

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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## FREEDOM EAST AND WEST

Speech by Prime Minister, John G. Diefenbaker,  
to the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association,  
Halifax, August 15, 1961

... An uncontrolled press, and a press that is free and untrammelled, represents the main streets of Canadian life, a press that is unsusceptible to sensationalism and faithful to the need of the community it serves. It is significant that you have chosen Halifax for your Annual Convention because it was here in 1835 that Joseph Howe launched a campaign against the unlimited authority of the executive council of his newspaper, the Nova Scotian. He could not get any lawyers to represent him, so he represented himself, and was successful. Here too was the home of the first newspaper published in the English language in Canada. ...

... This organization, representative of the power of the Canadian people in their communities, has a mission in the preservation of those things that contribute not only to the greatness of the nation today but the kind of Canada I see in the future. In other words, you build freedom by free and vigorous expression of public opinion. I am not going to define freedom to you in the ordinary terms that are used. Everyone has his or her definition.

Freedom to me is a simple thing to define. Freedom to me is not the right to do wrong. Freedom to me is the right to be wrong. That is the essence of the freedom for which we stand today. The right to choose one's own life path, freedom of assembly, the privilege of choosing those who will govern us, the kind of house in which we will live, the kind of church in which we will worship, the employer who hires us -- these are the principles upon which our democracy is built.

### Communist Version of Freedom

All of these come to mind because in the last few days Mr. Khrushchov has issued a draft programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for the years ahead. I think the press of Canada should give extensive coverage to that plan. What is