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
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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