

***The Practice of Freedom: Canadian Essays on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, R. St.J. MacDonald and J. P. Humphrey, Toronto: Butterworths, 1979. Pp. 460, \$19.95 (paperback).**

This book is comprised of a collection of twenty-four essays which address various topics concerning basic rights and fundamental freedoms in Canada. While these topics are not grouped into sections, they range from a number of articles which examine the history and structure of federal and provincial human rights legislation, to essays which analyze the legal rights of specific segments of society such as women and native people, to selected topics such as linguistic rights, the powers of the police and the ombudsman.

In their introduction the editors state their case for creating the book. It is "... to contribute to the organization of the study of human rights law; ... to stimulate discussion of our fundamental values in the twentieth century, and to provide a convenient source book for lawyers and laymen alike". It is the reviewer's opinion that the text achieves these objectives. The essays, for the most part, are interesting, are well researched and footnoted, and individually have a detailed index for the reader's convenience.

A book of basic readings on human rights topics could not be more timely. Such recent phenomena as the increasing political profile of minority groups, the trend toward cultural protectionism in provinces such as Quebec, and the debate surrounding the entrenchment of a Charter of Rights and selection of the wording for that Charter currently being argued before the federal Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, have scratched Canadians beneath their skin of complacency concerning human rights issues. The need for such a book is quite apparent.

This text suffers from two defects typical of a collection of multi-authored essays. Although I appreciate that it is difficult for an editor to co-ordinate the topics of a large number of writers, the book contains a disappointing amount of repetitive material — for example, the history and caselaw of our Bill of Rights is repeated in a number of chapters. The other problem is that some of the articles do not seem to fit within the apparent purview of the text. The article entitled "The Police: Organization, Personnel and Problems" concentrates on such topics as recruiting, selection, training and staffing of police forces, as well as the problems of resource allocation and unionization. Surely this work is out of place in a book about basic rights and freedoms. Another article which seems out of context in the book is "Rights, Power and Values in Canadian Society". My quarrel is not with the topic itself, as an examination of law is empty without an appreciation of the society which

created the law. However, this essay is in contradiction to the articles which follow as it seems to be written under the assumption that the reader is already well versed in human rights problems and can readily understand the academic purr words of the author's discipline.

My final criticism of this book is directed toward the publisher. In an effort to conserve space, there is very little margin — the page is covered with print, and indentation for paragraphs and quotations is minimal. Not only does use of space cause visual discomfort to the reader, but it affords very little area to make notations in the margin of what was intended to be a resource book.

It is evident that the editors compiled these essays to provide a research and resource text for the growing number of our citizens who have recently become rights conscious and need to acquire over one hundred years of history of Canada's record in protecting the rights and freedoms of its people. This commendable objective has been achieved.

DAVID A. TOWNSEND\*

---

\*B.A. (St. Marys), LL.B. (Dal.), LL.M. candidate (Osgoode Hall). Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick.

***Secured Transactions in Personal Property in Canada*, Richard H. McLaren, Toronto: Carswell Co. Ltd., 1980. 2 Volumes. Pp. xxii, 766. \$80.00 (loose-leaf).**

Canadian law governing security interests in personal property underwent a sweeping change when the *Personal Property Security Act*<sup>1</sup> (P.P.S.A.) as adapted from Article 9 of the United States *Uniform Commercial Code* was proclaimed in Ontario in 1976, in Manitoba in 1978<sup>2</sup> and in Saskatchewan in 1980.<sup>3</sup> Two other provinces, British Columbia and Alberta, have produced exposure drafts of similar legislation<sup>4</sup> and in Quebec the Civil Code Revision Office has recommended the incorporation of important aspects of Article 9 in the

---

<sup>1</sup>R.S.O. 1970, c. 344 as amended.

<sup>2</sup>1973 (Man.), c. 5.

<sup>3</sup>Stat. Sask. 1980, c. P-6.1

<sup>4</sup>See: British Columbia, Ministry of Consumer & Corporate Affairs, *A Proposed Personal Property Security Act*, July 1978; Alberta, Department of the Attorney General, *Proposals for an Alberta Personal Property Security Act*, Discussion Paper, November, 1978.