

country concerned about civil liberties. I hold in my hand a communication from the Civil Liberties Association of Manitoba. I call the attention of the house to this one because it comes from my own province and I know quite well the executive members and the membership generally of this association. The letter before me is signed by Professor W. J. Waines as president of the Civil Liberties Association of Manitoba, and Professor David Owens as secretary, and I should like to place on record the suggested declaration of rights which this association has placed in the hands of all members of parliament.

I may say that this proposed declaration was sent to us after a recent meeting which was held in the city of Winnipeg, very largely attended, where citizens of that city made clear their interest in this question and their support of a declaration of rights.

Before I read the six points in this declaration, may I read one short paragraph from the letter accompanying it:

We do not presume that every person concerned about rights will approve of the details and phraseology of the inclosed. We desire rather that the principles should be accepted, unprejudiced by the possible need for minor alterations in the statement.

It was in that spirit that this declaration was sent to us and it is in that spirit that I place it on the record of the house.

1. No Canadian citizen shall be exiled, nor deprived of his citizenship in any part, nor be discriminated against in the exercise of his citizenship because of race, religion, colour, sex, language or political beliefs.

2. No Canadian citizen shall be denied justice as administered in the regularly constituted courts of law; nor be denied protection against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. To this end, and except in time of actual insurrection or invasion, the writ of habeas corpus shall override any administrative order to the contrary.

3. No Canadian citizen shall be denied freedom of religion in the right to profess, advocate and practise any conscientious belief not inconsistent with the rights of others.

4. No Canadian citizen shall be denied freedom of expression, either in speech or writing, except as provided in the laws respecting slander, libel and blasphemy.

5. No Canadian citizen shall be denied the right of peaceable assembly; nor be denied the right of association or organization for any peaceful purpose not inconsistent with the rights of others.

6. No Canadian citizen shall be denied the right to petition the government or to criticize it in good faith; nor be restricted in the right to bring suit against the crown or any administrative board, agent or corporation acting on behalf of the crown.

Mr. FERGUSON: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Do you believe the

[Mr. Knowles.]

communistic party to be a political party and, if a man had political views along communistic lines, would you say he should not be

Mr. KNOWLES: I will answer that question at another time. It is not asked at all in the spirit of this debate.

Mr. FULTON: What is the spirit of the debate?

Mr. KNOWLES: The spirit of the debate is one that concerns something very sacred and fundamental, and I thought the tone of the debate had been set by the speech made by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) and the able speech made by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). I suggest that the debate should go on in that tone.

Mr. FERGUSON: May I say that introducing what you are doing into this speech, you brought the question on yourself, and you cannot answer it.

Mr. KNOWLES: I can answer the question quite easily, but for the reasons I have stated I shall not bother.

Mr. FERGUSON: You are embarrassed.

Mr. KNOWLES: I am presenting to the house at the moment a suggestion for a declaration of rights which comes from as responsible a body as there is in connection with this matter anywhere in the country, the Civil Liberties Association of Manitoba.

Mr. MACKENZIE: They are not communists.

Mr. KNOWLES: No.

Mr. FERGUSON: All of them or some of them?

Mr. COLDWELL: None of them.

Mr. KNOWLES: Does my hon. friend imply that those who compose this association are communists?

Mr. FERGUSON: I will answer you at some more opportune time.

Mr. KNOWLES: Now who is it that will not answer the question.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Two opportunists in one evening.

Mr. FERGUSON: You cannot answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask hon. members not to interrupt the member who has the floor.

Mr. KNOWLES: In the spirit of the short paragraph I read from the letter from Professor