

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

June 13, 1947.

The Special Joint Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms met this day at 10.30 a.m. The Right Hon. J. L. Ilsley, (Joint Chairman) presided.

The CHAIRMAN: The meeting will please come to order.

At the last meeting it was agreed that the chairmen of this committee should select a steering committee. That has been done. The members of the steering committee are: the chairmen of this committee, Senator Turgeon, Mr. Belzile, Mr. Diefenbaker, Mr. Hansell and Mr. Stewart. Mr. Diefenbaker is away and Mr. Hazen is taking his place until he returns.

Now the steering committee met yesterday afternoon and, after discussing the procedure that should be adopted, they came to these conclusions which they wish to report to this committee for its consideration. The terms of reference should be considered as falling into three divisions: First, the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the manner in which those obligations, accepted by all members of the United Nations, may best be implemented. It was felt by the steering committee that this committee should first address itself to that division of the terms of reference. Secondly, this committee should proceed to the second division of the terms of reference, which is an examination of the legal and constitutional situation in Canada with respect to such rights; and thirdly, the committee should proceed to the consideration of the third division of the terms of reference, namely, what steps it would be advisable to take or to recommend for the purpose of preserving in Canada respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

To put the matter as accurately as possible I will read this first report of the steering committee.

Thursday, 12th June, 1947.

Your Steering Committee, having considered the Order of Reference to the Committee, recommends as follows:

1. That the Order of Reference to the Committee be divided into the following three headings for consideration in the same order:—

(a) To consider the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the manner in which these obligations accepted by all members of the United Nations may best be implemented;

And, in particular, in the light of the provisions contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and the establishment by the Economic and Social Council thereof of a Commission on Human Rights;

(b) What is the legal and constitutional situation in Canada with respect to such rights;

(c) And, what steps, if any, it would be advisable to take or to recommend for the purpose of preserving in Canada respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.