

Human Rights

of rights now. Let us bring to this hour of Canada's history a largeness of heart and mind that can match the greatness of our land. Let us unite, despite the artificial bonds of race, tongue or creed, as Canadians, unhyphenated Canadians. Let us work together to make Canada one of the great fortresses of the free mind, of the liberated soul. In a world where the islands of true liberty are slowly but surely sinking into the oblivion of a dark and dismal sea of bigotry and hatred we should lay aside our party differences. This is a fine moment in Canada's history; it must see the finest in terms of our courage, our vision and our faith in the future. I am sure we shall all register that confidence by supporting this bill, Mr. Speaker.

(Translation):

Mr. J. J. Martel (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to be able to make some remarks on Bill C-79. I will not have to make a historical review of the rights and freedoms that are already guaranteed to us by the Canadian constitution, at least implicitly, or by the Magna Carta, or even by the British custom that we have inherited, since many of my learned colleagues have already done so. But all the same, I would like to put on record my personal views on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, by a happy coincidence—I would even say by a providential coincidence—we are discussing a most important bill which every right-thinking citizen must consider because we are, at this time, in this modern twentieth century that has already been called the atomic age. At this historical moment, no true Christian could question the usefulness nor the need for a collective manifestation of our faith in democracy and in the integral respect of human rights.

The world today is witnessing extraordinary and significant events that are setting all mankind a-tremble. The famous summit conference, in which we had too naively placed so much hope, has been sabotaged in a deliberate and even insidious manner by the spokesman of international communism.

At this summit meeting of the major heads of the states which hoped in the final triumph of the peaceful aspirations of the great majority of human beings, international communism was represented. It shed its mask, indicating once again the lack of sincerity on the part of the leaders of this materialistic world that we could call topsy-turvydom.

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

The representative of the materialistic ideology, which our century has to face, did not show himself imbued by the wish to be a good spokesman for the people of his country, deserving as these people are, because of the numerous trials they have endured throughout their history. He was mainly the spokesman of a political party which, by its own definition, is dedicated to the suppression of religion, the promotion of war between the classes, the support of atheism, leading through a relentlessly logical process to the debasement of mankind by completely denying all human rights in the countries submitted to its totalitarian rule.

History irrefutably proves that whenever man has risen against God, or against divine or natural law, he has, inevitably in the end, betrayed the basic freedoms, individual and general.

The struggle between good and evil did not start yesterday; it began in Paradise after the first fall of man. And since then, one generation after another had to fight and exercise a restless vigilance to safeguard the respect of human rights. The lot of humanity has improved since the coming of the Saviour, the Lord's son who made himself man but, unfortunately, there are still various areas on earth where the basic freedoms and rights of many are in practice completely denied, even if sometimes, taking a hypocritical attitude, some countries pretend to set up a bill of rights, which, anyhow, is in no way observed.

The abridged title of the legislation before us aims at the recognition of rights and freedoms. Apart from those rights and freedoms, there are also duties and responsibilities. Abuses in various fields are often the result of a wrong interpretation of freedom. Abuses are the cause of many evils and certain people interpret in their own way the freedoms and the rights of man, when it is in their own interest.

It is hard to put on the right track a distorted mind interpreting in its own way, disregarding its duties and responsibilities, the various laws that must govern a country. And, as explained in the house, there has been unfortunate examples of such distorted minds that have ruled the world at certain times in history, particularly since the beginning of our century. Justice and charity towards our fellow citizens are not the least of those things to which we must pay attention.

For all those reasons, as a Canadian citizen proud of my country, of its democratic