

Apply them to our resources with our own national skills, and what sort of strength shall we have in Canada in the production of goods and services to produce a high standard of living, of human rights for the people?

Have we the freedom to do the things which we ought to do? Judging from that list of human rights, I am not so sure that we have not given up too much of our freedom already. For generations now, international finance has been exercising an evil influence over this country. Then when we signed the Bretton Woods agreement we gave up a considerable portion of our financial sovereignty and of our trade sovereignty. Then the united nations charter threatens our national sovereignty in respect of defence. The international trade conferences which we have held, and of which one is now in progress in Geneva, have endeavoured to deprive us of empire preferences which are vital to our economic prosperity and strength, and to force upon us the most favoured nation clause to make us impotent to protect our economy against the crushing impact of the productive potential of the United States.

To the degree to which Bretton Woods and the united nations charter have impaired Canada's freedom to act, I would suggest that this house insist that these agreements be modified, and if they cannot be modified I would be prepared to suggest in all seriousness that this house advise the government to take steps to withdraw from both the united nations agreement and the Bretton Woods agreement.

Have we the courage to do the things we ought to do to ensure human rights? Have we the courage to learn new things? Have we the courage to depart from old opinions? Have we the courage to adopt new concepts, new techniques, new ways? Have we the courage to advocate new measures for freedom? Have we the courage to fight for these new methods? Have we the courage to win? I often wonder. If there is any one thing that would cause me to lose a measure of my optimism and hope in this country it would be the very fact that so many seem to lack the courage even to consider new ways. Rather would they go forward in the old ways, even though they were assured that we were going over a precipice into chaos, deep, dark and dismal, than consider something new in the way of finance or some other economic system which might be of benefit to the nation. Have we Canadians the courage which is necessary, the courage which is more rare than is the cour-

age to die on the field of battle? It all remains to be seen. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have.

So in considering this resolution to set up a committee to examine into the whole question of human rights, I face the future with hope and with confidence. I believe that if the committee will apply itself to its task with earnestness, with singleness of heart and with **open-mindedness**, having a determination to do all that can possibly be done to solve the problems confronting mankind in this most dangerous hour, it will find ways and means of giving Canadians a measure of human rights such as Canadians have never even dared dream of as being possible in this country; for we have everything in this nation necessary to give everybody the highest standard of human rights if we would only use the resources and facilities and blessings which Providence has showered down upon us in rich abundance.

There must be a way in which our aged people can be guaranteed against the penury which now wastes them and chagrins us. There must be a way by which we can guarantee to people doing the work of this country the means of earning a livelihood adequate to support them in comfort and happiness. There must be a way of enabling the people of Canada as a whole to enjoy the good things which the Lord has given us in rich plenty. I say that in setting up this committee we ought to charge them with the solemn and sacred responsibility of discovering the means of enabling the people of Canada to enjoy and to share the rich resources which God has given them.

Mr. ROCH PINARD (Chambly-Rouville): I wish, first of all, to express my congratulations to all hon. gentlemen who have spoken before me in this debate. I was particularly impressed by the magnificent speech delivered this afternoon by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie). It is not the first time that I have heard the right hon. gentleman express his opinion on matters such as are being discussed today, but in my opinion he surpassed himself on this occasion. I felt personally that not only his voice but his whole heart was speaking in defence of human rights and freedom. I wish also to congratulate the other speakers who spoke before me. It seems to me that everybody agrees on accepting the same principles.

As has already been mentioned, the economic and social council of the united nations organization established in June, 1946, an important body called the commission on human rights. It is often contended that international commissions of that sort are being unneces-