

December 21, 1980.

Senate
House of Commons
Special Joint Committee
on the Constitution of Canada



Dear Sirs:

Proposed Resolution respecting the
Constitution of Canada
Entrenched Bills of Rights

As Canadian citizens, and men of Christian faith, motivated by two of our highest fraternal ideals, that of patriotism to our Country, and dedication to the Judeo Christian principles of family life, the members of Council 1007 of the Knights of Columbus, North Bay, Ontario, have directed me to write to your committee and convey our considered views on the above subject.

Briefly, our position is as follows:

- 1) We do not support an Entrenched Bill of Rights in the Constitution. We are concerned that such legislation would shift power from Parliament, which is influenced by public opinion, to the Supreme Court of Canada who are not subject to public opinion, but who are the final authority in regard to the interpretation of any legislation passed by Parliament.

Specifically, some areas which are of immediate concern to us and could effect the irreversible loss of existing fundamental rights and freedoms, should an entrenched Bill of Rights be included in the Constitution, are:

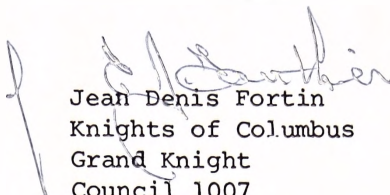
- law on abortion could be revoked.
 - hospitals with religious affiliation could be required to implement medical procedures contrary to their beliefs, e.g. abortion.
 - provincial censorship laws could be revoked.
 - the right of denominational schools could be revoked.
- 2) We do strongly support a Bills of Rights which must include in specific language the Right to Life of the Unborn child

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from conception through to natural death, protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Respectfully,


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Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight
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North Bay, Ontario

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