

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FOURTEENTH SESSION)

Definitive Text

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Statement by Mrs. Alene Holt, Canadian Representative
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, on
September 28, 1959.

Draft Declaration on the Rights of the Child

Madame Chairman,

To Mr. Mahmud and all the members of the Delegation of Ceylon, on behalf of Canada, I would like to extend our sincerest sympathy on the passing of your Prime Minister, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike. We regret exceedingly the circumstances of his death and would ask that you convey from Canada sincere condolences and the hand of friendship to your citizens and members of the late Prime Minister's family.

In my first statement to this Committee I wish to offer you, Madame Chairman, my congratulations on your election to your high office. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Mahmud, our vice-chairman, and Mr. Cuevas Cancino, our rapporteur. Personally, I consider it a great honour and privilege to be associated with this committee which in the past has accomplished so much useful and important work. I shall do my utmost to continue here the good work of my Canadian predecessors.

Madame Chairman, there are approximately six million children in Canada. The great majority of them live in a

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250
September 28, 1952

Private Office
750 North Avenue
Tucson 2, Arizona

Statement by Mrs. Alexander, Assistant Representative
on the Bill (S. 1000) (H.R. 1000) and (H.R. 1000)
Committee of the United States General Assembly, on
September 28, 1952

Great Recession in the State of Arizona

Senator Chairman,

I am pleased to have the members of the delegation

of Great Recession in the State of Arizona extend an

invitation to the hearing of your Finance Committee.

I am sure that the hearing will be most profitable

and that you will gain a better understanding of

the situation in Arizona and the need for legislation

to solve the problem of the State of Arizona.

In my first statement, I will discuss the

present situation in Arizona and the need for

legislation to solve the problem of the State of

Arizona.

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atmosphere of security and happiness with their families. The remainder do not enjoy this great privilege and advantage of living in a home.

The welfare of the first group is promoted in Canada through varied media of governmental measures designed to strengthen, support and assist the family, the social unit which is best suited to protect, care for and guide the child on to its adult life. These measures include social legislation; programmes for the economic protection of the family and financial assistance to it through family allowances, unemployment insurance, etc.; the organization of extensive health services at all levels of government; educational provisions for children such as free and compulsory schooling. Most of the programmes I have just mentioned are organized under public auspices. Mention should also be made of the important contributions by private or voluntary agencies to the welfare of Canadian families and children. There is no doubt that in Canada private initiative is responsible to a very large extent for the success that has been achieved so far in promoting the health, education and welfare of children.

Then, equal if not greater attention is devoted to the problem of improving the life of the child who, for one reason or another, cannot receive normal home care. It is realized that it is in the interest of society as a whole to ensure that these less fortunate children be given the opportunity to develop properly. In recent years, I have witnessed in my country the steady improvement in development of child care, adoptions and related services. However in Canada we never forget that the child still belongs to its parent. We work with the parent and through the parent bearing in mind

that the responsibility for the child growing into the proper type of manhood or womanhood is still that of the parent.

I have not mentioned the Canadian achievements in the child welfare field in a spirit of self-praise or self-satisfaction. My purpose in doing so has been to illustrate the background of my thoughts when approaching the subject of our present discussions, the question of a draft declaration on the rights of the child.

Canadian representatives have stated in other United Nations bodies the views of my country on the principle of a draft declaration on the rights of the child. The views of Canada are therefore already on the record. Bearing in mind the suggestions made by some of my colleagues regarding the desirability of keeping the general debate on the present item as short as possible, I shall not attempt to re-state them. My remarks will therefore be confined to the sort of text my delegation would be inclined to favour.

In my opinion the Universal Declaration of Human Rights owes in large part its influence and the respect in which it is held throughout the world to its soundness, generality and clarity. If the declaration we are working on is not to be too unworthy of the Universal Declaration, if it is to lend additional strength to one of its articles, it must possess the same attributes. In this light my delegation favours the adoption of as sound, clear, short and general a text as will be considered acceptable by this committee. If it is confined to a brief statement of principles, our declaration will serve the purpose of establishing beyond any doubt what the essential rights of the child are, for everybody to know and observe. On the other hand, by

adopting a long, confusing, legalistic document, we may just produce another text which will collect dust in public libraries. I share the views previously expressed by some members of this Committee that our purpose is not to set detailed child welfare standards or bless particular social policies. Our purpose is to contribute, if we can, to the improvement and strengthening of the status of children around the world.

We hope a declaration of the kind I have just mentioned will secure general approval. We, for our part, shall be pleased to consider with sympathy any proposal designed to facilitate the adoption of such a text.

