

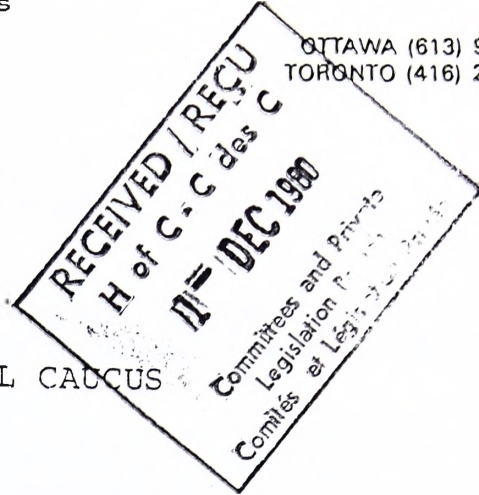


HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO LIBERAL CAUCUS

FROM: MRS. URSULA APPOLLONI, M.P.

DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 1980

C O N F I D E N T I A L

At this week's Ontario Caucus, I was unfortunately not able to present the case of the Catholic community as it deserved. I would, however, like you to consider that their concerns go very much deeper than may have been apparent from my short intervention.

Attached is a copy of the editorial by Larry Henderson, Editor of the Catholic Register. I have subsequently discovered that the Catholic community has indeed accepted his invitation to "defend their rights" inasmuch as next week's edition is going to include more articles and several letters to the Editor.

I have also discovered that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested permission to appear before the committee and in the meanwhile, has retained Counsel to help them prepare their brief.

Essentially, legal experts are concerned that Catholic schools, hospitals and child care institutions may be in jeopardy as a result of the proposed Charter of Rights and they do not feel that Article 24 of the Constitution will help prevent the abuses they fear. For instance, it could be argued that the Catholic institutions' requirements that staff be of the Catholic faith and conform to the lifestyle consonant with Catholic morals could be a denial of freedom of conscience pursuant to Section 2 of the proposed Charter.

There is considerable fear that at some future date courts may require Catholic institutions to alter hiring practices so as not to discriminate against non-Catholics. If this were to take place, it

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would obviously make a mockery of the inherent catholicity of schools and hospitals.

I might point out that the catholicity of schools and other institutions has already been seriously challenged both in British Columbia and Ontario.

My chief concern in this whole debate is that we do not repeat the scenario of the Omnibus Bill when many Liberals voted in good faith without realizing the enormous consequences of the liberalization of the abortion laws.


U.A.

attachment