

Jehovah's witnesses to worship God.

MR. HANSELL: I think the witness has an argument there all right; the fact that they have been out-lawed means that they can never meet, even in a home to kneel down and pray to the God that they think can answer their prayers; they cannot do that because they are illegal, they can't meet.

MR. DUPUIS: I do not think it is quite proper to say that as a statement, Mr. Hansell, because before they were Jehovah's witnesses they were following some one of the Christian religions and all these Christian religions pray to their God according to their own custom. We don't prevent them from doing that.

MR. MacINNIS: Would that satisfy you if it were applied in a political sense, if say a Liberal caucus was not allowed to meet and you would say that there are other forms of political parties in the country, you could go to one of them?

MR. DUPUIS: There is this to it, it is after all a personal affair and each witness for Jehovah can pray to God in his own way, and in particular read the Bible according to what God interprets to him. I could do that even in jail, pray to God according to my belief, according to my new belief shall we say if I were a witness of Jehovah.

MR. HANSELL: Yes; but the position, Mr. Dupuis, is this, and this is my argument: I can understand if the police find a paragraph in a book that is subversive, I can understand their out-lawing that book; if they hear a man because of his religious convictions saying to another man you should not enlist and you should persuade everyone else that he should not enlist, I can understand them taking action against that man; but that is not the position. The position is that because certain things have been done Jehovah's witnesses themselves have been out-lawed which consequently means they cannot even meet together as a body and worship God. That is