

Mr. KNOWLES: Mr. Chairman, would it be realistic or otherwise to suggest that it be made part of the records of this committee? As a committee we are doing a thorough job on this subject. Unless it is bulky and frivolous I think it would be more useful to have it made part of the record rather than supplying copies of these petitions to the members.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not sure what the technicalities of getting these are. I would point out there is something like 122.

Mr. COWAN: It is very difficult to get anything out of the Department of Justice; take as an example the Landreville letter.

The CHAIRMAN: These letters and petitions were addressed to the Department of Justice. I think we could make arrangements to have them made available to the committee. There were approximately something like 122 petitions and letters received and 57 various organizations are involved. So there may be 200 pieces of correspondence, I suppose, which may be anywhere from one page to 20 pages long.

Mr. KNOWLES: I had better go slow on my suggestion. I would have my fellow printers working overtime.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the committee suggest that your Chairman talk to the Department of Justice and find out what is involved?

Mr. ENNS: Yes; in addition to that, it seems to me that if we are setting ourselves up as a committee to look thoroughly into this question, we certainly should get views from any opposing groups. If we are having a list of witnesses who are all advocating change, perhaps we should also seek out people opposing this. I do not mean by this statement to indicate my position at all because I am, myself, in favour of change, but it would ill behoove the committee to have a charge against it that we have only heard one side of the evidence.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the thing to do is to read the question, and I know Mr. Prittie is familiar with it, because he asked it. One of his questions was: How many professional religious, and other organizations have written to the government opposing any amendment to or repeal of Section 150 of the Criminal Code, and what are the names of these organizations? The return says: none.

Mr. PRITTIE: That was a year ago, Mr. Chairman. Since that was published, I am sure they have had other correspondence.

The CHAIRMAN: If the committee will leave it to the Chairman, I will investigate this and report back to the full committee.

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, this morning we have with us Mr. Ronald C. Merriam, Q.C., of Ottawa who is Secretary of the Canadian Bar Association. Without any further ado I introduce Mr. Merriam. There is no prepared or written brief before the committee at the moment.

Mr. RONALD C. MERRIAM, Q.C., (*Secretary, Canadian Bar Association*): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first of all on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association I would like to say that I appreciate your invitation to appear before this committee. Having had advantage of reading the proceedings of the previous two meetings I am not too sure that I can add too much to the information of the committee. I would however, in the beginning, like to make