

The American Creed

THIS SENSE of innate freedom, ingrained in the very texture of the life of man, removes from any government the possibility or responsibility of making either grants or restrictions concerning his right to speak, to assemble with companions, or to worship according to his conscience. If ever it be accepted that man has to seek such rights from the government of the nation of which he is a citizen, he would find himself at the mercy of that government; for then the power to grant or deny such a right would also have been deposited with the state.

The American Constitution and Bill of Rights declare that the government is without power to make any abridgment of these personal expressions of freedom. To this concept, American citizens have pledged allegiance. Congress did not invent the concepts of natural rights and freedoms, and Congress did not grant them. In fact, Jefferson acknowledged them before there was an American Congress, and others had announced them even before him, so they have nothing to do with Congress. That should rid us of the delusion that we need to look to Congress, or to any Parliament, or to the United Nations, for the announcement or validation of any of these rights.

Treaties and the Constitution

LET US briefly examine the effect that the United Nations Covenant on Human Rights would have on our own body of law if our Senate should ratify it.

Article 6 of the Constitution of the United States declares in part: ". . . all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding."

This is a vital issue which merits thorough airing by the authorities in the field of international jurisprudence. But it is important to note here that if the Covenant on Human Rights should be adopted by the United States Senate as a treaty, its provisions would automatically become the fundamental law, not only of the federal government but also of each of our states, cities, counties, towns, and school districts, with all local laws being superseded.

There are certain factors concerning this process which should be recognized.

One is that this method could accomplish a change in the laws of the American federal, state, and local governments which Congress and the state legislatures and the local units