

The motion was agreed to, and the bill as amended was read the third time, and passed.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

### MOTION

The Senate resumed from Monday, December 5, the adjourned debate on the motion of Honourable Mr. Roebuck, that the government be requested to submit to the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial Conference on the Constitution a draft amendment to the British North America Act.

**Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt:** Honourable senators, I had not intended to speak on this resolution relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, but after hearing the speech delivered by our colleague from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Davies) I thought that for my own satisfaction I should make my views on this question quite clear. Whether we like it or not, human rights and fundamental freedoms were determined before our time and they are beyond our scope. If I am entitled to life, it is because my father and my mother gave me this life; and if I want to go back to the beginning of the ages, I must admit that there is a God who one day gave life to the first human being.

Our colleague stated the other day that under this principle of freedom, a human being, if he so wished, was entitled to be an atheist. It is quite true that by abusing my right and my freedom, I can kill my neighbour, or that if I so desire, I have the right to say that two and two make five. But if I act in such a way, I wonder what opinion reasonable people will have about me. Is it not true that freedom and human rights are least respected in countries where the existence of God is denied, and where atheism flourishes? In order for me to enjoy freedom, there must be order and common sense.

As far as censorship is concerned, I maintain—on the principle that a person would

seek help from a physician whom he trusts—that the censorship must be headed by a competent and well-qualified person. Reading material constitutes the food of the mind, and, as with any other food, one must be careful about what he eats and the way he eats. If we conform to the advice of our physician we have a better chance of maintaining our health. As far as reading material is concerned, especially that which affects youth, we definitely need censorship. I am always afraid when I see a child playing with fire: he can burn himself and also set fire to the house.

To sum up, the rights I enjoy have been received by me from other people, who gave me life. If I enjoy rights, I also have duties, for the rights of mankind imply corresponding duties. Freedom does not mean disorder and anarchy; my freedom ends where my neighbour's freedom begins. Freedom of association does not mean that bandits, gangsters and thieves are free to unite in order to slaughter honest citizens. Rights and freedoms can be applied fully only in countries whose citizens abide by their conscience, notwithstanding Mr. Chisholm's opinions, a clear conscience will always be the best guide to freedom and human rights.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Roebuck, the debate was adjourned.

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Honourable senators, our Order Paper, in so far as it relates to government business, is now cleared. The Supply Bill will come to us in due course, and the honourable gentleman opposite (Hon. Mr. Horner), will then have ample opportunity to discuss national defence or any other subject, if he so desires.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** Thank you.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.