basically. And this is what they're trying to preserve.

So as a professional, and I'm sure there are a lot of us who are really fond of and would like to help and to assist the community in possibly redefining, repositioning themselves in what's happening in the field of communications, to better help members of their community. But I think that somewhere we have an obligation to protect and respect what that generation has left us.

**The Chair:** — Do you have further questions? I have a speaking list. Grant Whitmore is the next individual on the speakers' list. If anyone else wishes to be put on the list, please indicate.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr. Morin, before I go into the specifics of the Bill, you had made some references in terms of the operation of this committee. And Bills here are brought forward by organizations, generally through a consensus nature by those organizations, to be passed and brought through the Legislative Assembly.

Government *per se*, or the government of the day, doesn't take an active role in that. And I guess that's what makes it different from other committees, is that it's the private members here that try and reach consensus in terms of what goes on regarding these Bills. So it's not *per se* the government *per se* of the day who passes these through but more specifically the private members who are members of this committee who go through the Assembly.

So it's somewhat different from other Bills that go through that are directed by government *per se* and I think that should be noted. That these aren't . . . Bills here aren't driven by government but are driven by the associations and by the private members.

My question, and it deals with the question of the legacy and reading under the Act that's presented there, under clause, purpose and objectives of the new corporation, clause 4, section (d), and I'll read it into the record:

to pay scholarships and bursaries to individuals, associations or corporations to pursue studies or perform research which promotes the development of the French language and culture in the province of Saskatchewan and in particular but without restricting the generality of the foregoing, to promote the development of French language and culture in the field of communications;

Now your feeling, and some of the other witnesses' feeling, is that that is not strong enough to deal with what the legacy that has been outlined by the organize . . . by the fund that wishes to be changed now. And I take it then, you don't feel that's there's any way of strengthening this deal or any way of coming together by which you could protect that kind of legacy in terms of it coming together? Of the fund? Is that impossible between the two different funds?

**Mr. M. Morin:** — Well it's just I guess the outlook on this that *per se* this is a fund-raising strategy. Put it in the simplest form, it's a fund-raising strategy that was taken up by the association. And we're saying that there are other fund-raising strategies, and why touch this one? Why? Why? It's as simple as that. There are other ways of doing fund-raising.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Dr. Morin wanted to reply.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Well you see, buts et objets, there's . . . I think in the Bill 302 that the way it's worded — I haven't got the text here — this money could be used for other purposes.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — My father just wanted to mention that within

the purposes and objects of Bill 302, you have on the one hand . . . you have several purposes and objects as opposed to a very specific and unique specific — specific and unique — purpose and object in la Fondation Radio. And that unique purpose was defined from the history of the structures, from the history of the events, from the history of the personalities and the interests and everything that evolved from the early 1940s to 1976, and they were seeing that specific object and purpose that could be used or that could be developed well beyond the new millennium.

And therefore in his opinion, there are no discussions with regards to Bill 302. It dilutes the very purpose.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question there of the witnesses that are also in this debate, because more subjects come up all the time?

**The Chair:** — Yes.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — In regarding the fund — and the designation, I think, was \$180,000 and six hundred and some thousand dollars — in regarding the dilution factor, I take it then when these funds come together, there is a dilution factor — is it that the \$650,000 is not designated separate?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes it is.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Oh, it is.

**Mr. Lepage:** — It's provided in the merger agreement that there will be a . . . what they call a . . . (inaudible) . . . or a line item on the balance sheet of the merging organization that will continue to identify as being la Fondation de la Radio. And any income attributed by the global fund which is proportionately attributable to that fund will be added to it less bursaries made from the fund.

So from an accounting point of view, there is basically no change.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — But what about disbursements? Are disbursements also separate?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes.

**Mr. L. Morin:** — Well maybe I could add something. Why don't you, instead of killing the two structures, why don't you just set up a joint project? According to Revenue Canada, you're allowed to set up between two charities joint projects.

Why are you promoting the dissolution of two entities? Of this one entity in favour of the other?

**The Chair:** — I will call things back to order. As I've said, I've been trying to run this on a very, very informal manner because we want the information to flow.

**Mr. R. Morin:** — A lack of experience.

**The Chair:** — And I don't blame you, but what happens is we get into discussions that are between two individuals rather than assisting the committee in coming to an understanding. And so,

I will bring things back to order periodically and return the questioning to the member who is asking the question.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — At this present time, I have no further questions but I may be asking questions or comment later.

**The Chair:** — The next member on my speaking list is Larry Ward.

**Mr. Ward:** — Yes, Grant was going down the road I wanted to go down. I'm just going to go down that road a little farther. To the proponents of the Bill, will the acquisition of the funds be used strictly for communications and radio bursaries as it was previously, or will the scope of those funds be broadened to include what clause 4 says, section (c), and not restricted. Is that part of the intent for you in passing this Bill?

