

*Human Rights*

Every person and every class of persons shall enjoy the right to acquire by purchase, to own in fee simple or otherwise, to lease, rent and to occupy any lands, messuages, tenements or hereditaments, corporeal or incorporeal, of every nature and description, and every estate or interest therein, whether legal or equitable, without discrimination because of the race, creed, religion, colour or ethnic or national origin of such person or class of persons.

Then it goes on to deal with other matters, the right of access to public places, the right of membership in professional and trade associations, the right of education and the prohibition against publications. I simply point out the fact that there is a bill of rights prepared by the government of that province. There is no preamble there either, and I am going to deal with the matter of a preamble a little later.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, you have heard about the language of the United States bill of rights. I am not going to read the bill of rights of the United States except to point out what it says in one amendment, and all the rest are of a similar nature. It reads:

1. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

2. A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

And so on. It is simple language, understandable language, language that has stood the test of 159 years. I come for a moment to something that has been referred to at length, the brief submitted in 1959 by the association for civil liberties. This was an outstanding brief and were it not for the fact that it would not be proper to do so I should like to see this brief placed before the house. No doubt it will be available later to hon. members of the house. It is a brief submitted by some 30 outstanding groups in Canada and it was delivered to me on the 29th of April, 1959. I am going to read what it says with regard to a constitutional bill of rights.

Short of a constitutional bill of rights we welcome as an interim measure the adoption by the dominion parliament of a Canadian bill of rights act.

I have been castigated, Mr. Speaker, for not following the suggestions of this group. They point out the difficulty. They point out the constitutional impasse and while they agree that the preferable place for such a fundamental law is in the constitution they realize the difficulties inherent in waiting until a constitutional amendment has been brought into being. We have been told that we should have followed the words that

were suggested by this outstanding committee, and I think it is only fair to mention those who produced this brief. They are: The Anglican Church for Canada, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Operators, Toronto, the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Catholic Immigration Bureau of Toronto, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Transport and General Workers, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Polish Congress, the Chinese-Canadian Immigration Committee, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Co-operative Union of Canada, the Dominion Council of Women's Association of the United Church of Canada, the Local Council of Women of Toronto, the National Council of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Jewish Labour Committee of Canada, the Negro Citizenship Association, the National Council of Women, the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Presbyterian Church of Canada, the United Assembly Workers of America, the Buddhist Church of Toronto, the Labour Committee on Human Rights, the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, the United Church of Canada, Board of Evangelism, the Unitarian Church, the United Packinghouse Workers of America, the United Steelworkers of America, the Workers' Educational Association, the Windsor and District Labour Council, the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, the Chinese-Canadian Association of Toronto, and the Chinese Community Centre of Ontario.

They presented this brief and I repeat that they say that "short of a constitutional bill of rights we welcome as an interim measure the adoption by the dominion parliament of a Canadian bill of rights act". They made a tremendous impression on all of us in presenting this brief. Having no other alternative to follow, we accepted their suggestion.

Now with regard to the wording there is a preamble here. I do not want to fill the record unduly. I simply point out that they have a very short preamble which reads:

Having regard to the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and inalienable rights which derive therefrom,

Considering that the respect shown for them is the foundation on which our nation rests,

Knowing from the history of man as expressed in the universal declaration of human rights proclaimed by the general assembly of the United Nations that the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family form the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

It is recognized that every person in Canada is entitled to the following human rights and fundamental freedoms:

1. Every one has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.