

Mr. HERRIDGE: I support that point of view, Mr. Chairman. I think we would be wise to adhere to this agenda because out of (a) will flow a background on which we can deal with (b).

The CHAIRMAN: And out of (b) will emerge a background for (c). Is there any further discussion, if not is the motion carried?

Mrs. STRUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask a question. Do you not think human rights are more closely associated with citizenship rights than they are with civil property rights? Do you not think that citizenship rights must be associated with fundamental freedom, or else your citizenship rights are not very valuable if they are to be modified from province to province.

The CHAIRMAN: Well your question would suggest that legislation relating to citizenship is not legislation in relation to civil rights within a province. That is a legal constitutional question which I could not answer. It should be discussed with the officials.

Mrs. STRUM: I should say that if citizenship is going to apply all across Canada then human rights and fundamental freedoms, by the same token, must be equally applicable in every province.

Hon. Mr. BOUFFARD: I would like to have the opinion of the Department of Justice on that point.

Mr. WHITMAN: Do we not have two questions, the first one is the international bill for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and, secondly, the internal or domestic provisions. Are we not at the present time going to discuss this internationally? Is that correct or is it not correct?

Mr. IRVINE: The point arises that if you commit yourself to a certain policy internationally and find you cannot carry it out because some of the provinces are going some other way, you are committing yourself to something you cannot carry out.

Mrs. STRUM: In the first clause, (a), it says "And the manner in which these obligations accepted by all members of the United Nations may best be implemented;"

Does not that mean implemented here, because this is the country in which we have jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. BOUFFARD: My impression is all these external matters which have been approved by the proper authorities in Canada. Perhaps the Department of Justice will consider the proper authority will be the central government and also the provincial governments. In the case of the labour laws the provinces had to implement labour laws before they could be properly approved in Canada.

Mrs. STRUM: Again, I do not wish to be tiring about this but the Citizenship Act was not approved by each province.

Hon. Mr. BOUFFARD: It does not confer any rights. That is to say citizenship rights would not conflict with the provincial governments. We cannot instruct the provincial government to grant a petition of rights. It is essentially a matter for the dominion government and that is one of the points which was submitted to the House and caused discussion out of which the motion arose.

Mr. MILLER: Are we not trying to decide the points before we hear the evidence. This is quite a full program and if we were to hear the evidence we could make our decisions afterwards.

Mr. RINFRET: As I read the B.N.A. the Dominion of Canada is formed with two distinct parts, one is the federal authority and the other is the provincial authority. Now we must know first what this country of ours, consisting of federal authority and provincial authority, is called upon to assume. From the moment we know what we have under each of those two internal divisions in the way of responsibility we can discuss what the constitutional rights of each is.