

Genocide

protect the traditional democratic right of free speech. Bishop Wilkinson recently said:

We strongly resent and protest the crude and vicious attacks against Jews, Negroes and other minority groups that are being distributed through the mails. It is an affront to Christianity that these attacks insinuate that hatred of minority groups is in defence of Christianity. Christians fought and died to wipe out the disease of hatred engendered by the Nazi philosophy. It is intolerable that this hatred should now be allowed to incite violence in a country where the price of freedom from it came so high.

It is to be hoped that the present investigation into this matter will be pursued and that those responsible will be prosecuted under the present laws, but unfortunately it may well be that existing legislation is inadequate.

An extract from a recent editorial in the *Toronto Telegram* reads:

The perpetrators of this kind of malice are hiding under laws which make no provisions against group libel. They are using the mails for the dissemination of their lies. It is time we took a hard look at suggestions to amend the Criminal Code with a view to outlawing such incitement or at least banning it from Her Majesty's postal facilities.

The *Toronto Daily Star* says:

There should be a change in the law to provide that when a defamatory charge is made against a group—the hoary 'ritual murder' accusation against Jews for example—any member of the group may bring a civil action against the publisher. Similarly the Criminal Code should be amended to make libel against a group a criminal offence under the same conditions as libel against an individual. This would require action both by the federal parliament, which has jurisdiction over criminal law, and the provincial legislatures which have jurisdiction over civil law.

Historically, a feeling of racial superiority has proven to be a latent emotion, explosive and violent when aroused, that lies just under the surface of the thin veneer of the civilized behaviour of society. It is time we put an end to the kind of soft compromise that makes allowances for this fault in our character. The protection of the principle of freedom of speech must not be extended to the point at which it condones licence to slander and to vilify and incite. Only at great peril can we remain indifferent to the persecution of groups of Canadians. The wreckers and soul destroyers are at work today and, as the *Globe and Mail* says: "We believe that these haters should be fought by all men of good will". We are shocked when we frequently read in the daily press of citizens who stand idly by and watch a policeman getting beaten up in a street brawl, or a young woman mauled and raped while spectators watch with dulled eyes and senses. We Canadians all too often point the hypocritical

finger of shame at other nations who do not appear to handle their civil rights problems in the manner we think they should. It is time we took a look at our own backyard to make sure that we are setting the right kind of effective example.

We hear from the attorney general of the province of Ontario that there is no law under which prosecutions could be successful in dealing with the following kind of vicious appeal to our basest natures:

"On the Jewish question our policy is much stricter. We demand the arrest of all Jews involved in communist or Zionist plots, public trials and executions. All other Jews would be immediately sterilized so that they could not breed more Jews. This is vital because the Jews are criminals as a race, who have been active in anti-Christian plots throughout their entire history."

If there is no law against this kind of viciousness, Mr. Speaker, there should be and it is time we made one.

These enemies of society, these wreckers and destroyers of other people's lives use freedom of speech to destroy other freedoms equally important—freedom from fear, freedom from persecution. The next step is the use of democracy to destroy democracy. The racists always use these methods. Surely the persecuted, the good citizens, deserve the same sympathy and consideration and freedom which apparently exists under the present laws for the rotten racists and their followers. These bestial unbalanced bitter people are using our laws to make fools of us all.

The rationalizing has gone on long enough. For years the Canadian Jewish Congress has presented briefs to various governments asking that action be taken. They are doing a job for all of us. My hon. friend and colleague from Cartier who is sponsoring the present bill and with whom I am gratified to be jointly associated in his efforts is to be commended for taking this action.

We heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) today in his statement to the house upon his return from the commonwealth prime ministers' conference, stress the need of an immediate beginning toward the solution of human and race relationships within the commonwealth. At this moment Canada is generally free of this problem, but there is a cloud on the horizon and I believe it should be dispelled now before it casts an ugly shadow across our beloved land.

I want to point out that there are flaws in the wording of this bill. I do not agree, for instance, with the severity of the automatic death penalty in clause 1. But the purpose and