

We recognize in Canada that we are fortunate in being able to base our national existence and our development on diversity of race, culture and language. Tolerance is not merely a necessity, it is a source of national strength.

We have reached the stage in Canada where we can rise above differences of race, culture and creed. We recognize our fellow citizens as human beings with all their essential yearnings, aspirations and short-comings -- and not merely as Catholics, Protestants and Jews or as a member of one or other special group.

Race hatred, religious bigotry and class dissension, anything that questions the right of every citizen of walking in dignity before his God dishonours those guilty of it.

These things have no place in Canada.

In 1960 when the Canadian Parliament was considering the Bill of Rights, we made certain that these ideals were expressed in the preamble. Let me quote it to you:

"The Parliament of Canada, affirming that the Canadian Nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person and the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions;

"Affirming also that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law;

"And being desirous of enshrining these principles and the human rights and fundamental freedoms derived from them, in a Bill of Rights which shall reflect the respect of Parliament for its constitutional authority and which shall ensure the protection of these rights and freedoms in Canada: ..."