**Mr. Lepage:** — You're referring to 4(c)?

**Mr. Ward:** — Yes. Or 4(d) actually.

**Mr. Lepage:** — 4(d).

**Mr. Ward:** — And, I guess to try and put my position here, I'm getting the understanding that the bursary that was set up before from the sale of the radio stations was used directly for communication bursaries. Well primarily for communication bursaries.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Let me ask first, do the members have a copy of Bill for 75-76. If not, I'll can very quickly read the purpose.

**Mr. Ward:** — No I don't have a copy. I'm looking at the new Bill 302.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Okay. You can look at the new Bill and follow what I'm saying because they're virtually identical.

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay.

**Mr. Lepage:** —

The purposes and objects of the corporation are to carry on, without pecuniary gain undertakings of a religious, charitable, or educational nature and to establish, operate the fund for the purposes of granting gifts, scholarships, and bursaries to certain students, individuals, organizations, and corporations to pursue studies or perform research and thereby generally promote the expansion and development of French language and culture in Saskatchewan, and in particular but without restricting the generality of the foregoing, to promote the expansion and development of the French language and culture in the field of communications of all kinds.

Now you will find that same wording in section 4. And that was done deliberately for the protection.

Just a slight aside. The meetings that Dr. Morin attended and which he intervened had a great deal to do with some of the clauses that we put into our merger agreement because we share some of his concerns.

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay. So then the intent of what you're trying to achieve here is that the management of the previous funds will move to the new association and also . . .

**Mr. Lepage:** — The management of both.

**Mr. Ward:** — . . . of both funds which will move to the new association.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes.

**Mr. Ward:** — And you will then become a charitable organization also?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes. It's more of a . . .

**Mr. Ward:** — But you're not now?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Pardon me?

**Mr. Ward:** — But your other association is not a charitable as he mentioned earlier.

**Mr. Lepage:** — The fondation, Fondation de Radio is a charitable association. The Fonds Fransaskois is not a charitable association but ACFC is and that's part of the problem. It's awkward for them to operate under someone else's umbrella which is why they want to distance themselves from one association and approach . . . make approaches to another charity who is a registered charity in its own right.

**Mr. Ward:** — Okay.

**Ms. Archambault:** — May I also reply to that?

**Mr. Ward:** — Certainly.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Right now the Fonds Fransaskois committee is composed of members who have been elected by the community and is independent from l'ACFC. It's under our umbrella because we help with the administration and the secretarial work, but it's an independent committee. It is not controlled by l'ACFC.

So it just wants to merge. This is not a take-over. You can't have a \$180,000 fund taking over a \$600,000 fund. It's more like the other way around if we want to talk take-overs. But we're talking merger here, we're not talking take-over.

The bursaries are going to remain. The envelopes are different. It's a concerted effort though to raise money for our French community for bursaries and for community development so it's going to be there. The legacy is not going to be lost. I have trouble understanding why we have this feeling.

**Mr. Ward:** — I think that I understand the feeling of probably of Dr. Morin, in my opinion anyway, it is that this is something that he has nurtured from a child to full-fledged growth and seen it flourish and seen it work. And the change that is coming is not something that he's relishing and I guess I've been through this in other institutions and with other things and I can have the greatest sympathy for the way he's feeling. But I think that change is not always bad and that perhaps this is probably

the better way to go for the whole francophone community in Saskatchewan so I think I'll probably have to support this but . . .

**Ms. Archambault:** — Could I add to that that I love radio too. I worked at those French radio stations. My dad was involved with Dr. Morin. They knew each other; they were friends. You know we all have the same vision in mind.

**Mr. Ward:** — I think the doctor wanted to reply to my statement, I think.

**Dr. R. Morin:** — You see they mentioned in Manitoba there was a fusion. This is not correct. There was kind of a partnership like Fond de la Radio St. Boniface with Fond Franco Manitoba. They got together and they put their monies together to invest in it. Secondly when there was a drive there was a single drive. You know if you have 50,000 people and you have a drive for money and then four months later another association comes along and wants more money, that's not very well accepted.

They handled their own budget like for the Fond Franco Manitoba and its budget, and Fond la Radio St. Boniface, they handled their own budget. They decided where the money is. They divide the money of course but they decide what they do with this money individually.

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just comment that this has been a most interesting discussion and for me very much a learning experience and a bit of a history of French radio and French people and I found it fascinating. So I thank you for all the information you've provided.

