

C218007

Bill of Rights

This matter discussed by Cabinet on January 21st.

-this course considered -

1. Await introduction of bill by Diefenbaker
2. If bill introduced - refer to special committee to consider causes, etc.
3. To declare in Speech from the Throne that government intends to appoint special committee to consider advisability of introducing bill of rights in Parliament.

-Cabinet generally favoured this course

-resolution to be carefully drafted and considered

Argument against having any introduction of bill of rights -

- 1. United Nations - an obligation placed on the United Nations by its Charter is that of preserving human rights
 - the Economic and Social Council is considering a declaration of human rights. The commission is to make a report on the same, and Parliament should await that report and have our legislation, if necessary, in harmony with same
2. Problems to be dealt with regard to human rights are in large part under provincial jurisdiction
3. views of provinces should be heard.

Main Argument -

- no need for any bill as rights are already secured under existing legislation. e.g., habeas corpus, trial by jury, etc.

Note attitude of Power and Croll in support of Diefenbaker.