

366 Waverley St.,  
Ottawa,  
May 9th, 1946

Dear Senator Roebuck,

Recently you agreed to co-sponsor, with a number of other citizens, a public meeting for the purpose of setting up a Civil Liberties organization in Ottawa.

Arrangements have now been made to hold this meeting in the Chateau Laurier Convention Hall on Wednesday, May 15th, at 8.15 p.m. The speakers will be: -

Senator Arthur W. Roebuck  
M. J. Coldwell, M.P.  
John G. Diefenbaker, M.P.  
Blair Fraser, Ottawa Editor of Maclean's Magazine

The list of sponsors is: -

Mr. Norton Anderson	Rev. H. W. Avison, D.D.
Rev. Canon Northcote R. Burke	Mr. Fulgence Charpentier
Rev. J. Richmond Craig	Rev. Charles D. Donald
Mr. Wilfrid Eggleston	Mr. C. C. Gibson, K.C.
Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison	Mr. E. J. Jenkins
Mr. Henri Masson	Mr. Eric Morse
Mr. A. R. Mosher	Rev. R. J. Quiggan
President, Canadian Congress of Labor	Senator Arthur W. Roebuck
Rev. W. H. Shaver	Mr. H. S. Southam,
Mr. Robert Westwater	Publisher, The Ottawa
Senator Cairine Wilson	Citizen

As we agreed, this organization is being set up as a permanent body to champion all civil liberties, and it is expected that its first task will be to investigate and take action on the apparent encroachments upon civil rights found in the procedures attendant on the present investigation of leaks of secret information to the Soviet Union. Our research has been proceeding for some time in the hands of a fact-finding committee appointed by our temporary organizing committee. We enclose a summary of its findings, which are available at length in a large report.

We feel that this summary might well be released to the press, and request your permission to release it as a

fact-finding report submitted to the sponsors. Such a release would, we feel, give the organizational meeting considerable publicity; and publicity is needed to overcome the serious apathy toward the injustices in this procedure.

As this meeting is the result of nearly two months of hard work, with many discouraging delays, we earnestly request your full co-operation in making it a real success. We have planned brief newspaper advertisements, news and radio releases, street-car and window cards, and are using several mailing lists available to us for sending notices. We shall greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to give us in this direction: by mentioning the meeting to your friends, by making available to us any lists of persons to whom we might send notices, and by contributing, if you can, to the expenses involved, which we estimate will total from \$200 to \$250. (The members of the organizational committee have met the preliminary expenses of the past two months by personal contributions.) The Public Affairs Council has contributed \$25.

We are preparing mimeographed applications for membership in the new organization, which we are calling, for the time being, the Civil Liberties Union, until it is decided whether it will be the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Civil Liberties Union (Vancouver and Winnipeg Branches exist) or the Ottawa Civil Liberties Association. We enclose a copy of a draft constitution.

We would welcome an expression of your willingness to serve on the Council of the organization. The Council will elect an Executive Committee from its members.

As the meeting takes place on Wednesday next, we shall follow this letter with a phone call.

Sincerely yours,



Stanley Rands,  
Chairman, Pro Tem Organizing  
Committee