I just have one brief question. La Fondation Radio, that was your original . . . that was the original group. Now do people still contribute? Do people still make charitable donations to that group?

**Dr. R. Morin:** — To la Fondation de la Radio, they do.

**Ms. Murray:** — They do.

**Mr. Lepage:** — . . . in a better position, Mr. Chairman . . .

**Dr. R. Morin:** — Could I continue? Whenever I ask for information regarding la fondation, which is once a year, I send a small amount, and I feel there are people that are doing the same thing.

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you. Would you care to make a comment?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Yes. As the treasurer I'm in a position to say that we received donations. I had the auditor's statement before, but I won't bore you with this. I think I can pull them off on my own — about \$8,500 of actual outright donations in 1992 or '93. The following year we got about \$3,500 in actual donations, no-strings-attached-type donations.

Dr. Morin is actually correct. Each year he sends me a cheque for an amount — that I think is a private matter — for defraying the costs of providing that information. And it's adequate. But

other than one individual who fairly regularly contributes \$50 a year, in the last four years that's all that we've had in donations, other than new memberships from time to time of \$10 each.

**Ms. Murray:** — Thank you. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Are there any further questions from any of the MLAs?

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to direct this question to M. Lepage. I asked earlier about memberships. If the new Act goes forward, after the initial annual meeting, how do you see the memberships working?

**Mr. Lepage:** — I can read from our merger agreement and that is on . . . Well I don't think you have a copy. It's all in French so I'll have to do a rolling translation.

Membership. Conditions of admission: each . . . any person speaking French, resident in Saskatchewan, having attained the age of 18 and having made a donation of 10 . . . yes, a donation of \$10, who is interested in the expansion and development of the French language and culture and whose candidature has been approved by the board of directors. That's all you have to do to be a member.

And, in addition to that, there is the historic part: anyone who has previously made the \$10 donations.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Okay. When you say candidature by the board of directors' approval, what kind of considerations are you thinking of? What would disqualify a person from being a board member if they have contributed their \$10?

**Mr. Lepage:** — We're talking about members or directors now?

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Members.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Members, okay. Because board members are something else.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Correct.

**Mr. Lepage:** — The membership . . . the applications list is presented to the board at each annual meeting and anyone objecting on reasonable grounds to any name on there . . . There have not been any rejections, but there would be in the case of a recognized name who is definitely not one of our friends. That is the only circumstance that I could foresee, as long as that individual meets all of the aforementioned qualifications.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — What would disqualify a person from being your friend?

**Mr. Lepage:** — Somebody who has opposed, who has actively campaigned against any of the . . . what would you say — causes is maybe a little too broad — but attempts that we make to better our organization. That would not include Dr. Morin or Marcel Simonot or any of his sons on the other circumstances, because this is not a divorce. As far as I'm concerned, it's friendship.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — It's not a marriage yet either.

**Ms. Archambault:** — Somebody who doesn't have the same visions and objectives as we do would not be considered a good member.

**Mr. Lepage:** — There was an organization in eastern Canada called APEC, association for the protection of the English language in Canada. If the president of that association applied for membership, I don't think he'd be accepted.

**Dr. Morin:** — But what about freedom of speech? Can we disagree with people that are in associations, you know? They have the . . . we can disagree with the individuals that are actually in power in that association. And I think this is one of the great freedoms we have. Like we have the freedom, you know, to vote for a different government in four years.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I'm hoping you do.

**Mr. M. Morin:** — I think Ms. Murray mentioned something about finding out about the history of French radio. I think what you're concerned . . . what I think or feel that you're concerned with is basically . . . is a member structure going to permit us to get that energy and that wisdom that was mentioned in the presentation? And that power to decide is really at the core of the whole change or status quo. Now I'm sure you're going to look at that very closely.

But looking at our history or the history of radio. Canadian parliament passed the Canadian Broadcasting Act and in that Broadcasting Act there was a clause that said that every Canadian of French and English culture had the right to receive the services of CBC and Radio-Canada. Then there was a little comma — if credits warranted — period.

Now that little clause was a factor that brought this group of volunteers to campaign to get the money to build the radios that the CBC board of governors didn't want to build because they figured they didn't have the money to do that. And the technology wasn't there.

The only reason CBC was able to come in in the early '70s was because Telesat sent Anik D up there, and then we started doing some up-links and the technology permitted the relaying of a signal from down East to out West. And that all of a sudden made radio, French radio, feasible in the board of governors' eyes.

Now basically when we're looking how decisions are going to be made concerning what the priorities of this new fund might be, that power to decide is what it's all about. Who are they and what group are they going to prioritize? And this year we get back to why the status quo should be maintained. There's a group here, a past generation, that has decided that you should be prioritizing for bursaries in educational purposes in the field of communications.

