

THE SENATE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL CODE (HATE PROPAGANDA)

EVIDENCE

Ottawa, Thursday, February 29, 1968

The Special Committee of the Senate, to which was referred Bill S-5, to amend the Criminal Code, met this day at 10 a.m. to give further consideration to the bill.

Senator J. Harper Prowse (*Chairman*) in the Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, I see a quorum. We will call the meeting to order. The first witness is Mr. Michael Garber, Q.C., National President of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He will introduce the delegation that he leads this morning. If you will, Mr. Garber, you may go ahead.

Mr. Michael Garber, Q.C., National President, Canadian Jewish Congress: Mr. Chairman, and honourable senators, thank you for the opportunity given to the Canadian Jewish Congress to make representation in respect of the pending Bill S-5. You should not be under any misapprehension that we have come here to oppose the bill. On the contrary, I think it is pretty well known that we are not at all disinterested in this bill. We have over the centuries been the principal victim throughout the world of race hatred, and we have not altogether escaped it on this continent—in the United States and to some extent also in Canada.

Although there is at certain times a sort of lull in that type of attack, you can rest assured that under different conditions it will arise again, and we believe that it is essential to have some mere, elementary safeguards to prevent excesses of that sort of thing.

Now, we have a representative delegation of the Canadian Jewish Congress. The congress, of course, is a fully democratic representative body of the Jewish community of Canada. We have triennial conventions at which nearly every Jewish organization is

represented, and our executive is a very large executive which speaks in the name of the whole of Canadian Jewry.

Speaking myself as President of the Canadian Jewish Congress, I would introduce the delegates present. We have here Mr. Louis Herman, Q.C., National Chairman, Joint Committee, of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith on Community Relations. Mr. Fred Catzman, who is Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Central Division of the Canadian Jewish Congress that comprises the Province of Ontario. Saul Hayes, Q.C. is the Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Mr. John A. Geller of Toronto is Chairman of the special committee dealing with this pending Bill S-5. Mr. Sydney M. Harris, Q.C., has given up a number of his years recently in this whole field of community relations. Also present are Mr. Jacob Egit of Toronto and Mr. Ben Kayfetz of Toronto. I am expecting a lady, Mrs. Minerva Rosenthal of Toronto, who is President of the National Council of Jewish Women. I understand she is on her way here.

Now, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will ask the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Louis Herman, Q.C., to lead off in this discussion.

Mr. Louis Herman, Q.C., National Chairman of Joint Community Relations Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith: Honourable senators, I propose to open discussion to deal with the problem and the immediacy of the problem. By that I mean I propose to deal with just what this problem of hate propaganda is and present some samples to you. As far as the immediacy of the problem is concerned, I propose to show that it is a problem that exists today and is just as important and possibly more important today than it ever was.

In dealing with the problem, may I say something about the word "propaganda". As