

The SENATE,

FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1947.

The Special Joint Committees on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms met at 10.30 o'clock a.m. The Joint Chairmen, Right Honourable J. L. Ilsley and Honourable Senator L. M. Gouin were present. Mr. Ilsley presided.

Also present:

*The Senate:* Honourable Senators Bouffard, Burchill, Fallis, McDonald (*Kings*), and Wilson.

*The House of Commons:* Mrs. Strum and Messrs. Belzile, Benidickson, Harkness, Herridge, Irvine, Isnor, Marier, Mayhew, Michaud, Miller, Rinfret, Stewart (*Winnipeg-North*), and Whitman.

The Chairman reported the following were selected to act as the Steering Committee: Honourable Senator Turgeon, Messrs. Belzile, Diefenbaker, Hansell, Stewart (*Winnipeg-North*) and the Joint Chairmen. Mr. Hazen was selected to act temporarily for Mr. Diefenbaker.

The Chairman outlined briefly the proposed procedure recommended by the Steering Committee and presented the following:

THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1947.

FIRST REPORT OF STEERING COMMITTEE

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.

2. That officers of the External Affairs Department and if practicable of the appropriate agency of the United Nations Organization be called to advise the Committee in regard to Canada's national and international participation and obligation in relation to heading (a).

3. Also that officers of the Department of Justice be called in relation to heading (b).