

*Draft of Brief of the Fellowship of Reconciliation to the Canadian Senate
Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*

The Canadian Fellowship of Reconciliation is much interested in the setting up of the Senate Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. It is of the opinion that the consideration of this question should be undertaken keeping in view the world-wide implications of such human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are therefore, pleased to note that the specific articles which form part of the "terms of reference" of the Committee follow very closely those which were approved by the United Nations and known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It seems unnecessary to set out anew these specific articles, assuming that these will be found generally acceptable to the Canadian people.

The Canadian Fellowship of Reconciliation has been concerned about a number of incidents in Canada which have violated the purpose and spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular, we wish to cite...

(1) The plebiscite which took place in Dresden, Ontario, calling for segregation of people of the Negro race and which had particular reference to the use of public places such as restaurants.

(2) The treatment of members of the religious body known as Jehovah's Witnesses.

(3) The forbidding of meetings in places suspected of being used for Communist gatherings, and the refusal to consent to the use of public buildings for public gatherings on the grounds that the meetings are for the dissemination of Communist doctrine and propaganda.

(4) The arbitrary arrest on suspicion of people thought to be implicated in dealing with the country's enemies during wartime.

(5) The forced evacuation under stress of a national emergency of Canadian citizen of the Japanese race, and Japanese nationals from the Coast Areas of British Columbia.

(6) Racial discrimination through the use of restrictive covenants in real estate dealings and in business and other ways.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation believes that in all such declarations, principles and motives that are truly Christian will be found adequate to deal with the problems involved. Accordingly, we believe that it is in the interest of humanity as a whole and of the Canadian public that there should be in the statutes of every country of the world, legislation which will accord to each human being the rights which have been so well set out in the documents referred to above.

It is the purpose of the Fellowship of Reconciliation to attempt to bring to areas of contention something of the spirit and love of Jesus Christ, believing that this encourages the reconciling of conflicting parties and the permanent solution of their disputes.

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