Now of course there may be a lot of reasons why they should be may be rejuvenating their outlook and their vision, and that's what sort of ways for a new approach, a new fund that this member seems to think that will happen. But I mean basically that's what it comes back to.



**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you. Mr. Lepage, your definition of how the board would react with applications for memberships and you mention the APEC organization. I would put forward that perhaps that person, while he wants to protect the English language, may also be sympathetic to the protection of the French language and therefore would not necessarily not be your friend.

The way you've described the board's ability to choose, select memberships, or approve memberships reminds me — and I don't know the organization, somebody else may be able to provide that — but it was called the black ball method. Every member on the board had a red or a black ball and you put it in the bag as you vote, and if one black ball was in the bag you were rejected as a member.

And I think that if this Bill is to go forward, your membership criteria certainly needs to be more clearly articulated, that it simply can't be a personality conflict with someone who wants to be a member or for some reason is disqualified. I think your membership would need to be more clearly articulated.

Mr. Chairman, we've had . . . normally in these committees — and I'm not a committee member although I have sat on this committee in the past — we don't normally get two conflicting views on a particular Bill before the committees. I think in the time that I've been here, in 7 years it's only happened once, and it was their question of putting one word in a name or taking it out.

This is a somewhat of an unusual circumstance for this committee — to have two conflicting points of view to deal with on a particular Bill. We've had new information brought forward to us that we have not yet had a chance to review. We've not had a chance to really think in depth on either of the presentations.

So, Mr. Chairman, I believe that at this . . . when it comes to make a determination on this particular Bill it might be worth our while to take a little more time on this and give some more consideration to it before we come to a final determination.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Mr. Chairman, was Mr. D'Autremont posing a question?

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I'm not allowed to make a motion.

**Mr. Lepage:** — Were you posing a question when you talked about . . .

**The Chair:** — Okay, I'll take over the meeting again. What the committee usually does is review the Bills and the Bills are really in the hands of the organization that brings the Bill. And the review of the Bills by this committee is to assure the committee members, and through the committee members to the legislature, that the changes in the Bill or what is being passed as a private Bill does not have adverse impact on the society and does not necessarily mean that committee members in supporting the Bill either support the concept because quite frankly we have a large number of Bills that reflect religious organizations, and in a number of cases I dare say the people who are voting in favour of the Bill have no connection with the religious group at all.

So we have a responsibility though to look at things on a general theme, as it impacts generally in the society, and not so much the impact on discussion that carries on internally to an organization that owns the Bill.

In the case of what Dan has put forward in relationship to Bills, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Bill had a lot more to do than just a change of one word and was before this committee, and basically went through the committee, so the . . . whether members are in support of something that has taken place internally in an organization or not is not generally the rationale or the basis of it.

I'm at the committee's direction. But I would recommend that if we could take a 10 minute break here, and make it only 10 minutes, and come back at that time after some of the members have caucused or whatever to make a decision as to how we proceed with this Bill. Unless there's disagreement with this.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Disagreement with the recess or disagreement with what you said?

**The Chair:** — The recess, the recess. The recess.

**The committee recessed for a period of time.**

**The Chair:** — I'll call the committee to order, and the only name I have on the speaker's list at the present time is Grant Whitmore.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Mr. Chair, in light of the comments that were made by Mr. D'Autremont before we recessed, and the information that was certainly provided today — additional information that members have not had the opportunity to digest at this time — and also I think that some members have talked to some of the proponents and opponents privately requesting some other additional information in terms of the Bill and things that have gone on, I would like to propose a motion today, Mr. Chair, that this committee adjourn at this present time and reconvene next week to consider the Bill 302 at that time and allow members the opportunity to deal with the information that's been presented to them today.

**The Chair:** — Before you move the motion, could I check to see if we have any procedural things that we need to . . . I have here a report, a draft report, and I was wondering if the committee would adopt the draft report which your committee . . . which is as follows:

Your committee has considered the following Bill and has agreed to report the same without amendment.

And that's Bill No. 301, The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act.

Your committee recommends under provisions of rule 66 that fees be remitted less the cost of printing with respect to Bill No. 301.

If I could have someone move the report, then we would have . . . this Bill would carry through to the House and most likely be reported in the House this afternoon. And then we can go back to your . . . Someone want to move that? June? June will

move that, okay.

Is everyone agreed in the draft report? Okay, it's carried.

Okay, you wanted to move a motion . . .

**Mr. Whitmore:** — I gave my reasons, Mr. Chair. I simply then move a motion to adjourn.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Is the committee agreed? Carried. This committee is adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 11:24 a.m.