

nized and every care should be taken to preserve them inviolate. Individuals, communities and governments do wrong when they attempt to take such rights away or to disregard them. The invasion of the rights of an individual is wrong irrespective of how many share the guilt, and though the wrong be at the instance of government.

Life and Liberty.

It is not possible for your committee to give an all-inclusive definition of human rights, except in the broadest of general terms or to list the various ways in which human rights may be violated. The right to life and liberty is basic, and from this as a foundation there follows the endless ways in which life may be lived and liberty exercised, and the equally endless ways in which the life and liberty of one individual may be interfered with by another individual, or other individuals. Men now inhabit the globe in great numbers, so that the rights of each individual must necessarily be limited by the equal rights of all other individuals. It is in order to preserve this balance of rights that governments have been instituted and laws are devised and enforced. The problems with respect to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms arise out of the fact that human beings must live together in communities. In order that life may continue and liberty be enjoyed, certain rules of conduct become necessary. Long and painful and frequently tragic experience has taught us some of the things we must avoid both individually and collectively if the lives of individuals are to be lived in freedom.

The increase in population, industrial development and intellectual progress, together with the tragic experience of two great wars, have created new needs and made apparent the necessity for the reaffirmation of old truths. The false ideology of the Nazis, Fascists and Communists, based on autocracy and disregard of the rights of the individual, has strengthened our conviction that the way of life of the western world is based upon respect for the rights of the individual and also strengthened the conviction that governments are properly servants, not masters, of the people. Men's thoughts throughout the western world have turned to the subject of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The United Nations.

Five years ago, representatives of forty-nine Nations gathered at San Francisco to found the organization now known as the United Nations. The long and costly war waged by the Allied Nations against a power, which professed and practised the grossest violations of individual rights, had quickened the instincts of freedom and the desire for universal security. The awakened respect for human rights was evidenced in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms message. As a result, references to basic rights and fundamental freedoms appear in seven of the articles of the Charter of the United Nations adopted at San Francisco in 1945. The preamble of the Charter reaffirms faith in human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person. The State signatories of the Charter pledge themselves to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Canada was a signatory of the Charter.

Three additional years of discussion and consultation produced the document which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations meeting at Paris in 1948, known as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Of fifty-eight Nations represented at this United Nations General Assembly, forty-eight voted for the Declaration, eight abstained and two were absent. No vote was cast against it. Canada voted for it.

The Declaration states in its preamble that "recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family